



MARY  
AIKENHEAD  
MINISTRIES

# VISION, MISSION AND VALUES





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This document was prepared by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries in a process of consultation with the following:

- Members of Mary Aikenhead Ministries;
- Sisters of Charity Australia;
- Associate Professor Rev Jamie Calder SJ MAPS;
- Dr John Honner; and
- Dr Daniel Fleming.



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LOVE JUSTICE COMPASSION HOPE

# FOREWORD

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

On this 10th anniversary of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, it is timely to remind ourselves of what was written in the petition sent to Rome in January 2008.

“Mary Aikenhead Ministries was established by the Congregation of the Religious Sisters of Australia to succeed to, and to carry on and expand, various health and aged care, education and welfare ministries conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Australia. Mary Aikenhead Ministries was granted canonical status as a public juridic person of pontifical right by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life on April 25, 2008.”

*Canonical Statutes Preamble*

Ten years on, these ministries are being consolidated and continue to expand, always continuing the mission of Jesus Christ on behalf of the Church.

“As a public juridic person, Mary Aikenhead Ministries continues the mission of Jesus Christ and assumes responsibility to further the health and aged care, education and welfare ministries of the Sisters of Charity of Australia to which Mary Aikenhead Ministries succeeds, and other ministries accepted by Mary Aikenhead Ministries.”

*Article 2 Purposes 2.1*

“The mission of Mary Aikenhead Ministries is central to its task and calls forth a response through its multiple expressions. From this mission, carried out on behalf of the Church, the gospel values emerge. Mary Aikenhead Ministries identify **Love, Justice, Compassion and Hope** as central to its expression and witness of the gospel.”

*Leadership Framework Preamble*

Each ministry is invited to develop their particular values, whilst reflecting these foundational values always mindful of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable.

Significant development of lay leaders has taken place in the past ten years and this will continue into the future.



**Dr Maria Theresa Ho**  
**Chair**

*for and on behalf of the **Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries***  
*December 2019*

# VISION

*Caritas Christi Urget Nos - the love of Christ impels us*

Mary Aikenhead Ministries is inspired by the vision of Jesus for communities that offer life to the full. We are committed to loving service of all people, especially those who are poor, marginalised and vulnerable.

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## THE MISSION OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

Mary Aikenhead Ministries continues the mission of God to love through the healing, teaching and pastoral ministries of Jesus Christ. Inspired by the spirit of Mary Aikenhead, through an energetic stewardship, we respond to the needs of the times in innovative and prophetic ways, especially for the poor, marginalised and vulnerable.



# GOSPEL INSPIRATION

*When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”*

*And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*  
(Luke 4:16-21)

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## THE FOUNDATIONAL VALUES OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

The mission of Mary Aikenhead Ministries has multiple expressions, but our foundational values remain always at the heart of mission. Our Canonical Statutes identify the values of **Love, Justice, Compassion and Hope** as being central to our witness to the Gospel. We continue to hold these four Gospel values as foundational for our mission.

At the same time, we recognise that many of our ministries, because of their history or their particular context, hold varying or complementary values. Indeed, as stated in our *Leadership Framework Preamble*, “each ministry is invited to develop their particular values”, while at the same time reflecting our foundational values and being always mindful of the poor, marginalised and vulnerable.

The following paragraphs offer a brief account of the theology, meaning and application of **Love, Justice, Compassion and Hope** to help guide all our ministries in the understanding and application of our values.



LOVE

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# LOVE

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*After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."*

*(John 13:12-15)*

*Love lies at the heart of all human relationships which are ultimately life-giving and sustaining. The unconditional love of Jesus is the primary motivator and basic character that defines and guides Mary Aikenhead Ministries.*

*Our ministries seek to be places of loving care where the unique dignity of each person is recognised and where the human spirit is nurtured. We place person and spirit above property and possessions.*



# JUSTICE

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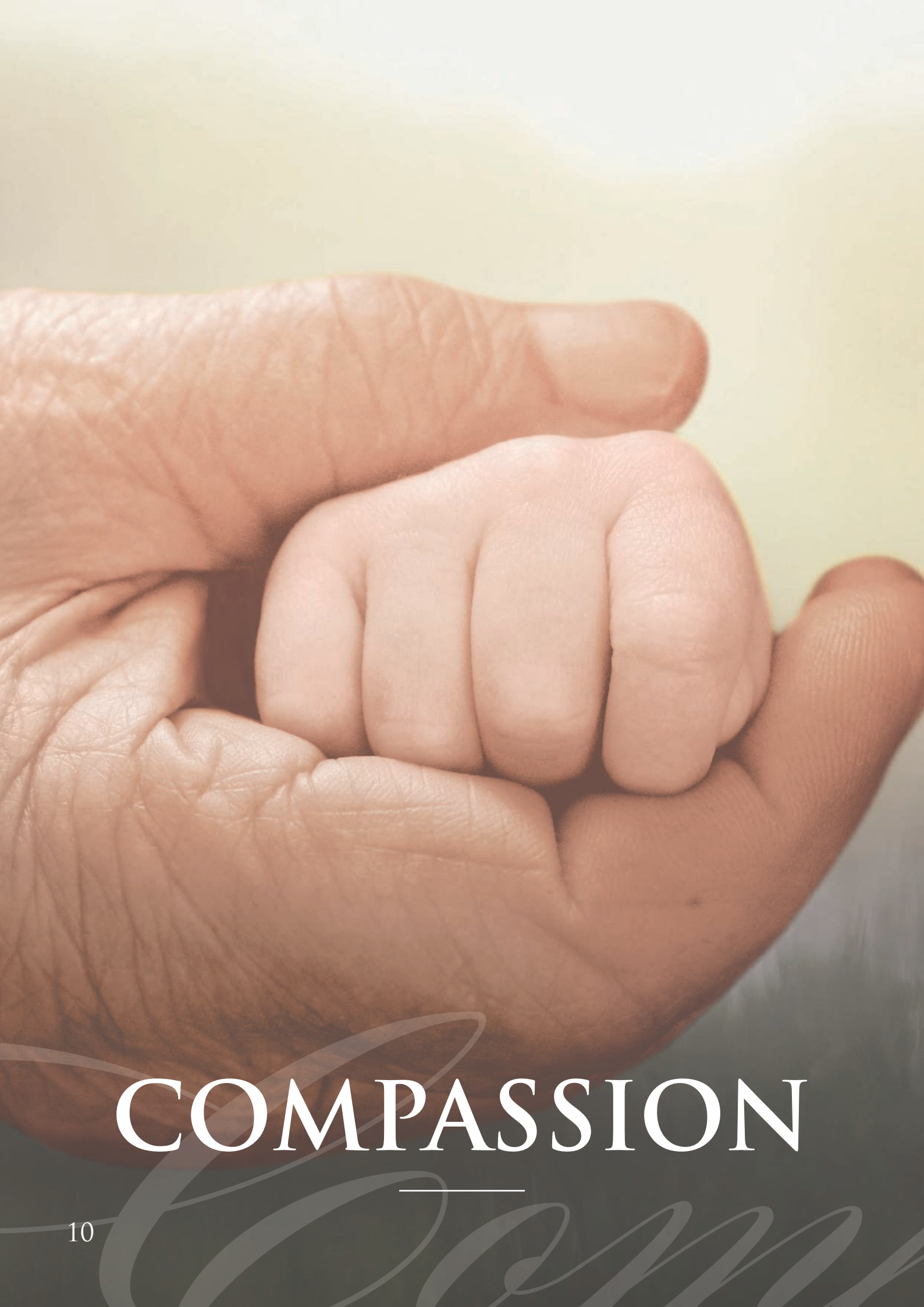
# JUSTICE

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*And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)*

*Justice is born of love. Justice seeks to ensure that all people are treated in accordance with their unique dignity. Inspired by Jesus Christ, our ministries seek to challenge oppression and injustice, always giving due priority to those who are poor.*

*We advocate particularly for those who are vulnerable, marginalized and rendered voiceless, even if it puts us at odds with more powerful voices.*



