



Catholic Charities



Help each other through  
www.me4u.org.au

# newsletter

November 2023



Year 10 and 11 student leaders from Cabra Dominican College met with Archbishop Patrick O'Regan after the Thanksgiving Mass.

## Meeting the need in challenging times

As we approach the end of yet another year, I am delighted to look back at all that we have accomplished at Catholic Charities, thanks to your ongoing generosity.

In 2023 our February appeal raised \$45,411, compared to \$35,330 in 2022. There was also a significant increase in the mid-year appeal – \$91,150 against \$71,112 the previous year.

The September appeal, which involves a major mail distribution to schools, parishes and donors, has already brought in more than \$40,000. However, the increasing demand for assistance from agencies such as Centacare Catholic Family Services and Hutt St Centre makes it all the more important for us to expand our financial base.

To this end, we have gained

endorsement from Archbishop Patrick O'Regan to hold a special collection at Christmas Masses around the Archdiocese. Not only will this give us the opportunity to maximise the larger Mass attendances at this time of the year, it also allows us to increase awareness of the good works of the Church by telling more people about Catholic Charities and the agencies it supports. These include Aboriginal Catholic Ministry which was a recipient of the special collection at Christmas in previous years.

Similarly, our me4u campaign in schools is providing new ways of connecting with young people and their families to ensure a strong future for Catholic Charities. Schools are constantly finding different and creative ways to raise

money which is wonderful to see.

Coinciding with Catholic Charities month in September was the annual Thanksgiving Mass in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, followed by a Charities Expo in the Cathedral Hall on September 5.

Traditionally held in December, the move to earlier in the year enabled us to welcome more school students as well as supporters, with 140 children from 11 schools participating.

The expo provided an opportunity for students to engage directly with the agencies that Catholic Charities supports – Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Hutt St Centre and Our Lady of La Vang and St Patrick's special schools.

Finally, I would like to express

my heartfelt gratitude to Annie O'Neill who has guided Catholic Charities through challenging times and in new directions over the past 11 years.

We wish Annie all the best as she moves interstate and embarks on a different career path; her dedication and commitment to making a difference will be greatly missed.

As you will see on page 2, Christina Francis has been appointed as the new manager and we warmly welcome her to our Catholic Charities family.



Jenny Brinkworth  
Chair, Catholic Charities



# agency news

## Change of guard at Catholic Charities

Farewell, Annie.  
Welcome, Christina!

After more than 11 years as manager of Catholic Charities, Annie O'Neill has resigned and will move to Launceston, Tasmania, to pursue new opportunities at the end of the year.

Since Annie began working for the Archdiocese, Catholic Charities has raised just under \$5 million for agencies supporting some of the most disadvantaged people in our community.

She has steered the charity through challenging times, including the COVID pandemic, and has found new ways of collaborating with schools through the me4u campaign while maintaining a close connection with loyal donors.

Before her departure on September 28, Annie said it has been a "privilege and honour" to have worked for Catholic Charities.

Newly appointed Catholic Charities manager Christina Francis (pictured right) said she looked forward to carrying on Annie's innovative and passionate



Annie O'Neill

approach to an organisation that has made a difference to people's lives for so many years.

Christina has a background in communications and journalism, having worked as a newspaper editor for a large part of her career. She recently moved to Adelaide, which she now calls home, and is excited about making an impact in the community through her work.

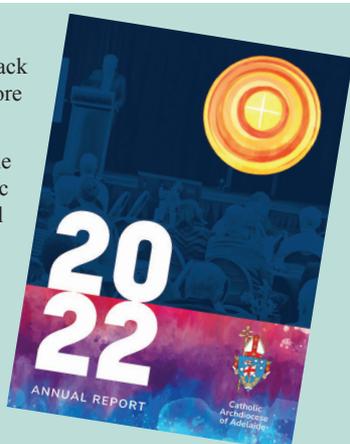


## ANNUAL REPORT

The Adelaide Archdiocese dates back to 1842 and today is home to more than 280,000 Catholics.

Find out about the work of the Archdiocese as well as Catholic Charities news and its financial report.

You can view the report at [www.adelaide.catholic.org.au](http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au) or scan the QR code.



The new van at Kolbe Cottage, Plympton.

## Donors make a difference

Generous Catholic Charities donors have made a big impact to the lives of South Australians supported by Centacare Catholic Family Services in recent months.

A new van equipped with custom features was recently delivered to Kolbe Cottage at Plympton, funded by Catholic Charities

which has supported disability services over many years. The van will give clients greater flexibility to get active as they zip between community activities. "We are so very grateful to Catholic Charities for supporting Kolbe Cottage with a new, adapted van," said Fiona Clough, team leader.

## Warm hearts, warm feet



Gen Honner (left) and Annie O'Neill (right) with Hutt St Centre representatives.

The Adelaide Diocesan Centre stepped up to spread some warmth this winter by organising a 'Soup and Socks' initiative to help clients of Hutt St Centre keep warm and cosy. The Centre is one of the organisations supported by Catholic Charities.

Organised by staff member Gen Honner, the initiative resulted in the collection of 80 tins/packets of soup, 10 tins of spaghetti and

baked beans, four packets of instant noodles, 30 pantry items, 52 beanies, 56 pairs of socks, six scarfs and three sets of gloves.

Gen Honner, Tracey Tessitore and Annie O'Neill delivered the donations to Hutt St Centre's Communications and Engagement Coordinator, Jacinta Munro, who was very appreciative of the staff's efforts. The clients especially loved the hand-knitted beanies.

