PROJECT COMPASSION



Patricia, Solomon Islands

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent

Schools Fundraising Guide 2027

#projectcompassion projectcompassion.org.au

Caritas AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Project Compassion 2027



My name is Holly Dean, Community Fundraising Manager here at Caritas Australia. I'm delighted to be walking alongside you for Project Compassion 2027 and helping your school make a lasting impact this Lent.

Each Lent, I am inspired by the energy, creativity and commitment of school communities across Australia. Year after year, you come together in faith and action, finding new and meaningful ways to stand in solidarity with our global family. I can't wait to see what incredible things we can achieve together as we *Unite Against Poverty* this year.

Lent begins even earlier this year, with Ash Wednesday falling during the first week of term for many schools across the country. Together, let's embrace this as an opportunity to step into this new school year filled with the spirit of community, kindness, and hope that lies at the very heart of Project Compassion.

Your support of Project Compassion 2027 will help create a brighter and more just future for all. A future where students have access to clean drinking water; where people with disabilities can find community and belonging; where women have the tools they need to put food on the table for their families; and where no one faces emergency or crisis alone.

We don't underestimate the hard work and effort that goes into bringing Project Compassion to life in your classrooms, and we are truly grateful for everything that you do. I'm so proud to walk alongside you and your school community this Lent.

Thank you so much for standing with us once again – together, let's make this our biggest and most impactful Project Compassion yet!

Holly Dean
Community Fundraising Manager
Caritas Australia

Project Compassion your way!



Will your school step up this Lent?

THE BIG WATER WALK

Join schools across Australia and take on The BIG Water Walk – a powerful opportunity for your students to live out their faith and step into the shoes of the 292 million people who walk more than 30 minutes each day to collect water.

Simply choose a day during Lent, plan a route around your school playground or local area, and walk together in solidarity with those who lack access to clean, safe water.

TOP TIP!

Connect your students with a global movement for water justice by hosting your BIG Water Walk on Friday 19 March to coincide with the UN's World Water Day on 22 March.

Download The BIG Water Walk Toolkit today to start planning how you'll turn every step into life-changing impact.



Students from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta taking on The BIG Water Walk in Parramatta Park. Photo: Stuart Matters.

Project Compassion your way!



Will your school gather with compassion this Lent?

HOST A LENT EVENT

Unite your school community and transform lives around the world by hosting your own event this Lent. From bake sales and raffles to trivia nights and sausage sizzles, there's no shortage of exciting event ideas to bring your students, staff and families together.

Decide on your event and harness the incredible power of your community to create real, lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world.

TOP TIP!

Why not kick off Project Compassion by hosting a Pancake Tuesday fundraiser on Shrove Tuesday? A simple way to explore the meaning of Lent while uniting your school to build a brighter future for all.

Download our Pancake Day Checklist here for everything you'll need to get started.



A Shrove Tuesday event at St Peter Chanel Primary School in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Photo: SPC.

Getting started in four easy steps

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent

STEP 1



Register

If you haven't already, head to projectcompassion.org.au/schools to activate your school's profile and create your online fundraising page *(remember, if you placed your resource order online last year, your page has already been set up – simply log back in to get started).*

STEP 2



Choose your challenge

Select how your school will be fundraising this Lent – whether you take on The BIG Water Walk, host an event, or simply hold a collection. Head to your dashboard to add in the details of your plans.

STEP 3



Check out our resources

We've got plenty of resources to help you spread the word across your wider school community, including social media toolkits, newsletter notices and more. Take a look at our online fundraising resources here.

STEP 4



Unite Against Poverty to raise funds and awareness

Together, your students, teachers and families can stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable members of our global family, coming together in faith, love and compassion to create real, lasting change.

Top Fundraising Tips!



TIP 1

Empower student leaders

Involve social justice leaders, SRC members or House captains to help plan and guide fundraising activities, giving students ownership and responsibility.

