

ROSTERS:

LANDSBOROUGH (8.30AM):

This Week (February 23)
Readers: J Murphy/K Vance
Processions of Gifts: J Murphy/Betty Amarant
Ext. Minister: J Murphy

Next Week (March 1)

Readers: C Browne/J Browne
Procession of Gifts: J & C Browne
Ext Minister: C Browne

Church Care: February 29—C Browne
Church Grounds— February— Volunteer

STAWELL:

This Week (February 22)

Welcomer: D McIntosh
Readers: J Raeburn/A Ellis
Ext. Ministers: C Barker/D Jones
Procession of Gifts: I Robinson

February 23) 10.30AM
Welcomer: M Rowe
Readers: M Maestros/D O'Donnell
Ext. Ministers: H Potter/S Enriquez/J Van Diesen
Procession of Gifts: L & M Habben

Next Week (February 29) 6.00PM

Welcomer:
Readers: N Rathgeber/L Morgan
Ext. Ministers: M Maestros/E McIntyre
Procession of Gifts: J Allan

(March 1) 10.30AM
Welcomer: E Driscoll
Readers: S Little (retired)/K Dalton
Ext. Ministers: MR Thomas/G Little/M Maestros
Procession of Gifts: G & G Pickering

Counters: Today: M & L Habbin
Next Week: G Pickering/E Driscoll

ALTAR SOCIETY: Next week:
MARY'S STATUE: Feb 23-29 N & E Musumeci

ANY PERSON/FAMILY WISHING TO HAVE MARY'S STATUE IN THE HOME FOR A WEEK (SUNDAY—SATURDAY) CONTACT MARGARET ROWE OR FR ERIC.



NOTES FOR MINISTERS AT MASS:
Extraordinary Ministers, part of your duty is to clean the Sacred Vessels in the sacristy after Mass and prepare them for the next Mass—fill wine and water cruets, etc. Sacred Vessels are to be left prepared on the bench after Saturday Evening Mass, ready for the Sunday morning Mass. Put filled cruets in the fridge.

Scripture Reader and Extraordinary Ministers are meant to process with the priest at the start and end of Mass. Reader carries the Lectionary to the Sanctuary at the start of Mass, but does not carry it out at the end.

ALL MINISTERS SHOULD TRY TO BE AT THE CHURCH AT LEAST TEN MINUTES BEFORE MASS AND ADVISE THE PRIEST THAT YOU ARE THERE. THIS GIVES HIM TIME TO ARRANGE A SUBSTITUTE IF THAT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE. ALL MINISTERS ARE TO PROCESS IN AND OUT WITH THE PRIEST AND SERVERS.

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

WEEKEND MASSES YEAR A

Stawell: Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday at 10.30am.
Landsborough: Sunday Mass at 8.30am.

WEEKDAY MASSES (YEAR 2):

Tues; Wed; Thurs; Fri 10.00am. 2nd & 4th
Wednesday of Month-Eventide-10.30am. (Check front of Bulletin for any changes to this routine. Funeral Masses take the place of weekday Mass)

RECONCILIATION:

Stawell: Saturday 10.00 am, before or after each weekday Mass (by request) or by appointment at any time. At Landsborough: Before 8.20 am Sundays

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS:

Prayer Group: Every Monday, 1.30pm.

Cuppa tea Stawell—2nd Sunday after Mass;
Landsborough—3rd Sunday after Mass.

St Vincent de Paul: 3rd Monday 10.00AM in Parish Hall.
CWL: 3rd Wednesday commencing with 10.00am Mass.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our diocesan website:
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
Our parish website can be accessed through the diocesan site.
Graphics in this bulletin taken from copyright free sites with proper disclaimers, or from pages subscribed to.
Any queries relating to rosters and volunteers please contact June Raeburn on 53583506.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH, STAWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Eric Bryant.
Address: 27 Patrick St.,
PO Box 87, Stawell, 3380.
Phone: 03 5358 1119 /**MOB** 0419 597 063
Fax 03 5358 3000
E-mail: stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au
eric.bryant@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering (Thursdays 11.00-12; 1.00pm –5.00pm)



Welfare /General Safety Officer; and Child Safety Officer : Helen Potter

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Michelle Hogan
PO Box 856
Stawell. 3380.
Phone 03 5358 2493
Email: principal@spstawell.catholic.edu.au



St Patrick's, Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time —Year A
February 23, 2020

Stewardship Weekend 2020



St Francis of Assisi, Landsborough

PLEASE TAKE THIS BULLETIN HOME AND HAVE A READ. DEVOTE MASS TIME TO GOD AND NOT THE NOTICE SHEET.

