

Diocese hosts ecumenical liturgy for those affected by floods

“Give us compassion, we pray” was the injunction woven through an ecumenical liturgy held at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle, on the evening of 17 January. Representatives of several faith communities attended, including Bishops Brian Farran and Michael Malone. Well known Newcastle media personality Garth Russell recited Dorothea Mackellar’s “My Country”, alerting the congregation to its local origins.

Bishop Michael reflected on the real meaning of compassion, citing former Governor General Sir William Deane as an exemplar. While acknowledging the scope of the disaster, and the feeling of helplessness that ensues, Bishop Michael said, “Our very presence tonight is itself a powerful expression of our need to cry out with those in misery and weep with those in tears.” (To read Bishop Michael’s reflection in full, please visit www.mn.catholic.org.au)

An invitation to ritual afforded members of the congregation the opportunity to honour all those affected by the flooding in different parts of Australia and also contribute to the Premier’s Flood Relief Appeal.



Participants extend their hands in blessing at the conclusion of the ecumenical liturgy.