



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Palms Australia began work in Catholic parishes in Sydney as the Paulian Association in 1956. In 1961 the PALMS program started preparing Catholics for a global mission. In 2001 the organisational name became Palms Australia to reflect the mission that had spread far beyond Sydney. This rich experience has now been brought under a new evolved insignia:



This new logo reflects giving and receiving in mutual support. Its balance provides a simple reminder to share our love with justice, and in humility to offer opportunity and find solidarity with the poor. I welcome it to our Diocese as a reminder to connect with the chosen ones of Jesus.

Palms' vision is of open palms offering friendship, and in friendship palms come together. Palms together are a sign of support and strength. Our palms together in prayer connect us to God.

This vision genuinely inspires us to bridge difference and nurture togetherness in the world; to realise the passage of Galatians 3:28 that *under Christ Jesus there is no longer Jew and Greek, Slave and Free, Male and Female*. The Palms mission offers the challenge to reach beyond cultural, class and gender differences, to affirm the dignity of all.

The teachers, health professionals, accountants, managers, and others who volunteer are carefully prepared by Palms Australia for authentic relationships based in mutual development. This enables the sharing of skills that assist overseas parishes and vital grass roots organisations to foster the strengths of their people for sustainable solutions to poverty.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



St Patrick's Centre, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia
Tel: +61 3 9926 5612 Email: archbishop@cam.org.au



Archbishop of Melbourne

I urge you to please share Palms' bulletin notices and fliers to encourage those like Surrey Hills nutritionist Helen Colla, who is currently sharing her skills in Samoa, to consider this mission. Single or married, at any age, are welcome.

The Church supports those who take up a global mission placement in these practical ways:

1. The Archdiocese will cover the preparation cost of a volunteer at Palms' Orientation course and a re-entry weekend upon return.
2. Catholic Bishops support a Lay Missionary Gratuity Fund that in 2018 will provide a payment of \$2,500 for each year one is on this mission.
3. Catholic schools offer great support and benefits to teachers giving up to two years for this mission. Teachers could talk with Palms about the details.

I encourage your support for the work of Palms Australia.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne