

8 August 2026

Mr Tom Sexton
Executive Director
Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Ltd
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Dear Tom,

Thank you for your support of Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2026.

Every year during Lent, we are inspired by the extraordinary outpouring of faith, love and solidarity from Catholic schools across Australia during Project Compassion. In an increasingly fraught and divided world, students, teachers, and wider school communities alike all continue to answer the Gospel's call to love our neighbour with unwavering kindness and generosity. This response is testament to the compassionate leadership of Catholic Education Offices like yours, and we are truly grateful to you and Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Ltd for continuing to inspire school communities across your diocese to *Unite Against Poverty*.

We are delighted to share that Project Compassion 2026 saw 1,700 schools unite with 1,150 parishes and thousands of individuals nationwide unite to live out Catholic Social Teaching and walk alongside the most vulnerable members of our global family. Together, they raised an outstanding **\$10.26 million** to support Caritas Australia's long-term development programs and emergency responses around the world, with schools alone contributing a fantastic \$3,234,073.

We are especially pleased to acknowledge the generous contributions from schools in your diocese, who have collectively raised a transformative \$68,282.46 (*please note that this figure includes donations raised by schools governed by Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Ltd and independent schools*).

These incredible donations reflect the deep faith, generosity and commitment of your school community, and their support is already helping to build a brighter, more just future for all. A future where students have access to clean drinking water; where farmers can safeguard their livelihoods from the devastating impacts of climate change; where women have the tools they need to provide for their children's education; and where no one faces disaster or crisis alone. Entire communities will be uplifted with renewed hope.

Project Compassion represents a powerful expression of the Church's mission, empowering Catholic schools across the country to live out the message of the Gospel and respond to injustice with love, compassion and action. Your steadfast support is instrumental in making this possible, and we are truly grateful to you for the pivotal role you have played in inspiring and leading your education community this year.

We look forward to partnering with you and Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Ltd again in 2027.

With deepest gratitude,
Angus Rowan

Community Partnerships Associate Director
Caritas Australia