

Social Justice Report: 12 February 2020

1. **Response to bushfires:** There are heaps of interesting stories about the bushfires and the archdiocesan response in the Catholic Voice online. Further insight into the charitable support from parishes within the Archdiocese for towns affected by bushfires is made clear by Father Tony Percy at the following link <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/bushfire-update-a-surge-of-goodwill-brings-hope-to-those-affected-by-the-bushfires/> .

A *Social Justice* response was evident in the response from Bishop Vincent Long, Chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, in his interview about the bushfires with German Catholic media.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2020/01/17/bishop-longs-interview-with-verlagsgruppe-bistumspresse/>

Like Michael Green in his report, Bishop Long highlights the importance of stewardship and *Laudato Si*.

2. **Project Compassion:** Project Compassion Sunday is on February 23rd so I'm just attaching a checklist of the actions that Project Compassion is suggesting we take as a parish. How many of these are feasible for our parish? There is also a fun activity where you can challenge your friends to give up something for Lent and I was wondering if it might be something we want to take on as a parish council and promote in the parish?
<https://lent.caritas.org.au/page/give-it-up>

3. **Presentation at Yass Historical Society by Brad Bell:** I was lucky enough to attend this last week and it was a really interesting insight into the work of Brad and his staff at the Onerwal Local Aboriginal Lands Council. The Yass Historical Society is very keen to work with Brad on the history of the region and this may provide opportunities for the parish to deepen our knowledge of the Ngunnawal history of the region. Brad also mentioned that there were two Ngunnawal representatives at the 2017 constitutional convention in Uluru so maybe they would be happy to come and talk to the parish at some stage about the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. I would be happy to follow this up.

Sarah Johnston