

CARITAS AUSTRALIA **PROJECT** COMPASSION



Sisilia, Tanzania

Schools Fundraising Guide 2026

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

#projectcompassion
projectcompassion.org.au

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA

Welcome to Project Compassion

My name is Holly Dean, and I have the privilege of stepping in as Community Fundraising Manager while Leanne Langdon is on maternity leave. I'm excited to walk alongside you this Lent as we continue to *Unite Against Poverty*.

I love Project Compassion because it's more than just a fundraiser – it's a nationwide movement of compassion, faith and action that ensures no one is left behind. Each year, thousands of schools, parishes and communities stand together in solidarity, committed to creating a more just and compassionate world.

Your involvement has an extraordinary impact. Project Compassion helps Caritas Australia support long-term development programs and respond quickly to emergencies. It means clean water, nutritious food, education, sustainable livelihoods and hope for future generations. It means that when families face poverty, disaster or injustice, they don't face it alone – they have the tools and support to rebuild and thrive.

This year's stories are a window into that impact – as we meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and explore our emergency response work in Gaza. They show how together we're not just meeting immediate needs, but transforming communities for generations.

I'm so proud to be part of this movement, seeing how generosity and solidarity ripple out from classrooms, parishes and communities across Australia to change lives around the world.

Thank you for standing with us for Project Compassion 2026 – your support truly makes a difference. I can't wait to see the incredible impact we'll make together this Lent!



Holly Dean
Community Fundraising Manager



Project Compassion your way!

Choose how your school will *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*

This Lent, your school can make a big impact by joining The BIG Water Walk and hosting fun and meaningful events, standing together for Project Compassion and supporting communities in need.

THE BIG WATER WALK

Join schools across Australia by taking part in The BIG Water Walk – a fun, active challenge with a powerful purpose. On your chosen day, your school community will walk laps around your grounds or local park, carrying water buckets in solidarity with people who must walk long distances each day for water.

Each step and each lap raises vital funds and awareness, helping ensure families across Africa, Asia and the Pacific gain access to safe, life-giving water.

Download [The BIG Water Walk Toolkit](#) here.



Students from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta taking on The BIG Water Walk in Parramatta Park

© Stuart Matters



Making pancakes at the Project Compassion 2025 launch in Sale. projectcompassion Get involved with projectcompassion.org.au today! © Caritas Australia

HOST A LENT EVENT

Turn your school's compassion into action by bringing your school community together for a fun-filled Lent Event for a great cause. From pancake days to trivia nights, games afternoons to school fetes, every event this Lent will help transform lives.

By hosting a Lent Event this Project Compassion, your school will raise vital funds for people facing poverty – and show the incredible power of community when we act together.

Download the [Host a Lent Event Toolkit](#) here.

Your school can change lives this Lent



Primary school students from the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta walking in The BIG Water Walk in Parramatta Park

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STEP 1

Register



Sign up online at projectcompassion.org.au to get your school started. Once registered, you can download additional resources and access tools you need to bring your students and community together for change.

STEP 2

Choose your activity or challenge



There are so many ways your school can get involved! Organise a BIG Water Walk, or Host a Lent Event like a pancake day, a bake sale or a talent show. Every step, activity, and donation helps change lives around the world.

STEP 3

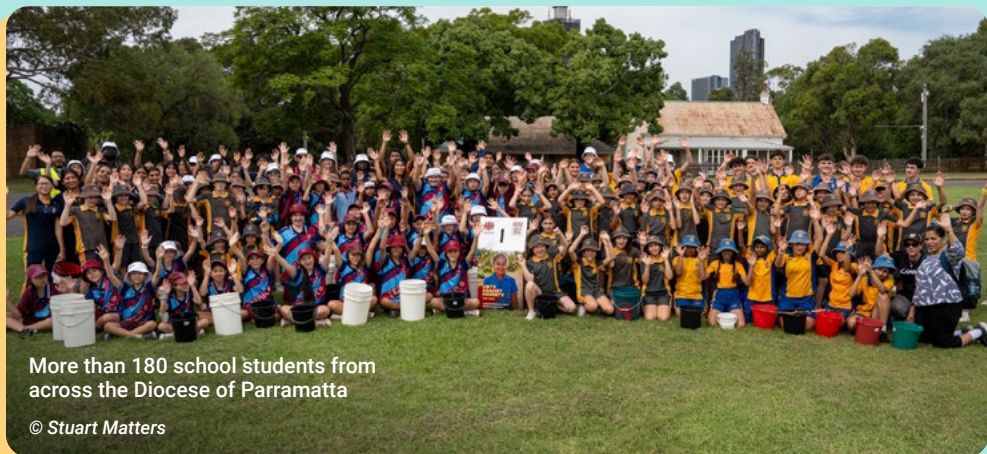
Raise funds and *Unite Against Poverty*



Together, your students, teachers, and families can raise vital funds and make a lasting impact through Project Compassion this Lent.

