



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Council for Australian Catholic Women



01 February 2018

My Brother Bishops and Diocesan Administrators

International Women's Day (IWD) | Wednesday, 8 March 2018

I would be grateful if you would please circulate details of **International Women's Day** to the parishes in your Diocese so that we as a Church may be prayerfully and practically associated with this International Day. **You may care to nominate the particular weekend that you consider is most suitable for promoting this important event** – either Sunday 4 March or Sunday 11 March 2017.

It is important in our liturgy, on the chosen weekend in March, to reflect this observation in the General Intercessions and also to make mention of it in parish bulletins.

To help in this, I enclose a **suggested Parish Bulletin Notice and a General Intercession for use by parishes, schools and diocesan agencies.**

For more information and resources please visit:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/1/announcer-iwd-2018-theme>

<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/global-poverty-issues/women-and-development>

For prayer and reflection resources please visit

<http://opw.catholic.org.au/prayer-and-reflection/blog.html>

More information about the work of the Council for Australian Catholic Women can be found at www.opw.catholic.org.au or by contacting the Director of the Office for the Participation of Women, Andrea Dean, at director.opw@catholic.org.au.

With warm fraternal greetings

Most Rev Michael McCarthy
Bishop of Rockhampton
Bishop Delegate to the Council for Australian Catholic Women



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SUGGESTED PARISH BULLETIN NOTICE **International Women's Day - 8 March 2018**

The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March, is "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives".

This year, International Women's Day comes on the heels of unprecedented global movement for women's rights, equality and justice. Sexual harassment, violence and discrimination against women has captured headlines and public discourse, propelled by a rising determination for change.

International Women's Day 2018 is an opportunity to transform this momentum into action, to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who are working relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential.

International Women's Day also draws attention to the rights and activism of rural women, who make up over a quarter of the world population and majority of the 43 per cent of women in the global agricultural labour force.

They till the lands and plant seeds to feed nations, ensure food security for their communities and build climate resilience. Yet, on almost every measure of development, because of deep seated gender inequalities and discrimination, rural women fare worse than rural men or urban women.

For more information and resources please visit:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2018/1/announcer-iwd-2018-theme>

<https://unwomen.org.au/campaign/international-womens-day-2018/>

<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/global-poverty-issues/women-and-development>

SAMPLE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL **International Women's Day - 8 March 2017**

We pray for men and women who hold positions of leadership and power within Church and society; that their work will create just structures and enable equal access to resources for women. Lord, hear us.

We pray that the gospel vision of justice will inspire us to overturn deep seated gender inequalities and work for women's rights, equality and justice. Lord, hear us.

We pray for women and men in our Church, that we may highlight the needs of rural women and work relentlessly for justice and equality. Lord, hear us.