



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

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20 February 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I write at the beginning of Lent to encourage you, as the Gospel of Ash Wednesday states, in a life of prayer, fasting and good works. I attach the message from the Holy Father for the beginning of Lent. I pray that this will be a great time to prepare ourselves for Easter where we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

During this time of Lent we have many opportunities in our parishes for prayer, reconciliation and the various Lenten programmes. I encourage you to join a group and to pray through the scriptures of each Sunday of the Season of Lent. There is also an opportunity to remind ourselves once again that our life is sacred. We are made in the image of God and our creator calls us to ensure that we look after not only our life, but all life from its very beginning to its very end.

Finally, there is an opportunity for us to do good work, as the Ash Wednesday Gospel encourages us, through Project Compassion as once again this year we are invited to look outwards. In these past few months we have watched as the war in Ukraine continues, the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and also our Pacific brothers and sisters.

Recently when I attended the FCBCO conference we were shown the many effects of exploitation and the effects of climate intervention on the many features of the Fijian islands. Caritas was there as a great presence, and in many ways as a great support, for the locals and to invite the government to look at different ways to extract minerals, and rather than damaging the environment to care for it. Project Compassion provides a way of assisting our brothers and sisters through the works of Caritas in the Pacific and especially our neighbours, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and all the Pacific islands.

May this time of Lent be a time of getting closer to the author of all life, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all.

Most Rev Michael McCarthy
Bishop of Rockhampton

Bishop Michael McCarthy

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