Parramatta Schools Step Up for Project Compassion 2025!

Walking in solidarity, raising awareness, and inspiring change across the Diocese of Parramatta.



More than 180 school students from across the Diocese of Parramatta

© Stuart Matters

In 2025, Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD) went above and beyond for Project Compassion — raising a remarkable **\$235,717** to *Unite Against Poverty*.

More than 180 students from 10 schools joined the **BIG Water Walk** in both Penrith and Parramatta. Walking **five kilometres carrying buckets of water**, students experienced the daily journey that so many people, especially women and children, must make to collect water. Each walk ended with a blessing and reflection, highlighting the spiritual and practical importance of water.

“Walking together in solidarity is more than a gesture – it’s a meaningful act of compassion and hope,” said **Ryan Reyes**, CSPD Mission Partner.

We’re so grateful to the CSPD Mission team, teachers and students for showing what faith in action looks like — and for helping build a more just and compassionate world.



Students from the CSPD walking in solidarity

© Stuart Matters

Shout out to these amazing schools!



Need inspiration for Project Compassion at your school this Lent?
Check out these fantastic stories from Project Compassion 2025.



St Angela's Makes Project Compassion History!

St Angela's Primary School in the Diocese of Parramatta was the highest fundraising school in Project Compassion history, raising an extraordinary **\$52,935** in support of vulnerable communities around the world. This incredible milestone is a shining example of what happens when students, staff and families all pull together with passion and purpose.



From Cake Stalls to Water Walks

Chevalier College in the Diocese of Wollongong embraced Project Compassion 2025 with energy and heart – taking on the BIG Water Walk (even in the rain!) and hosting a festive St Patrick's Day cake stall. Together, their efforts raised an amazing **\$4,548** to support Caritas Australia's programs. A huge well done to the whole school community for walking in solidarity and uniting against poverty.



Small School, Huge Impact!

Led by the Year 5 Junior Joeys, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Hobart got creative with a Pancake Day, filled Project Compassion donation boxes, and held an Easter chocolate guessing competition – doubling their fundraising from \$500 to **\$1000!**



Walking, Baking and Giving Big!

St Mary MacKillop College in the Diocese of Bunbury raised an amazing **\$12,551** for Project Compassion in 2025! Students led a Rice Day, bake sales, casual clothes days, and The BIG Water Walk, putting compassion and service into action. Their efforts will make a real difference for vulnerable communities around the world.

Top Fundraising Tips!

You're doing something wonderful by being part of Project Compassion. Here are some tips to help you *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*, and beyond!

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 5

Celebrate collective 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.

TIP 2

Create Teams



Organise students into groups by class or House to work together on activities — teamwork builds community while making fundraising fun!

TIP 6

Share stories and reflect on impact



Encourage students to learn about the communities Project Compassion supports and share updates through class discussions, newsletters, or displays, helping them see the real difference they're making.

TIP 3

Make fundraising creative!



Plan bake sales, art exhibitions, talent shows, or themed days to get students involved in meaningful ways while connecting with the school community.

TIP 4

Host your event on Dollar Match Day



Host your BIG Water Walk, or your Lent Event on Dollar Match Day. All fundraising will be matched dollar for dollar*. Keep an eye on your inbox in Term 1 — we'll let you know when Dollar Match Day is happening!



*IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Dollar Match Day does not include school, parish or organisation wide fundraising collections

*Individual donations will be matched up to \$1,000 per gift.

Take your school's Project Compassion to the next level

Here are 4 ways to make the most of your fundraising this Lent:



Bishop Vincent Long
with students and
staff at the 2025
launch in Parramatta

© Caritas Australia

1

Inspire others to act charitably

Step up this Lent with The BIG Water Walk or a by hosting a Lent Event. By joining forces as students, teachers, and families, your school will make a real impact, supporting communities to overcome poverty and respond to emergencies around the world.

2

Unite in solidarity

Stand together in compassion this Lent. Every walk, trivia night or fete unites your school with families worldwide, building justice and creating lasting change.

