



17 December 2020

Your Graces, My Lords, Reverend Monsignors,

Please excuse this form letter and truncated salutations but time was of the essence and I wanted to issue this material to you before Christmas.

On February 11th 2021, we will celebrate the annual World Day of Prayer for the Sick. As you are aware, Pope St John Paul II initiated this special day of remembrance in 1992 and Popes Benedict and Francis have continued the tradition. The day has a dual focus on those who are sick and on those who care for them. The theme for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021 is the following -

"You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23,8)
A trust-based relationship to guide the care for the sick.

The COVID 19 pandemic of 2020 has highlighted for us how precarious our health can be and how much we rely on the virtues of solidarity and compassion to create the conditions that allow us to strive for the common good. We saw how the whole community needed to come together to fight this virus. We also witness the heroism and dedication of staff in hospitals and aged care facilities to accompany and heal those who had contracted the virus. We are so proud of the contribution Catholic health and aged care services made to this common effort.

I have enclosed some resources to promote awareness of World Day of Prayer for the Sick. I hope that you may consider distributing these among the parishes of your diocese and also join your own prayer for the sick and those who care for them on this day.

Resources will be distributed to some schools and universities closer to the day. We will be co-hosting with the Australian Catholic University a webinar related to World Day of the Sick. In future years we hope to expand our capacity to reach out to a wider audience among Catholic schools and parishes.

Blessings of the approaching season of the Nativity,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pat Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pat Garcia
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Health Australia
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