THIS WEEK:

St Pauls Sunday Missal Page 388

WEEKDAY MASSES: TUES; WED; THURS; FRI

10.00AM
WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY—NO MASS AT EVENTIDE.

EXTRA MASS WEDNESDAY, 6.00PM AT LANDSBOROUGH

THURSDAY: Lenten discussion at the Presbytery, 1.00pm (We will discuss future times etc at the meeting)

CONFESSIONS —Before or after 10.00am weekday Masses by request (i.e. – just ask Fr Eric.); 10.00am Saturdays; Landsborough—before Sunday Mass. Any other time contact Fr Eric 0419 597 063.

RECENT DEATHS:

Shirley Gerritsen

ANNIVERSARIES:

John Comitti; Laurie Healey, Margaret McIntyre, Dinny O'Driscoll, Ivan Heinrich, Hendrikus Symons; Vedda O'Donnell and Andrew Prowd; Geoff Dalton

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM:

Well folks, this is it! This weekend is Stewardship weekend, our opportunity to commit ourselves to assist with the temporal needs of our parish.

We are urged to get behind the program, as our ability to function as a viable parish into the future depends on our response.

We again welcome the Campaign Director Mr Ron Cameron and his wife Marie to Stawell. A great amount of preparation has already taken place, but now we need numbers of parishioners to take responsibility of what is to follow.

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS AND HAVE TAKEN ON TASKS TO ASSIST IN THE RUNNING OF THE



CAMPAIGN, AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU AND SPECIAL BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU WHO SUPPORT ST PATRICK'S PARISH SO GENEROUSLY. THANKS TO JOHN LAUNDER FOR TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE AS CAMPAIGN CHAIRPERSON DESPITE HIS VERY RECENT ILLNESS. A DIRECT DEBIT FACILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH THIS PROGRAM AS SOME HAVE REQUESTED

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RON AND MARIE CAMERON OUR CAMPAIGN DIRECTORS. THEY HAVE DONE A POWER OF WORK ON THE PROGRAM OVER THE PAST WEEKS. EVERY BLESSING AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR VALUABLE MINISTRY. THANK YOU ALSO TO OUR VOLUNTEERS.

ASH WEDNESDAY:

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday. It is NOT a day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am in Stawell to enable the school to attend. A Mass will also be celebrated at Landsborough on Ash Wednesday evening at 6.00pm.

PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES AND BOXES ARE AVAILABLE TODAY. Please take one or other home with you after Mass.

FINANCES LAST WEEKEND:

Presbytery Collection \$ 432.00
Parish Collection: \$ 410.00
Loose Collection: \$ 99.10 (THIS GOES WITH THE PARISH COLLECTION)
Collection is for the clergy stipend, presbytery costs and support of the bishop and sick and retired priests. The 2nd collection is for the upkeep of the parish.

SICK LIST

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Lourdes de la Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn Wright; Simon Monas; Angela Moore; Kate Sargent; Yvonne Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra); Ian Kindred; Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Benjamin Wolfson; Robbie Loxton; Nicole Lee (Horsham); Brian O'Loughlin; Beryl Walsh; Shirley Gerritsen; Steven Oates; Maree Parkin; Rosemary Chisholm (Bendigo); Harry Comitti, John Dalziel; Mollie Barton; Patty Fenwick; Bailey Young, Graeme Blake, Pat Rathgeber; Carla Bowles (Bullumwaal); Kate Wheelan; Sam Sharrack

NB: A Family member of the sick person must contact the Parish Office to have names added. They

HUMOUR: (Another GIVING joke!)

There once was a strongman at a circus sideshow who demonstrated his power before large audiences every night.

Toward the end of one performance, he squeezed the juice from a lemon between his hands. He said to the onlookers, "I will offer \$200 to anyone here who can squeeze another drop from this lemon.

A thin older lady hobbled up the stage. She picked up the lemon and clamped it between her two frail, boney hands. She squeezed. And out came a teaspoon of lemon juice.

The strongman was amazed. He paid the woman \$200 but privately asked her, "What is the secret of your strength?"

"Practice," the woman answered. "I have been treasurer of my church for forty-two years!"

NEWS:
ARCHBISHOPS HEAD TO ROME FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

Published: 20 February 2020



Archbishop Mark Coleridge in Rome in 2018

Three senior Australian archbishops are heading to Rome to attend high-level Vatican talks on the Plenary Council 2020 and the Holy See's response to the child abuse royal commission. Source: The Catholic Leader.

By Mark Bowling, The Catholic Leader

Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge, the president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, found himself under a global media spotlight when he visited Rome a year ago for a summit on the sexual abuse crisis in the Church.

He described the crisis as "a global emergency" and advocated "concrete action" to address issues of law, accountability of bishops, and the formation of priests and religious persons.

"I think the Church has failed lamentably and therefore we have to cop whatever criticism comes our way, deal with it in a way that doesn't cause paralysis and paranoia but does prompt us to action," Archbishop Coleridge said during the February 2019 meeting.

Archbishop Coleridge this week made his 2020 agenda clear: "We'll be discussing the Plenary Council, the situation of Cardinal [George] Pell, the Holy See's response to the royal commission's recommendations, and the controversy surrounding the seal of the sacrament of Penance," he said.

"Other topics will inevitably come up. But they will be where we start in our meetings with the Secretariat of State, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Congregation for Bishops."

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB are attending the meetings with Archbishop Coleridge.

The High Court of Australia has set March 11 and 12 for the final appeal of Cardinal Pell, who was convicted in 2018 on five charges of child sexual abuse. The Holy See could initiate canonical proceedings once a final court outcome is reached in Australia.

The Plenary Council 2020 is also high on Archbishop Coleridge's Rome agenda, with the first plenary council assembly to be held in Adelaide in October.

Celibacy for priests, the role of women, and the inclusion of divorced and remarried Catholics were among "strongly discussed" topics contained in the final re-

(CNS/PaulHaring)

port of the Plenary Council's Listening and Dialogue phase that captured the voice of more than 222,000 Australians.

Submissions included calls for greater transparency and accountability from the Church concerning the child sexual abuse crisis, and there were also calls for healing and moving beyond the scandal.



11th February, 2020

Project Compassion 2020 – Go Further Together

Dear friends and supporters of Caritas Australia,

At this time when many parts of our nation has been devastated by fire and many of our fellow Australians have had to flee their homes, we've all been reminded of the principle of solidarity. Many are also facing drought, lower water availability and flood. We are one human family and we have a God-given responsibility to look out for each other, particularly in hardship and when disaster strikes.

Solidarity comes to mind when the Catholic Bishops of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands had organised a fundraiser to assist those affected by the bushfires here in Australia. At Caritas Australia, we have also received messages of support from Caritas Bangladesh – a country that knows natural disasters very well. Caritas Australia continues to support development projects in PNG, the Solomon Islands and Bangladesh among many other countries, all of us the one human family. Another example of solidarity is that the town of Villers-Bretonneux in France, liberated at great cost of life by ANZAC soldiers in World War One, has also raised thousands of Euros for our bushfire appeals.

Of course, many of you and your communities will have given generously to the Vinnies and other bushfire appeals, and indeed some in our communities may well have been personally affected. Understanding this, I still hope that you will feel able to support the Project Compassion 2020 appeal (PC20). The theme of PC 20 is Go Further Together. This theme speaks of solidarity, our calling to support each other in difficult times, to create opportunities for people in need so that they can work to support themselves in peace and security.