3

Spread the message

Shine a light on the difference your school is making during Project Compassion. There are a range of educational materials to share with your community – so every student and family can see the power of their generosity at work.

4

Advocate for change

Inspire your school to speak up for justice. By raising awareness and standing with vulnerable communities, you'll amplify their voices and encourage others to join in creating a fairer world.

Your fundraiser will make sure children like Sisilia have clean drinking water

TANZANIA

The funds you raise as part of Project Compassion will help provide clean drinking water and improved hygiene to communities around the world.

Sisilia is a 13-year-old student from rural Tanzania. She faced long daily journeys to collect water from a contaminated canal, that often left her ill with stomach problems. Thanks to the wonderful people who fundraise as part of Project Compassion, Sisilia can now participate in her school's safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (SWASH) Club, learning about hygiene, cleanliness, and the importance of safe drinking water. Your school can help make sure more children like Sisilia can have access to clean water, better health and the opportunity to learn.



Can provide a hygiene kit—including soap, a water bucket, bath towel, slippers, and nail clippers. These simple items help keep families healthy and protect against deadly diseases like cholera, typhoid and hepatitis.



Can help set up a savings and credit group, providing basic training and resources. These groups empower low-income women and girls with the skills to build brighter futures.



Can help establish and train a school water, sanitation, and hygiene (SWASH) Club, where students learn vital health practices and share them with their families.



Can help build a handwashing station with multiple taps at a school—keeping children hydrated, healthy, and safe throughout the school day.

Your compassion will help someone like Monoranjon



BANGLADESH

Your support can help a farmer like Monoranjon, who faces floods, droughts, and salty soil that threaten his crops.

Thanks to fundraisers like you, he is learning climate-resilient farming and aquaculture. This allows him to feed his family, keep his children in school, and share vital knowledge with his community. With your help, more families in Bangladesh can build secure and sustainable futures.



Can deliver community awareness programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction. These activities help families prepare for disasters and build stronger local networks.



Can provide specialist training for rural midwives and updated skills for Traditional Birth Attendants – helping ensure safer pregnancies and healthier mothers and babies.



Can support training in farming, aquaculture, livestock, handicrafts, and small business skills. These programs help families grow food, earn an income, and strengthen their communities.



Can co-fund new livelihood opportunities – supporting youth, women, widows and people with disabilities to earn an income and provide food for their families.

Your commitment is helping families like Manaini's in Fiji



Manaini, a mother and farmer in northern Fiji, now turns local crops into flour and baked goods, grows her own food, and earns an income for her family.

Thanks to Project Compassion fundraisers like you, her community has better nutrition, safer streets with solar lights, and new opportunities to thrive.



\$20

Can give a family in Fiji a set of vegetable seedlings – like cucumber, pumpkin and eggplant – so they can grow their own nutritious food.



\$140

Can equip farmers with essential tools like a spade, fork, and shovel to grow more food more efficiently.



\$450

Can train 25 people in rural Fiji in financial literacy, empowering them to build sustainable income to support their families.



\$1,500

Can equip a communal farm with the tools it needs, such as shovels, wheelbarrows, and compost bins, to grow food for the whole community.

Your school can help support displaced people in Gaza

GAZA



The crisis in Gaza is changing every day, and for this reason we are unable to share a single printed story.

Online, we can keep Ahmad's story and updates as current as possible. [Please click here](#) to read his powerful story and learn more about how families are being supported through Caritas Australia.



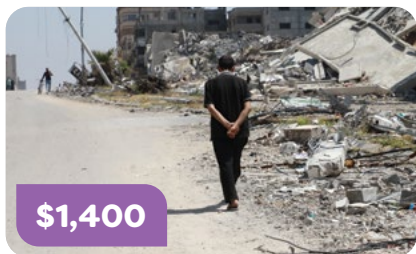
\$67

Can support the provision of critical medications, medical supplies, and equipment for the treatment of individuals in Gaza and the West Bank.



\$958

Can support the training of a medical staff member in clinical skills, emergency response, and trauma care in conflict settings.



\$1,400

Can support 1 month of a nurse's wage providing critical medical care in Gaza, potentially helping up to 200 patients.



\$1,600

Can help keep a healthcare facility running for 4 days, providing critical healthcare to around 125 people in Gaza and the West Bank.



THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2026. Your generosity this Lent will support vulnerable communities to build a brighter future.

We're here to help!

If you have any questions or if you need extra fundraising tips, reach out to our friendly team.



Home

projectcompassion.org.au



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