



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Council for Australian Catholic Women



PWI:AD:lt/9311

21 February 2017

My Brother Bishops and Diocesan Administrators

International Women's Day (IWD) | Wednesday, 8 March 2017

I would be grateful if you would please circulate details of **International Women's Day** to the parishes in your Diocese so that we as a Church may be prayerfully and practically associated with this International Day. **You may care to nominate the particular weekend that you consider is most suitable for promoting this important event** – either Sunday 5 March or Sunday 12 March 2017.

It is important in our liturgy, on the chosen weekend in March, to reflect this observation in the General Intercessions and also to make mention of it in parish bulletins.

To help in this, **I enclose a suggested Parish Bulletin Notice and a General Intercession for use by parishes, schools and diocesan agencies.**

For more information and resources please visit:

<https://unwomen.org.au/campaign/international-womens-day-2017/>

<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/global-poverty-issues/women-and-development>

For prayer and reflection resources please visit

<http://opw.catholic.org.au/prayer-and-reflection/blog.html>

More information about the work of the Council for Australian Catholic Women can be found at www.opw.catholic.org.au or by contacting our Acting Executive Officer, Andrea Dean, at director.opw@catholic.org.au.

With warm fraternal greetings

Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD

Bishop of Wollongong

Bishop Delegate to the Council for Australian Catholic Women



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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 March 2017

SUGGESTED PARISH BULLETIN NOTICE **International Women's Day - 8 March 2017**

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, the present and in the future. The theme the Australian National Committee of UN Women has chosen for International Women's Day on 8 March 2017 is *Empower a woman, empower a nation*. Together we can empower women across the globe. Women, particularly in developing countries, face systematic discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, control of assets and participation. We can help through *Project Compassion* during Lent.

- Women make up approximately 70 percent of the world's poor.
- Two-thirds of people unable to read and write are female.
- 11.4 million women and girls are in forced labour.
- 1 in 3 women and girls experience physical and sexual violence.

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SAMPLE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL **International Women's Day - 8 March 2017**

- ❖ We pray for men and women who hold positions of leadership and power within the Church; that their work will help empower all those influenced by their ministry to know their full dignity and value. Lord, hear us.
- ❖ We pray for liberation for women who live with violence and exploitation in all countries of our world. Lord, hear us.
- ❖ We pray for all women and men in our Church, that we may find new ways to complement each other to reflect our common dignity as children of God. Lord, hear us.