The stories this year are from the Philippines, Cambodia, Australia, India, Malawi and Papua New Guinea; and the issues highlighted include disability, agriculture, indigenous health and domestic violence. All of these issues are important to us here in Australia, and the work of our partners in these projects will lead us all to a better world.

You will have received your parish resources including a USB in the parish kit which contains administration information and excellent resources on the stories of PC20. All resources can also be downloaded from the Caritas website at <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion> Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to make contact with me.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of Caritas Australia

Sue Searls

Diocesan Director, Diocese of Ballarat
The Catholic agency for international aid and development
Address P.O. Box 178, Wendouree 3355

Phone 03 5339 4440 M. 0403 902 921
Email sue.searls@ballarat.catholic.org.au

ASH WEDNESDAY (The Beginning of Lent) IS THIS COMING WEDNESDAY.
PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE COLLECT ONE OR OTHER AFTER MASS. THANK YOU.





Lenten Regulations 2020

Λέντεν ρεγυλίστιονε 2020

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat. (Ash Wednesday IS NOT a Holy Day of Obligation.)

On all other Fridays, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled through any one of the following:
(a) **Prayer:** for example, Mass attendance; family prayer, a visit to a church or chapel, reading the Bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary.
(b) **Self-denial:** for example, not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, reducing time for watching TV or other entertainments.
(c) **Helping others** - for example, taking the family to visit the elderly in old people's home or in the parish, visiting the sick or someone who is lonely.

All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. (Canon 1252). All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020.

On Good Friday and, if possible on Holy Saturday until the Easter vigil, the Paschal Fast is observed.

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (March 1) and Trinity Sunday, (June 11), unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year.

All the faithful are obliged to confess any grave sins at least once a year.

FUNERALS: During the Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) all Masses for the Dead, including Funeral Masses, **are forbidden.** Funerals on these days are celebrated with the Liturgy of the Word and without the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

WEDDINGS: Weddings should be discouraged during the Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Should a couple be particularly insistent on a wedding for one of these days, then please indicate **that no decorations (including flowers), no music nor Nuptial Mass will be permitted.**

May this Lent bring blessings on us all.

Yours in Christ,
Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat



NEXT WEEKENDS READINGS:

(A chance to prepare ahead for next week's readings, especially for our Lectors)

Sunday 01 Mar 2020

First Sunday of Lent A

First Reading Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths. The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

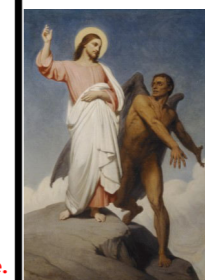
The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT – TRUSTING GOD



The testing and temptation of Jesus echoes the plight of the people of Israel as they wandered in the desert for forty years. They relied on God to provide them with food and protection and ultimately lead them into the land that was promised to them. They had to trust that God would deliver these things in God's own time and way.

Jesus is tempted to ignore God's time and ways by seizing for himself food, protection and ownership of the land. The temptations of Jesus and the people of Israel are all about trusting God.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Planned Giving

Why do we have two collections at Mass?

This is a question I often get asked. Both collections are equally important and are used for two distinct purposes.

The money the first collection raises goes to the presbytery and is used to support the daily living expenses of our parish priest (food, power, heating, work related travel costs, house-keeping, etc), and in part, through a levy, it helps to support the bishop and sick and retired clergy.

The 2nd collection, which includes the planned giving program, is the main source of our parish income. The second collection funds are used for the day to day running of our parish.

That is, to pay for the repairs, wages, insurance, utilities and the many other expenses incurred to keep our parish functioning.

A levy is applied for the upkeep of the diocesan offices in Ballarat. Each parish has a responsibility to share in the running costs and maintenance costs, as it is the centre of our diocesan life.

I can ensure you, that not one cent of parish monies goes towards any costs relating to crimes against victims of abuse, including any legal costs of perpetrators. The Bishop and diocesan authorities have made it clear, that any monies given to victims of abuse comes from diocesan discretionary funds not in any way related to parish levies.

WHEN DOES OUR NEW GIVING PERIOD COMMENCE?

