

2025 Staff Retreat: Hope from Compassionate Action

1

8.40am - 9.30am Keynote Address by Br Damien Price

Br Damien will explore how, as people of Mercy, we can take the hope that is the promise of Easter into our world through compassionate action which, in turn, brings hope to others.



2

9.30am - 10.00am Morning Tea

A shared morning tea will be provided by the Mothers' Network in the Piazza before staff move off to their selected session



3

10.00am - 1.00pm Compassion in Action Workshops

Staff will select from a variety of offerings. The workshop sessions are designed to be experiential in nature as a way of enacting the 2025 school theme: *Ignite Hope with Compassionate Hearts*.



4

1.00pm - 2.00pm Lunch

A shared lunch will be provided by the Mothers' Network in the Piazza. This is an opportunity for staff to share their workshop experiences and prepare for the debrief and final liturgy.



5

2.00pm - 3.00pm Debrief and Final Liturgy

While compassionate action is core to living out the message of the Gospel, the power of action in bringing hope, lies in the reflection engaged in after the event. By reflecting on our experiences and celebrating them in liturgy, we transfer our experiences so that our "ah-ha!" moments anchor in our minds and hearts, the impact of our compassion.



This year's Staff Retreat is all about practical action and encounter with people who have a story to share and a need to be filled. This retreat is our opportunity to bring hope to others through our compassionate works of Mercy.

Workshop Options

A

Vinnies at Spring Hill - 6 Staff

Assist the staff at our local Vinnies to stock their pantry and organise their packages for those in the local community requiring assistance.

Transport: walk to Boundary St office



B

UnOther: Disability Awareness Workshop - 35 Staff

Staff will learn to identify barriers that exist in society, learn to see past labels and more importantly build the confidence and capacity to engage, not only with people who live with disability, but with people from diverse backgrounds and life situations. Staff will experience using a wheelchair and engage in other physical activities to help build empathy and understanding.

Venue: On-Site - Loretto Hall



C

Birthing Kits Foundation - 30 Staff

Pack Clean Birth Kits for pregnant women living in rural communities and low-resource settings around the world. Kits are designed to support hygienic practices and environments during childbirth in under-resourced settings.

Venue: On-Site - Potter Room



D

Crochet4Care - 30 Staff

Spend time with colleagues learning how to crochet squares that will be made into blankets. These blankets will be distributed to our partner ministries including women's shelters, Vinnies and the Romero Centre.

Venue: On-Site - Potter Library



E

Share the Dignity Foundation - 20 Staff

Help Share the Dignity to make a real difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or doing it tough, by packing period products ready to be distributed to those in need.

Transport: Bus transport to Virginia



F

Mercy Cooking - 20 Staff

Help prepare meals and snacks that will be distributed to our partner ministries including Micah Projects, the Missionaries of Charity and the West End Community House.

Venue: On-Site - Potter Kitchen



G

The Romero Centre Workshop Delivery - 6 Staff

Help prepare and deliver informative workshops or information-bites about life in Australia to help recent arrivals to support cultural integration. Topics might include: the Australian legal system, navigating the public transport system, using AI to apply for jobs... the choice is yours!

Transport: bus to Dutton Park

romero
CENTRE
Where hope has no borders

H

St John's Anglican Cathedral Outreach Services - 20 Staff

Staff will embark on a meaningful walk to St John's Cathedral, where they will explore the powerful message of the Corporal Acts of Mercy through the Cathedral's stained-glass windows. During the visit, staff will engage with the Cathedral's impactful 'Rough Sleepers' mission, gaining insight into the pressing issue of homelessness in our local community. Following this, you'll take part in hands-on service, cleaning, organising, and supporting the ministry's vital work, helping to bring hope and dignity to those in need.

Transport: walk to St John's on Ann St



I

Villa Maria Residential Care - 15 Staff

Staff will assist with community activities, spend time in the memory support unit or visit residents for one-to-one chats.

Transport: walk to Villa Maria on St Paul's Terrace



J

AHSews - 25 Staff

Staff will make Cuddle Hearts which will be sent to the Mater's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for use with premature babies.

Venue on site - Dodge Lane Textiles Room



K

Emmanuel City Mission - 15 Staff

Staff will help prepare and carry out the lunch service as well as distribute clothing to the visitors of ECM. Participants are asked to donate good quality men's clothing as part of this commitment.

Transport: school bus or maxi-taxi to South Brisbane



L

Mu'ooz Eritrean Cafe - 10 Staff

Learn to prepare traditional Eritrean food while listening to the stories of those who were forced to flee their country in search of safety and security.

Transport: Maxi-Taxi to Mollison St West End



To nominate your preferred workshop please [click here.](#)