



MEDIA RELEASE

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## Bishops seek focus on cost-of-living crisis

Australia's Catholic bishops have urged courage and tenderness in addressing the nation's cost-of-living crisis.

Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion in the lead-up to Social Justice Sunday on a key issue in society.

This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements – one in February and another in August ahead of Social Justice Sunday (August 30).

The February statement is entitled *The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*.

“Across Australia, many of our sisters and brothers are burdened by the rising cost of life’s necessities,” writes Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, in the preface to the statement.

“For some, this means skipping meals, delaying medical care or living without secure housing.

“These are not just economic statistics - they are human stories of struggle and resilience.

“As disciples of Jesus, we cannot turn away from these realities. The Gospel calls us to see Christ in those who suffer and to walk alongside them with compassion.

“This statement is an invitation to listen and to act.”

The statement sets out key facts and figures about the crisis, points to Catholic social teaching as a means of addressing it and outlines a list of actions largely focused on local communities.

“In a wealthy country like Australia, it seems inconceivable that there should be so much hardship,” the statement reads.

“Many of us cannot see a way out of the cost-of-living crisis. This must change. Australia needs to learn to hope again.”

Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service chair, Bishop Tim Harris, said: “All of us can - and should - help to build a stronger, compassionate, more resilient and fairer country.”

The statement and related resources can be found at [Social Justice Statements](#)