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Media Release

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Victoria

Victorian dioceses partner to bring enhanced Catholic social services to those in need

“On 1 January 2021, the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the Diocese of Ballarat, the Diocese of Sandhurst and the Diocese of Sale will unite in common mission to advance the ministry of Catholic social services in Victoria.

This landmark endeavour for the Church and for the people of this State, particularly the most vulnerable, will see the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat, and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity: CatholicCare Victoria.

With a combined service of more than 180 years, the individual agencies have responded to needs in their communities with compassion and care

As CatholicCare Victoria, we will have enhanced capability to respond to those in need, to sponsor initiatives at the breadth and scale that are most effective, and to advocate about and address the root causes of poverty and injustice, thus fulfilling the Church’s commitment to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by proclaiming God’s love for each person and promoting their fullness of life.

Building and supporting individuals, families and communities in times of need, especially those who are most disadvantaged, vulnerable and/or marginalised, is key to advancing human dignity and to fostering the common good in our society.

In coming together, we reinforce our shared commitment to social service ministry; offering works of mercy, charity and justice to meet the needs of the vulnerable and marginalised in Victoria, now and into the future.”

Statement attributable to:

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne

Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst

Rev Peter Slater, Administrator Diocese of Sale

Rev Greg Bennet, Bishop-elect Diocese of Sale

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