# COMPASSION

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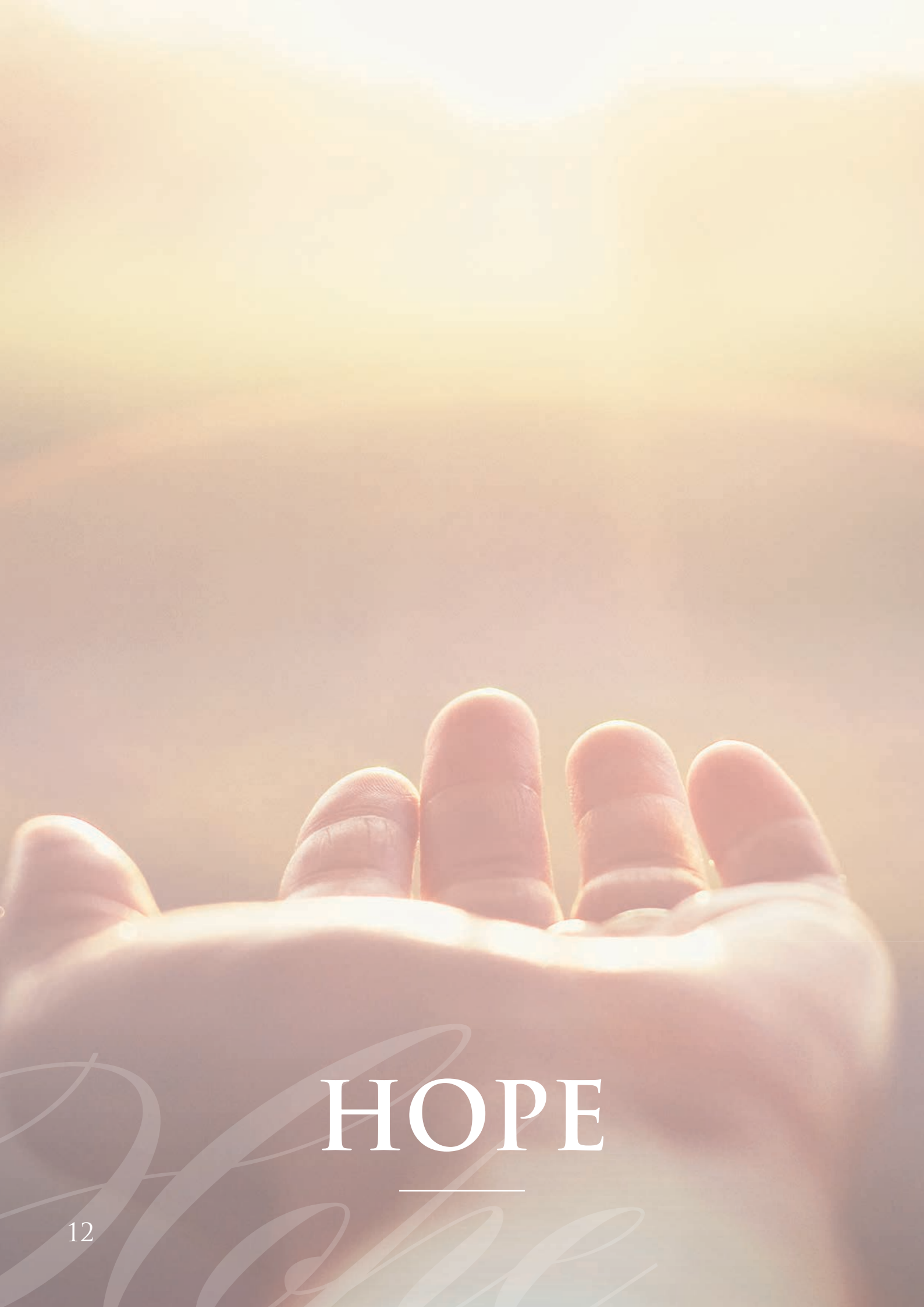
# COMPASSION

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*Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes.  
Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.  
(Matthew 20:34)*

*Compassion is a profound and loving response to a suffering person. Compassion moves us to stay with a suffering person in their pain, to alleviate their ill, and to restore them to community.*

*Inspired by Jesus' self-giving love, and believing that in loving our neighbour we are sharing in infinite love, we are impelled to reach out to those most in need of compassion. We give priority not to ourselves, but to our neighbours in need.*



# HOPE

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# HOPE

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*Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

*(John 14:27)*

*See Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, §201.*

*Hope is a light in darkness, “the door that opens on to the future”. Hope is neither a denial of suffering, nor a resigned acceptance of fate. Hope arises from the wellsprings of purpose and orients the human spirit towards possibility and new life.*

*Motivated by Jesus’ promise of a future that is in loving hands, Mary Aikenhead Ministries trust in the providence of God and seek to provide a wide range of ministries that are beacons of hope. Trusting in God’s providence, we are prepared to be courageous in order to be true to our mission.*

# ACTION STATEMENT

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”*

(Luke 4:18-19)

At the heart of our commitment “is the service of the poor understood to include every manifestation of poverty at any time or in any place to which we are called”.

*Norm 25, Constitution of the Sisters of Charity Australia*

Our commitment invites others to join us in proactively creating conditions which give due priority to service of the poor, enabling their voices to be heard, shared and amplified.

We are committed to better understand the ways in which vulnerability and marginalisation are manifest in our communities so that we can accompany those who are most in need.

Mary Aikenhead Ministries seek to be welcoming and inclusive communities which express values of **Love, Justice, Compassion and Hope** as modelled by Jesus Christ.

A photograph of two hands, one darker-skinned and one lighter-skinned, reaching towards each other over a body of water. The hands are positioned as if about to grasp each other. The water is rippled and reflects light, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage or a natural setting.

PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE  
**POOR**

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*Please note that all scripture passages are from the 'New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition' (NRSVCE)*

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