TIP 2

Maximise your online fundraising page

An online fundraising page makes collecting donations easy, without the need for cash. You can also track fundraising totals for each class or homeroom, as well as your overall school total.
Log in to your dashboard to personalise your school page and download and share your unique QR code, so supporters can donate quickly and easily.

TIP 3

Create fundraising teams

Get your students working together in class or House groups. Head to your dashboard to set up teams, build school spirit and make your school fundraising fun!

TIP 4

Share the stories and reflect on your impact

Encourage students to learn about the communities they are supporting and the impact they are making by playing the Project Compassion videos or through class discussions, newsletters or displays.

TIP 5

Look out for Dollar Match Day

Dollar Match Day will be returning for Project Compassion 2027, so keep an eye on your inbox in Term 1 for further details. All funds raised on this day will be matched dollar for dollar, doubling your total and your impact*.

TIP 6

Celebrate your achievements

Recognise the school's overall effort with assemblies, certificates or shout-outs to highlight how everyone's contributions are making a difference this Lent.

** Dollar Match Day is for individual donations made to your online fundraising page and not for the banking of funds already collected offline – for example, proceeds from a bake sale or other cash collections.*

Bring Project Compassion to life at your school



Project Compassion is more than a fundraising campaign – it's a powerful social justice movement that gives students the opportunity to learn about global issues, deepen their understanding of Catholic Social Teaching, and put their faith into action to create change.

Here are four ways you can engage your school community in Project Compassion outside of fundraising, helping to inspire the next generation of changemakers:

Inspire learning

Use our educational resources in your classrooms to help students explore the stories of Project Compassion through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching and enable them to understand how their own daily actions can make a difference.

Advocate for change

Encourage your student leaders to be bold advocates for change. From taking the messages of Project Compassion home to their families and communities, to asking hard questions about the way the world works.

Encourage students to think beyond Lent and consider how they can incorporate the lessons they've learned into their daily lives.

Engage families

Encourage parents and families to participate in Project Compassion alongside your students to build a powerful movement of solidarity that stretches beyond the walls of your classroom.

Want to connect your students with the stories of Project Compassion?

Join us for an online Caritas Q&A session and give your students the opportunity to engage more deeply with the stories of Patricia, Reaksmey, Yeshareg and the Caritas Venezuela earthquake response.

During Lent, we'll be hosting a series of live 30-minute webinars exploring our featured stories and allowing students to hear directly from Caritas Australia Program staff who are working alongside these communities.

Students can submit their own questions ahead of time, helping them better understand what life is like for the communities they are helping to support and discover how their support of Project Compassion is making a difference.

Click here to register today!

Shout out to these amazing schools!

Looking for inspiration for Project Compassion at your school this Lent? Check out these fantastic stories from Project Compassion 2026.

Pancake prowess

Students at the Traeger Campus of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic College in the Diocese of Darwin kickstarted Project Compassion 2026 with a Shrove Tuesday fundraiser, serving up pancakes to create meaningful change for vulnerable communities around the world. At the school's Sadadeen Campus, students also celebrated by cooking up a pancake breakfast on the BBQ and holding a fun-filled 'Guess the Lolly Jar' competition.



Stepping up for clean water

Students at All Hallows' School in the Archdiocese of Brisbane made every step count during Lent, holding a BIG Water Walk relay over lunchtime. After a three-day fundraiser, the house that raised the most money ran with the emptiest buckets, sparking some friendly competition amongst the teams. Together, students raised an incredible $4,150 in support of vulnerable communities around the world.



Shout out to these amazing schools!

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A stall full of compassion

Two students from St Louis de Montfort School in the Archdiocese of Melbourne took the initiative and decided to host their own 'Food and Bracelet' stall. After a month of planning and preparation, the girls set up shop at their local train station, not only raising funds, but also spreading the word about Project Compassion across their local community.



Going once, going twice...

