



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF ROCKHAMPTON

Diocesan Ministry Appeal



A word from Bishop Michael

Once again, it is the time of year when I ask for your support of our Diocesan Ministry Appeal. In recent years, conscious of the many calls upon your generosity throughout the liturgical year, I asked for several causes to be combined into this one appeal. These include:

- Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre, which provides care and respite to seafarers visiting the ports of Mackay and Hay Point who spend much of their lives at sea away from their loved ones.
- The Woorabinda Ministry, which promotes reconciliation and healing among the First Nations people of Woorabinda.
- The Catholic Prison Ministry, which is a chaplaincy service to men incarcerated at Capricornia Correctional Centre.
- Support of parishes in the central west of our Diocese which, because of limited resources and the vastness of the region, need financial support to operate.

Sadly, one of our long-serving Prison Chaplains, Mr Paul Worthington, died unexpectedly at this time last year just as this appeal was conducted. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Paul for the wonderful work he did as part of our Catholic Prison Ministry. Paul saw this as not another job but as his true vocation. Countless men benefited from his willingness to sit with them, listen and pray for them.

I trust that the following pages provide a glimpse into some of the goods works that happen each day in the name of our Diocese and following the example of Jesus. Please provide whatever financial support you can to enable them to continue and pray for those providing and served by these ministries.

Michael Michael

Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre, Mackay

The Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre in Mackay gives seafarers time away from the challenging conditions they face each day on board. The Centre offers them a friendly environment to unwind with access to wi-fi, a library, souvenirs and nearby shops. This year, the Centre will celebrate its 30th year of operation. On a day-to-day basis, Stella Maris' staff and volunteers assist with crew changes, transport to medical providers, and general transportation requirements. The Centre, located in Brisbane Street in Mackay city, employs a manager and three bus drivers along with a wonderful team of volunteers. The Centre was a finalist in its nomination for the Welfare Award in the National DCN Shipping Industry awards.

Over the last year:

- 3,324 crew members were transported
- 378 vessels were met at the ports of Mackay, Bowen and Hay Point
- 237 seafarers were taken to medical providers
- The Centre's two buses travelled 42,387km.

Mackay was also the first port in Queensland to have crew ashore when COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in February 2022.

Each year, a Christmas Shoebox Appeal is conducted and care packages are delivered to each crew member aboard a vessel. These packages consist of everyday essentials such as toiletries, socks, lollies and an assortment of puzzles, cards, beanies, scarves and fishing gear. In December 2022, with the kind donations from parish members, schools, activity groups and local private businesses, 797 packs were delivered to 39 vessels. Christmas cards and coloured pictures from local Catholic school students were also delivered and these brought many smiles to the seafarers' faces. The students also had an opportunity to learn just how much Australia relies on seafarers and the goods that they transport by sea; from toys, to sneakers, to cars.

#noshoppingnoshopping





Woorabinda Ministry

The purpose of the Woorabinda Ministry is to be a Catholic presence and an agent for reconciliation and healing in the Aboriginal community of Woorabinda, located two hours' drive inland from Rockhampton. Sr Cecilia Prest mfc, who provides this ministry, resides in the Woorabinda community. In her ministry, she visits hospital staff and inpatients, comforts the dying and bereaved, leads Sunday liturgies, prepares children and adults for the sacraments, conducts funerals for Catholics and other denominations when asked, and provides low-cost clothing to help local families. Her home is also a place for locals who need a listening ear to drop in.

A priest celebrates Mass with the community twice each month.

The annual cost to operate the Woorabinda Ministry is just over \$80,000.

Catholic Prison Ministry

The Catholic Prison Ministry consists of Catholic prison chaplains working as part of an ecumenical team at the Capricornia Correctional Centre. The team provides pastoral care to over 750 inmates in the Centre on a daily basis. Up to four ecumenical Sunday services are provided on a rotational basis by the team. They also conduct memorial services when requested. Bible Study, Mass and sacraments can be organised by the Catholic Prison Ministry on request in addition to chaplaincy services.

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton arranges and funds accommodation for families and loved ones of prisoners visiting from out of town.

An annual in-service weekend is run for the continuing development and support of all Queensland chaplains. The ecumenical team meet together on a monthly basis with Correctional Centre management providing input at each meeting. Catholic chaplains also participate in a triennial national conference of Catholic chaplains.

The annual cost to operate the Prison Ministry is \$30,000.

Parishes in the Central West

There are five parishes in the west of our Diocese that take in the townships of Alpha, Jericho, Aramac, Muttaborra, Isisford, Ilfracombe, Jundah, Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall, Tambo and many other small towns and communities.

The tyranny of distance means that, although the numbers of parishioners in the west have dwindled, it is not always feasible to cut costs by consolidating churches and Mass centres; the closure of a church in a town might mean, for example, that those who still wish to attend Mass need to make a three hour round trip to the next closest church.

Acknowledging that people, regardless of where they live, still need to be nourished in their faith, the Diocese provides financial support to western parishes to help them to keep functioning.

The Diocese currently budgets \$100,000 per year to support parishes in the central west of the Diocese.



How will my donation be used?

Unless you request otherwise, your donation to the Diocesan Ministry Appeal will be allocated equally to each of the following:

- Woorabinda Ministry
- Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre, Mackay
- Catholic Prison Ministry
- Support of parishes in the central west of the Diocese.

Thank you for doing what you can to support these important Diocesan ministries!

Donations can be made via:



Telephone

07 4887 3090



Email

communications@rok.catholic.net.au



Post

Diocesan Ministry Appeal
Reply Paid 611, Rockhampton QLD 4700



Online

Scan our QR code; or
visit rok.catholic.net.au/donate