# school news

## Fun for a good cause

Dominican School, Semaphore, raised money for Catholic Charities as part of Catholic Education Week. In line with their chosen theme 'Raising Hearts and Minds with God for Social Justice', the school community engaged in various activities, including daily prayer and reflections on how to 'raise hearts and minds' to the needs of others in our community and in the world around us.

An outdoor pop-up prayer space was established where students had an opportunity to write prayers of guidance on how they might respond to the needs of others. Mary MacKillop's quote, 'Never see a need without doing something about it' was the main inspiration behind some of the artworks the students created.

Justice leaders organised a Rainbow Casual Day on May 17, which saw students and staff dress up in all the colours of the rainbow and indulging in rainbow-coloured cupcakes. They raised \$408 towards the Catholic Charities appeal to support people in need.



"The Dominican Justice leaders did an outstanding job, showing everyone how to shine bright and be a rainbow in someone else's cloud," said Martina Kovacev, acting Religious Education coordinator.



## Little ones walk the talk

Tenison Woods Catholic School, Richmond, walked an extra mile, quite literally, to raise money for the Catholic Charities Appeal. On a bright and sunny spring morning, students participated in a 'Walk a Mile' event, where they walked in groups of two or three classes around the border of their school.

Dressed in their fave footy colours in the spirit of the Grand Final Week, and flaunting their m4u sticker badges, the young ones walked with their buddies as they reflected on what it means to experience homelessness and the significance of 'walking a mile'.

In a separate event, Year 5/6 students held a 'Market Day'. Stalls were set up for students across the school to buy food and play sideshows after lunch. The students raised more than \$1000 from both events.



## 'Egg'cellent Easter gifts

A tradition begun by Catholic Charities and continued by St Aloysius College Year 10 students saw hundreds of Easter treats delivered in time for Easter to women and children experiencing domestic violence and homelessness. The students delivered the chocolate eggs and other sweets to Centacare Catholic Family Services and Catherine House in trolleys, washing baskets, boxes, and bags.



Leanne Haddad executive director of Centacare expressed her thanks to the students, "On behalf of Centacare, I would like to thank you for the generous donation of Easter Eggs for the clients in our Young Family Support Program. This service is formed by four residential sites in the Adelaide metropolitan area, Coolock House, Louise Place, Malvern Place and

Findon Family Housing, where Centacare provides a range of supports to young women who are pregnant or parenting."

"I acknowledge the outstanding effort put in the coordination of this donation and appreciate your continuous support to our mission of giving our clients a sense of hope and stability," Leanne said.

Schools continue to play an important part in supporting the work of Catholic Charities through the 'me4u – Help each other through' program. To see more details about the funds raised by our school partners visit [www.me4u.org.au/schools](http://www.me4u.org.au/schools)

# news



## September Appeal

South Australians were encouraged to dig deep to help Catholic Charities support the vulnerable and disadvantaged in their community during the Catholic Charities month, which takes place every September. Parishes, communities and schools around the State were asked to raise funds to assist the following frontline agencies: Centacare Catholic Family Services, Hutt St Centre, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Our Lady of La Vang School and St Patrick's Special School.

"The work of the charities we help fund is more important than ever, with the cost of living crisis and housing shortage putting additional pressure on families and individuals," said Annie O'Neill, outgoing manager of Catholic Charities.

Ms O'Neill said as well as loyal donors, schools continued to play an important part in supporting the work of Catholic Charities through the me4u program.

The image used on all the marketing materials, including the front cover of the 2023 Catholic Charities leaflet, features a student from Our Lady of La Vang school.

## Catholic Charities Annual Golf Day 2022

Earlier in 2023 Peter McCarthy presented a cheque for \$19,500 raised at the annual Catholic Charities Golf Day 2022 to Leanne Haddad, director of Centacare Catholic Family Services.

In its 28th year, the Catholic Charities Annual Golf Day is made possible by the efficient organisation of the Southern Cross Golf Club committee, chaired by Peter McCarthy.

The money raised from the event held in 2022 will help fund the development of a green space and improvement of a veranda at Alban Place, Centacare's drug and alcohol residential facility.

Thanks also to the main sponsors, Whelan Aged Care Advice and Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & Vic), who made the event possible with their generous sponsorship, and also the support of the tee



Peter McCarthy presents the cheque to Leanne Haddad, director of Centacare Catholic Family Services.

sponsors, prize sponsors and dedicated players.

The major trophy for men, the Tom Fogarty Memorial Trophy, was won by Simon Sleep and the runner

up was Peter Martin. The Helen Kain Trophy for the winner of the women's event went to Di Psaila.

The 2023 Catholic Charities Golf Day event was held on October 16.



Christina Francis, the newly appointed manager of Catholic Charities, with Jacinta Munro, Communications & Engagement coordinator, during her visit to Hutt St Centre. "It was a comprehensive tour of the centre, and I got some valuable insights into the extensive range of services provided by Hutt St Centre. It was eye-opening and heart-warming," said Christina.

## Christmas Appeal

This Christmas, let us be the light in the lives of those less fortunate. Your generosity during Christmas Masses across Adelaide can bring warmth to someone living on the streets, offer solace to survivors of domestic abuse, support children with special needs, and help improve the lives of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

In your giving, you provide hope, dignity, and a brighter future. Your donations, big or small, make a significant impact. Let this Christmas be a season of love, compassion, and transformation. Together, we can create a world where everyone experiences the joy of the season. Thank you for opening your hearts and making a difference!

## me4u is on Facebook!

Catholic Charities' colourful me4u website and Facebook page highlight and celebrate the fundraising work done in schools to help those 'in our own backyard'. Check them out and like the page! Contact Christina to share your fundraising stories T: 8210 8157.



[www.me4u.org.au](http://www.me4u.org.au)



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