

## Appeal Speech -With client story

CatholicCare Victoria is the social services agency of the four Catholic dioceses in Victoria, empowering families, children, and individuals to build thriving communities. They strive to encourage strength and resilience in every person at every stage of life, and we invite you today to help make this possible.

When CatholicCare Victoria's team first visited Mason\* in his home, the scene was heartbreaking.

He was dressed in pyjamas, his eyes fixed on the television with the volume turned up to an extreme. It was evident that he was using this as a means to cope with the trauma he had endured. Mason had been deemed 'non-verbal' and was not attending school.

The weight of his traumatic experiences had silenced him, leaving him isolated and struggling to communicate his pain.

However, CatholicCare Victoria's dedicated worker, Sally\*, saw a glimmer of hope.

She recognised that behind Mason's silence was a voice longing to be heard. With unwavering determination, Sally embarked on a journey to give Mason the voice he so rightfully deserved.

Through compassionate care and tailored support, Sally began to unlock Mason's potential. She provided him with the skills and encouragement to express himself, slowly but surely, breaking through the barriers that had confined him for so long.

As Mason's story illustrates, there is hope even in the darkest of circumstances. With the right support and intervention, we can empower children like Mason to overcome their trauma and help them to reclaim their voices.

CatholicCare Victoria runs the annual Sunday Appeal to be able to continue supporting vulnerable individuals and families in our communities.

They focus on real life issues and offer practical support for all members of the family. Their programs and services include counselling and mental health services, social housing, family and relationship services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral services, support for separating families, homelessness and advocacy support, and a variety of courses helping to strengthen relationships and wellbeing.

*(Please turn over)*

The wonderful support CatholicCare Victoria receives from our parish community will go towards funding a range of these programs, so they can continue to be there for families when they're most vulnerable.

Please continue to share in Christ's mission by donating to CatholicCare Victoria's Sunday Appeal today.

You can donate by filling out the envelopes available at the parish, or by making an online donation via their website, [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au) or by calling their East Melbourne office.

If you can't donate today, please take an envelope, and send it back to CatholicCare Victoria when you can.

The compassion of our parish community allows CatholicCare Victoria to disrupt disadvantage and build thriving communities, where everyone can live life to the full. On behalf of CatholicCare Victoria, thank you for your faithful and generous compassion toward struggling Victorians. Thank you for helping them to reach their full potential.

CatholicCare Victoria

ABN 51 857 084 361

East Melbourne Office: PO Box 196, East Melbourne VIC 8002

**T:** (03) 9287 5513 **E:** [fundraising@catholiccarevic.org.au](mailto:fundraising@catholiccarevic.org.au) **W:** [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au)