

## Social Services Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> September – a time to reflect and give thanks

### For Parish eBulletins:

On 20th September 2020, we mark [Social Services Sunday](#) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 [member organisations](#), the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, [To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today](#), and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, [Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID](#), which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will find the resources in this article helpful.

### [Prayer for Courage and Compassion](#)

Compassionate God,  
Your unconditional love for all  
inspires our hearts and empowers our actions  
for those who are most vulnerable.  
May we boldly and humbly serve one another  
and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.  
Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our world,  
and our ears ready to hear your call  
to truth, justice and reconciliation.  
Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength  
from those, like St Mary MacKillop,  
on whose shoulders we stand.  
We gather in Jesus' name  
to be nourished and to move forward together  
in hope and joy.  
Amen

*This prayer was the 2020 National Catholic Social Services Conference prayer held in February 2020 in Melbourne. The Conference was convened by Catholic Social Services Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia.*