



Mercy Mail

7 February 2020



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Good morning friends in Mercy

Tomorrow Saturday 8 February is designated as *International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking*. The aim of this Day is to raise awareness and encourage reflection on the violence and injustice that impacts victims of human trafficking. Thanks to Catholic Health Australia (CHA), we were able to circulate resources to our facilities, including a Prayer Service, to assist them to mark *International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking*. I know many of our facilities took the opportunity of this Day to pray for the emotional, physical and spiritual healing of victims and to encourage each of us to make a personal commitment to work against human trafficking.

Next Tuesday 11 February is *World Day of the Sick*. Once again thanks to CHA we were able to distribute resources to our facilities to assist them to mark this Day. Among these resources was a Message for *World Day of the Sick* from Pope Francis and a *World Day of the Sick* Liturgy. Also please find on the second page of *Mercy Mail* this week, a lovely reflection on this *World Day of the Sick* Message that Mater Chief of Mission, Madonna McGahan kindly shared with us. **(See Page 2)**. Thank you Madonna.

It is with a tinge of sadness I advise you that after three years of working part time as MH&ACCQL Assistant Mission Coordinator, Pat McDevitt has let me know she will shortly be retiring from that role. Pat's last day in the office will be Thursday 13 February.

Many of you will know Pat who has presented our Annual Mission In-Services to staff in all our facilities for each of those three years. The Mission In-Services that Pat presented were always very interesting, engaging and relevant to the work that people were carrying out in our Health and Aged Care Ministry. The feedback from staff concerning Pat's presentations was always overwhelmingly positive.

We will all miss Pat. She is a beautiful, caring and thoughtful person and she has made a very significant contribution to MH&ACCQL not just through her wonderful Mission In-Services but also due to her lovely Prayer Services and Liturgies that she prepared for special Mercy CQ occasions.

In recent days, I have let some of the people who have worked most closely with Pat know of her pending retirement. So many people have sent back lovely words about Pat and the special person that she most assuredly is. There is not enough space for me to reproduce here all of the lovely comments that people have made about Pat but I believe the few sentiments below sum up very well the respect and admiration that we all have for Pat McDevitt.

"Pat will be missed - she is very caring and gentle lady.

Pat has made a wonderful contribution to Mission in her time with Mercy Health. Best wishes to Pat. It has been lovely working with her.

Pat, thank you for your beautiful contribution to MHAACCQL. I will miss your smiling face, warm heart and our annual in-services. I wish you good health and happiness in retirement".

If you wish to contact Pat as her retirement draws near, her email address is pmcdevitt@mercycq.com



Pat, thank you for all you have done to support and assist me over the past three years and thank you for the amazing contribution you have made to MH&ACCQL. You have been a wonderful role model for us all as we have strived to live out our shared Mission *to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by providing a high standard of holistic health care consistent with community need*

I pray Pat that God will bless you abundantly with good health and much happiness in your retirement.

Take care and best wishes


Phillip Bauman
Mission Coordinator



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REFLECTION ON MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

"Ahead of the 28th World Day of the Sick on 11 February, the Vatican has this month released a message from His Holiness Pope Francis, in which he acknowledges and thanks all who care for the sick. The World Day of the Sick was instituted by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1992 as a special time of prayer and sharing, acknowledging the sick and those who care for the sick. Beginning in 1993, it is observed each year on 11 February coinciding with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In the inspiring letter of 3 January 2020 which is themed "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest", the Pope reminds us of Jesus' words to the sick, the oppressed and the poor.

Aligning closely to Mater's Mission, Pope Francis writes, "What is needed is a personalised approach to the sick, not just of curing but also of caring, in view of an integral human healing." Pope Francis reminds us that those experiencing illness need more than therapy and support they need care and attention – "In a word, love."

He urges healthcare professionals to remain patient-centred, writing, "always remember that diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic treatments, research, care and rehabilitation are always in the service of the sick person; indeed the noun 'person' takes priority over the adjective 'sick'."

Finally, Pope Francis writes of the sanctity of all life stating "life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely." Life must be welcomed, protected, respected and served from its beginning to its end.

His words encourage us to continue to serve unmet need, stating "I urge healthcare institutions and government leaders throughout the world not to neglect social justice out of a preoccupation for financial concerns."

World Day of the Sick 2020

*"Come to me, all you
who labour and are
burdened, and I will
give you rest"
(Mt 11:28)*



@catholicbishops