

Vox Populi (The Voice of the People)

27 July 2022

The approaching month of August is an extremely busy one.

It will provide everyone with many opportunities for prayer and good works!

We know good works are our actions or deeds and that both good works and faith are necessary for salvation.

And that means works of love or charity.

Next week, from 1-7 August, the Diocese of Broken Bay will join with people from around Australia in highlighting the growing problem in our society of homelessness.

We know homelessness has increased by nearly 14% in the past four years; that 2 out of 5 people in this situation are under 25 ,and there has been a 28% increase in our 55+ men and women experiencing homelessness.

People from our communities right across the Diocese are represented in those figures.

CatholicCare is the social care agency of our Catholic Church in the Diocese of Broken Bay. Their services are as diverse as the people they serve but their common commitment is to provide assistance where it is most needed.

In the coming weeks CatholicCare and Catholic Schools Broken Bay will work together to support our homelessness services, and Bishop Anthony Randazzo is encouraging us all to help with their fundraising where we can, and to keep the homeless or transient always in our prayers.

This is also a very special time of year when we pray for Vocations. The word “vocation” simply means “to be called”.

Every member of the Church is called to holiness but responding to that call is unique and particular for each one of us.

It is not about becoming someone we are not. It is about living out our baptismal call to follow and imitate Jesus, and by doing so we are able to discover what this specific call is.

For some it may mean marriage, or for others a call to the priesthood or religious life or to live as a single person. For our young men or women who are discerning a religious life, pray for them to be generous, and courageous.

There are also many memorials and feast days during the month of August, including the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord on 6 August, and one of our most important feast days and Day of Obligation, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday 15 August.

Many opportunities to pray. And how to pray?

Pope St John Paul II had a fairly straightforward reply when asked this question.

“This is a simple matter. I would say; Pray any way you like, as long as you pray.”