As soon as the givers and giving details are collated, new envelopes will be ordered. Some of you may have a new Planned Giving Number as we accommodate new givers and delete others who are no longer in the parish.

It is envisaged that we might start the new giving period on March 29th.

A DIRECT DEBIT FACILITY is available through our Diocesan Finance Office Account.

Forms are available for those who wish to give in that way.

VICTORIAN MP ALARMED BY EUTHANASIA NUMBERS

Published: 21 February 2020



Marlene Kairouz (ABC News/Premier of Victoria website)

Victorian Labor frontbencher Marlene Kairouz says she is deeply concerned about the number of people “committing suicide” under the Andrews Government’s euthanasia laws. Source: The Australian.

By Rachel Baxendale, The Australian

Her comments come after revelations yesterday that more than 50 people ended their lives under the scheme between June and December.

The Consumer Affairs Minister was one of five lower house Labor MPs who exercised a conscience vote and opposed Labor’s legislation in 2017.

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Review board’s inaugural six-monthly report, tabled in state parliament on Wednesday, found 52 people had ended their lives between June 19 and December 31, 2019, with 81 obtaining permits to have lethal drugs administered.

Ms Kairouz said the Andrews Government was otherwise working hard to lower suicide rates across the community. “We have a Minister for Mental Health who is doing some really wonderful work to lower the suicide rates,” she said. “It’d be no surprise to anybody that I have some concerns about the number of people who are taking their lives (under the voluntary assisted dying scheme).”

Opposition Leader Michael O’Brien said he was concerned about the administrative errors revealed in the report, which revealed “83 per cent of cases required forms to be returned for clarification or provision of missing eligibility information”. The report also stated that 19 applications for voluntary assisted dying permits had been withdrawn, for reasons including “administrative error or confirmation of death by means other than voluntary assisted dying”.

“I’m very interested to find out, what are those administrative errors?” Mr O’Brien said.

“It’s supposed to be a very tightly safeguarded process, and you’re supposed to have gone through two checks with doctors before you can access it, so I’m just interested in, given that the term I think was ‘administrative error’ that was used in the report, I’m just interested in working out, how can you have administrative errors when it comes to a scheme that’s about euthanasia?”

From Cathnews.com, 21-2-2020

'NEXT GENERATION IS SET UP FOR FAILURE'

Published: 21 February 2020



Almost 18 per cent of Australian children live in poverty, amid fears “the next generation is set up for failure”, due to rising housing costs and stagnant income support. Source: Sydney Morning Herald.

By Judith Ireland, Sydney Morning Herald

More than 13 per cent of Australia’s overall population – or about 3.24 million people – live below the poverty line, according to an Australian Council of Social Service and University of New South Wales report released today. About 774,000 children under 15, or 17.7 per cent of Australian children are in poverty.

“We want to support each other. It’s who we are as a nation. But our economy is leaving people behind, with persistently high poverty rates despite decades of uninterrupted economic growth,” ACOSS chief executive Cassandra Goldie said.

Dr Goldie said Australians living in poverty include young people trying to start their working lives, single parents and older people who came up against age discrimination.

The “2020 Poverty in Australia Overview” report set the poverty line at 50 per cent of the median household disposable income. It used 2017–18 data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics – the latest year for which household income information is available.

It found that housing costs grew “strongly” in the decade to 2017, especially among low-income households. Between 2005 and 2017, housing costs for the lowest 20 per cent of working-age households (those under 65 years) grew by 42 per cent compared to 15 per cent growth for the middle 20 per cent of households.

The report also said that the “freezing” of the dole, which has not seen a rise in real terms since 1994, together with the transfer of some single parents from the Parenting Payment to the lower Newstart Allowance, “increased poverty and the depth of poverty”.

Other welfare groups, including Mission Australia, Anglicare and the St Vincent de Paul Society used the report to call for an urgent increase in social housing, rent assistance and income support payments.

“The next generation is set up for failure,” St Vincent de Paul national council chief executive Toby O’Connor said.

From CathNews.com 21-2-2020