

31 March 2020

Dear Parish Leaders, School Leaders and Parishioners,

We hope you are all well and are coping in these trying times, while being impacted by COVID – 19. Each day seems to bring new challenges and yet we are still being called to care for one other. Many aspects of our lives have changed and we trust that one part of our usual Lenten journey, Project Compassion is still being considered. We are sure that the sudden restrictions placed on our churches and gatherings have impacted on the day to day income of parishes as well as the capacity of parishes and schools to be a point of collection for Project Compassion funds.

Thank you for your continued support of Project Compassion over many years and no doubt you are doing your bit this year to give generously to the ongoing outreach of Project Compassion in aid and development around the globe.

All individuals and organisations are presently feeling the physical, social, emotional, spiritual and financial stress of living at the time of a pandemic. This communication is not intended to add to that stress but to provide you with information, which people are seeking regarding Caritas and Project Compassion. There has been an influx of callers to Caritas Supporter Services asking “what do individuals and parishioners now do with the donations they have and the donations they want to give in the future?”

If you are able to provide this information to your parishioners that would be appreciated. School communities may also be wondering what to do with any donations they may have received to date. The table below provides you with possible ways in which to donate to Project Compassion should you be able. Of course donations to Caritas can be made at any time during the year.

Thank you for giving this your consideration and holding you and our world in prayer,

*Patricia Banister, Louise Gilchrist, Teresa Brierley*

**Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Caritas Team**



**PROJECT COMPASSION 2020**  
**DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE**  
**PARISH DONATIONS DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

DONATION METHOD	ACTION REQUIRED
Information	Go to the Caritas website:  <a href="https://www.caritas.org.au/">https://www.caritas.org.au/</a>
Weekly Project Compassion envelopes or donation boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If by cash, deposit at a CBA branch (see Caritas Australia's banking details below)</li> <li>• If by credit card or cheque, complete a deposit form and send to Caritas National Office:  Caritas Australia GPO BOX 9830 Sydney NSW 2001</li> </ul>
Donate online - Project Compassion website	<a href="https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/online-donation">https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/online-donation</a>
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)	Caritas banking details:  BSB                    062217  Account No.        10072446  Account name      CARITAS AUSTRALIA  Reference <i>Parish Name e.g. "South Parish" and also Supporter ID if known.</i>
Cheque or Credit Card Donation	Complete Donation Form and send cheque or credit card details to Caritas National Office:  Caritas Australia GPO BOX 9830 Sydney NSW 2001
Cash	Deposit at a CBA branch (see Caritas' banking details above)  Please provide your name and the name of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. This will assist in tracking our diocesan contributions.
Phone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1800 024 413 (Caritas National Office)</li> <li>• 0409 300 192 (Patricia Banister)</li> </ul>