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2025-2026 • SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Signs of Hope on the Edge

Serving Homeless People
with Mental Ill-Health



OUR RESPONSE AS CHRISTIANS

Noticing

Love notices. The Gospels too have eyes - eyes that notice and penetrate and transform.

Knowing

We are good at knowing about - and writing about - people overwhelmed by poverty and mental illness, but we are not so good at knowing them, at knowing their names.

Serving

Our love for those who are poor brings them to the centre of the Church's life. Our care for them is not self-centred. It does not seek to be noticed or praised.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Why is service to the poor considered essential to the Gospel and not optional?
2. What does Pope Francis mean by a Church that is bruised, hurting and dirty?
3. What does authentic service look like in your life or community?

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In this Jubilee Year, Pope Francis reminded us, as Christians, of our “fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope.” We appeal to all Christians to join us in going to the edge of society to befriend our fellow Australians who are living on the streets, who are often struggling with serious mental ill-health, to be signs of hope, to be the good news that God’s unfailing love embraces everyone.



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, SDB
PRESIDENT, AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE



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