

#EndCOVIDForAll Guide for Parishes



What is #EndCOVIDForAll and how is Caritas Australia involved?

The #EndCOVIDForAll campaign is an initiative that has brought together a broad collective of organisations including churches, aid agencies and other faith-based organisations across the country to mobilise public support for Australia to step up its assistance to vulnerable countries in responding to COVID-19.

Why do we need the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign?

The worst impacts of COVID-19 will be experienced by the communities who were already facing poor sanitation, overcrowding and limited access to healthcare. In many places, overcrowding makes social distancing almost impossible, and puts vulnerable communities even more at risk, while a lack of running water, soap and face masks means containing the spread of the virus is incredibly difficult.

During widespread lockdowns, many families also struggle to put food on the table. Countless households are losing income, which pushes those who are already living at the margins further into poverty and hunger.

How can people get involved?

For the campaign to be successful, we need as many parishes and people as possible to get involved by:

- **Signing the #EndCOVIDForAll pledge**
- **Taking part in an #EndCOVIDForAll face-mask action on August 19**

Read on for more details.

The #EndCOVIDForAll pledge

Our first campaign action is to ask Australians from all walks of life to sign a pledge of support for our neighbours.

The pledge will be provided to our government, along with a letter signed by all participating CEOs, including Kirsty Robertson from Caritas Australia, to demonstrate the support that the Australian community has for Australia to do more to help our neighbours.

The pledge is simply: 'I believe Australia should provide vital support to vulnerable nations.'

Where can we sign the pledge?

Sign the pledge at: www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all

Anyone can sign the pledge to show their support.

What are the policy asks behind this campaign?

When we present all the pledges to the Government, we'll be asking them to:

1. **Protect the world's most vulnerable** by contributing our fair share of funds to support crisis areas, and ensuring equitable access to a COVID vaccine
2. **Strengthen health systems overseas** by providing kits and provisions to help combat the virus, and continuing to support vital health programs
3. **Kickstart economic recovery in our region** by resuming safe economic ties with Pacific countries, and offer low-cost loans for health infrastructure

Of course, Caritas Australia continues to work with our partners during what could be their greatest challenge yet. Our borders may be closed but our hearts are not. With more vital support, Australia could expand on the incredible work already being done.

What your parish can do to get involved

For the campaign to be successful, we need as many people as possible to sign the pledge in the coming weeks, especially by August 19, which is when people all around Australia will promote #EndCOVIDForAll (details below).

Caritas Australia has developed a range of actions and resources so that parishes can participate in this campaign at any level they choose. Please select any activities from the following pages that feel the most appropriate for your parish community.

1. Sign the #EndCOVIDForAll pledge online

Sign the pledge yourself at www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all and encourage your friends, family and parish community to sign and share the pledge as well.

2. Share the #EndCOVIDForAll pledge on social media

We have developed images and text that you can share on your parish social media. These are available at www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-parish-materials.zip

3. Join the #EndCOVIDForAll face mask action on August 19

1. Take a photo of yourself or a group of parishioners wearing a face mask with the words # End COVID For All or #ECFA written on the mask.



2. Write a caption for the photo. This is an example caption, but you can write your own: "I am / we are / [Parish name] is joining the call to support vulnerable nations through the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign. Because it's not over for anyone, until it's over for everyone. Join me / us and sign the pledge at caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all #EndCOVIDForAll"

3. **Share the photo on social media on August 19.** This date is when people all around Australia will share a photo on social media to promote the campaign. You don't need to take the photo on August 19, but it's important to share the photo on August 19.

4. If you don't want to share a photo wearing a mask, you can share another photo of yourself with a caption about why you support the campaign. This image (right) is an example of Tim Costello, Executive Director of Micah Australia, showing his support for the campaign.



4. Sign your parish or diocese up to support #EndCOVIDForAll before August 19

To sign your parish up as a supporter of this campaign, email act@caritas.org.au and tell us the name of your parish, your name and your phone number in case we need to contact you. *It is important to do this before August 19*, because on August 20 the list of organisations that support the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign will be published in the major newspapers.

5. Include a notice about the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign in the parish bulletin

We have already created a simple notice that you can put in your next parish bulletin, so that parishioners can learn more about the campaign. This is available at www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-parish-materials.zip

6. Include a notice about the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign on the parish or diocesan website

We have created a web banner that you can put on your parish website to promote the campaign. We have also created a simple text that you can use to explain the campaign underneath the banner. These are both available at www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-parish-materials.zip

7. Discuss the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign at mass

There are several ways to discuss the campaign and the importance of supporting our neighbours overseas at mass.

- There is a **2-minute animated video** about the campaign and its importance which can be played during mass or shared on the parish website or social media. This is available at: <https://vimeo.com/442930383>
- Caritas have developed both a **prayer and a prayer of intercession** that you can use in your parish. These are available in PowerPoint format here: www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/ecfa_caritas-prayer.pptx
and in Word format here: [www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-prayers-\(word\).zip](http://www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-prayers-(word).zip)
- There are also prayer tiles that you can share to your **social media** available here www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-parish-materials.zip

8. Write letters to Members of Parliament (MPs)

As an 'optional extra' for those parishes that would like to take an additional action, we have developed an #EndCOVIDForAll Letter-writing Guide. This includes instructions on how to write letters to MPs and an optional letter template.

The letter writing guide and optional template are available at www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/parish-resources/end-covid-for-all-letter-writing-kit.zip

9. Engaging Youth

If you have a parish or diocesan youth group, invite them to participate in the campaign. They could start by visiting the website, signing the pledge and sharing with their networks using the social media assets.

You can also put them in touch with Caritas Australia's Youth Engagement Coordinator, Sue Lomi, who can provide more information about a youth-specific action on August 19. You can contact Sue at Sue.Lomi@caritas.org.au



In conclusion, we look forward to supporting your parish or diocese to be part of the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign, so that we can show our leaders that Australians support our vulnerable neighbours during this time of crisis.

For more information on #EndCOVIDForAll or to sign the pledge go to www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all. You can also contact your Caritas Australia Diocesan Director with any questions, or send an email to act@caritas.org.au