Guildford Young College in the Archdiocese of Hobart got creative for Project Compassion 2026, hosting their own Donut and Cake Auction. Students gathered in the school's amphitheatre and engaged with enthusiasm and energy, raising almost $300 for Project Compassion.



PROJECT COMPASSION 2027 FEATURE STORIES



Patricia, Solomon Islands

Patricia is a 14-year-old girl living in Malaita in the Solomon Islands. Before clean water was available in her community, she spent up to two hours a day walking to collect water in a dangerous and hilly rainforest, often leaving her too tired for homework and schooling.

With the support of the Common Home project, implemented by the Catholic Diocese of Auki, water taps have been installed outside her family's house and Patricia's life has become easier. She now has more time to help her family, play with friends, and support her younger siblings.

Although her schooling has been interrupted, she plans to return and continue her education in 2027 with the hope of one day becoming a teacher, like her father.



Reaksmey, Cambodia

Reaksmey, a 23-year-old from Kampot, Cambodia, has faced a life shaped by loss and isolation. After his mother passed away when he was just 15 days old and his father moved away to live with his new family, he was raised by his two aunts.

Being deaf, Reaksmey struggled to communicate with others and spent most of his time at home caring for livestock. He eventually dropped out of school after grade six due to discrimination from his classmates.

With support from Caritas Australia's partner, Epic Arts, he received a bicycle and began attending the Epic Arts Centre, where he learnt sign language for the first time. Through dance and art, he found ways to express himself and connect with others. Now working at the Epic Arts Café, Reaksmey earns an income and helps contribute to his family's expenses.

$10 can provide a set of soaps for washing and bathing for a family of six people.

$3,000 can establish a sustainable handwashing station with multiple faucets at a school, keeping students hydrated and hygienically safe.

$150 can support a child with a disability to attend and participate in school through inclusive learning support.

$4,500 can provide an inclusive school improvement package, including accessible Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, ramps, learning materials, teacher mentoring and community engagement.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2027 FEATURE STORIES



Yeshareg, Ethiopia

Yeshareg, a 30-year-old mother of two from south-western Ethiopia, once faced constant hunger, low income and food insecurity. Some days her family ate only one meal, and basic necessities like soap were out of reach.

Through Caritas Ethiopia's CLEAR project, Yeshareg joined a women's savings and potato-farming group, gaining skills in growing vegetables and managing income. She now harvests and sells potatoes, earns money for her children's school supplies and contributes to a community savings fund.

With additional income from raising sheep, she can provide three meals a day and build a brighter future for her family.

$25 can supply a hygiene kit for a family in Ethiopia, including water bucket, soaps, water scoop, towel, slippers and nail clippers.

$2,000 can help provide farming tools for 100 subsistence farmers in Ethiopia to prepare their agricultural land and grow food for their family.



Caritas Venezuela

Two major earthquakes struck Venezuela in June 2026, killing more than 6,000 people and leaving thousands injured. Homes, buildings and vital infrastructure were severely damaged, deepening an already existing humanitarian crisis.

Caritas Venezuela was on the ground within hours of the disaster and has since been working through dioceses and parishes to provide shelter to displaced families and distribute emergency assistance. Thousands of food and hygiene kits have been delivered to families, alongside water and medical supplies.

Around 10,000 volunteers have helped receive, sort, pack and distribute aid. With many families still in temporary accommodation, sustained support will be essential throughout the long recovery ahead.

$75 can provide an emergency food basket for a family in Venezuela, helping ensure access to nutritious meals and essential food items during recovery from the earthquake.

$6,000 can provide major repairs to four earthquake-damaged homes, helping families return to a safe and secure place to live.



THANK YOU

Thank you for choosing to *Unite Against Poverty* and supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2027. Together, your school community can help build a brighter, more just world for all.

We're here to help!
If you have any questions or need extra fundraising tips, please reach out to our friendly team.

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