

# Parish ritual marking solidarity with CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning

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## Background

In April the diocese transferred the Aged Care sector of CatholicCare to the Little Company of Mary Health Care. One of the implications of this transfer was the reshaping of CatholicCare to focus exclusively on Social Services. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the diocese marked this development with a **Ritual of Solidarity** between the Diocese and what is now known as **CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning**.

CatholicCare's Social Services extend beyond Newcastle to Taree, Gloucester, Foster, Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Cessnock, Maitland and other centres. The following ritual is offered for those parish communities who would like to take the opportunity to mark their solidarity with the CatholicCare services in their local area. This may help to increase parishioners' awareness of the services CatholicCare provides and to acknowledge this work as an important dimension of the Church's mission.

The ritual is offered as a suggestion for local amendment. The *Introductory Remarks* and *Blessing* are taken from the diocesan ritual. This could be celebrated after the Homily at any Sunday Eucharist, or your parish community might like to celebrate it in some other significant way. Parishioners who came to the diocesan ritual may like to assist in some way.

## Some suggestions from the diocesan ritual:

**Music:** The following hymns were used –

*Who Will Speak* by Marty Haugen. AOV II n. 102

*Standing on the Shoulders* by Joyce Johnson Rouse

**Readings:** Lk 4:16-21 and Jn 10:10. The latter is part of CatholicCare's Vision statement.

**PowerPoint:** A PowerPoint was prepared to capture the CatholicCare Story from 1961 – 2011. This can be obtained by contacting Sarah Lonsdale at the Chancery. (4979 1150)

### Local Preparation:

- Contact CatholicCare in your area and identify the services available or ring their head office 4979 1120.
- Invite the local CatholicCare staff to the ritual and indicate the way in which you would like them to participate.
- You could prepare a sheet that lists the local CatholicCare services. CatholicCare may have brochures you could disseminate.
- You could include some special petitions in the General Intercessions.
- You might like to have a cup of tea after the liturgy.
- At another time you might like to explore how the parish and the local CatholicCare services can develop their relationship.
- If you would like an electronic copy of this ritual, please contact Sarah on the number indicated above.

## Introductory Remarks

**Presider:** We are all called to continue the mission of Jesus – every person, every parish, every agency, every group.

In addition to this, the needs of our world require that this mission be taken up in a professional way, by people with the skills to help those who experience significant challenges, to turn their lives around.

**CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning** brings this professional dimension to the mission of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Today we gather to celebrate the solidarity that exists between the pastoral and professional dimensions of the one mission to which are all called. CatholicCare serves in our name. We stand accountable to each other: shaped by the Gospel, aware of the complexities of the world in which we live.

**Catholic Care Staff member:** Briefly outlines the services available in your area and introduces staff working there.

## Blessing

*The Assembly is invited to extend their right hand towards the CatholicCare staff when the Presider does so.*

**Presider:** God of love and compassion.  
in Jesus your Son,  
you stood with those who suffer,  
lifting their burdens,  
bringing light to their darkness,  
and revealing to all  
that they are precious in your sight.

Through the power of your Spirit  
you entrust your Church  
with the responsibility of continuing Jesus mission  
in every age and place.

*Extending arms over the CatholicCare Staff*

Today we call your blessing upon  
the local staff of CatholicCare Social Services Hunter Manning:

Bless them with the capacity to be truly present with those who come to them, treating them with dignity and respect, empowering them to take up their lives in new ways;

Bless them with compassion and empathy  
with insight and creativity  
with humility and hope

Bless them with strength and courage to stand for justice and to be a voice that challenges your Church and society to reach out to be with the most vulnerable

Open their hearts, their eyes and their ears  
That through their words and actions  
Your people will have life abundantly ...

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*Continue with the Liturgy as normal.*