

Appeal Speech – With client story

CatholicCare Victoria is the social service agency of the four Catholic dioceses in Victoria, supporting families and individuals in our local community. CatholicCare Victoria's mission is to empower communities, build strength and resilience, and enable everyone to reach their full potential and live life to the full. A mission they invite you to help make possible.

I would like to share the story of John, aged 52 years, who was living in homelessness for three years.

When home was no longer safe, he was forced to leave. And when you're already struggling to find somewhere to live, it doesn't take much to throw you into a life on the streets.

John was living in homelessness at the onset of the global pandemic. His mental health was already suffering, but when every day brings something new to worry about, this made his anxiety difficult to deal with.

John was thankfully granted crisis accommodation... and today he lives in affordable housing provided through CatholicCare Victoria's social housing program. CatholicCare Victoria's case worker also keeps in contact with John's mental health worker and assists in arranging healthcare appointments.

In John's words: *"Without your generosity, a lot of people like me would be a lot worse off than what they are. Thank you. I'm just so glad that I am where I am now – growing old gracefully! I have a bed to sleep in and food in the cupboard. I have a full life."*

Our world is broken and hurting. But Jesus promises life... and life to the full. Your generosity today can help struggling Victorians to trade brokenness for life to the full.

CatholicCare Victoria offers counselling and mental health programs, affordable housing, specialised supports for children and teens, pastoral care, support for separating families, refugee and asylum seeker help, employment help, crisis help, homelessness and advocacy support, and a variety of courses helping to strengthen relationships and wellbeing. The amazing support CatholicCare Victoria receives from our parish community will go towards funding a range of these programs, so that they can continue to be there for our communities when they're in need.

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 CatholicCare Victoria's website www.catholiccarevic.org.au or by calling CatholicCare Victoria's East Melbourne office.

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

The kindness and compassion of our parish community allows CatholicCare Victoria to build thriving, connected communities, where individuals and families can live life to the full.

On behalf of CatholicCare Victoria, thank you for your faithful and Christ-like compassion toward struggling Victorians like John. Thank you for helping them to trade brokenness for life to the full.