



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

---

Prot: 22243:MMsp\_0309

27 July 2022

## **Diocesan Ministry Appeal 2022**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

This weekend we are conducting the 2022 Diocesan Ministry Appeal. This is a major appeal for our Diocese, which covers some important ministries, namely the Woorabinda Ministry, Prison Ministry, the Parishes of the Central West, and the Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre in Mackay.

Your generosity in supporting the Church in these ministry areas is supporting the Diocese's ongoing commitment to each of these ministries.

The Woorabinda Ministry continues under the guidance of Sister Cecilia Prest, as a pastoral presence to the people of Woorabinda. Donating to this ministry can ensure that this remote community continues to benefit from a Catholic presence and agent for reconciliation and healing.

Loretta McKeering coordinates the pastoral ministry of the Central West, assisting Father Shaiju in his pastoral and sacramental ministry. As many would be aware, these far inland communities have been challenged by drought and population decline in recent years. In our larger communities, we are blessed with access to Mass centres. You can share this blessing by donating to this ministry, which will provide people in the west the opportunity to attend Mass.

Our Prison Ministry is a presence to those who are in prison and provides support for families visiting from out of town. Our Catholic prison chaplains provide pastoral care to over 750 inmates in the Centre on a daily basis. The team inspire the prisoners with hope and care for these people who are not cared for by society in a number of ways. By donating to this ministry, you can provide hope to prisoners and remind them that they are cared for on their journey to reconciliation. Knowing that people care about them and pray for them has an immeasurable impact of the mental health of prisoners.

We also have Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre in Mackay – part of the apostolate of the Catholic Church in Australia that cares for people who bring our goods by sea and take away our exports. This month, we also celebrated Sea Sunday, where we acknowledged the plight of seafarers. More than 90% of the world's goods and fuels are transported around the world, thanks to seafarers. Without these people, the world economy would suffer, threatening our businesses and jobs. When the seafarers arrive in our ports, they arrive as strangers in a foreign land, and without loved ones, who may be thousands of kilometres away. It is these strangers that Stella Maris help when on-board a ship. Like the Samaritan in the gospel, Stella Maris is concerned for the welfare of those they meet. They may provide mobile phone recharge cards, warm clothes, or arrange a priest to say Mass. They visit seafarers in hospital when

**Bishop Michael McCarthy**

---

170 William Street, PO Box 611, Rockhampton Qld 4700, Australia  
Phone: +61 7 4887 3070 | Email: [bishop@rok.catholic.net.au](mailto:bishop@rok.catholic.net.au)  
Web: [www.rok.catholic.net.au](http://www.rok.catholic.net.au)

injured at work, accompany and pray with them when a critical incident happens on the ship, assist or advocate for them on salary issues, or just share a meal and friendship in a foreign land.

We can welcome strangers here, where we are, by supporting Stella Maris – whether or not we live in a port city. We can support and promote the Catholic faith in rural and remote communities, even though we are blessed with access to multiple Mass centres and Religious representatives. We can contribute to enhancing the enrichment of prisoners, even though we ourselves are fortunate enough to have our freedom. Your contributions will help all these works to continue and your impact on the lives of individuals in these communities will be immeasurable. I ask that you prayerfully consider how you might be able to assist.

You will find the brochures in the parishes this weekend with further information about the work of these ministries and how your financial support can help. There are phone and online options, and envelopes can be returned through collections in the parishes this weekend, or in the coming weeks.

As a Church, we are called to encounter people, to meet people where they are and accompany them, just as Jesus did. These ministries and the people running them are living out that call within our Diocese. Your prayers and generous support are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev Michael McCarthy  
Bishop of Rockhampton