

## Mass Acknowledging Volunteers in the Archdiocese of Perth

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Bulletin Bit

National Volunteer Week is from the 15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May 2023. This year the theme for Volunteer week is 'The Change Makers'. The annual Volunteer Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11.00am.

### Music Suggestions

The Lord bless you and keep you - John Rutter

The servant song - Richard Gillard [Gather Australia Book II | #461]

### Commentary [before the Mass begins]

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments... anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father."

This quote from John speaks about the faith and commitment we have regarding God's word. God does not require us to show grand gestures of faith and love for him but instead, God looks at all the smaller efforts of kindness and love we commit in His name.

On this 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, I wish to draw your attention to National Volunteer Week, which starts tomorrow. Importantly, this resource, the Volunteer Handbook (hold up a copy for the people to see), lists Catholic agencies of the archdiocese that provide volunteering opportunities for anyone wishing to get involved in the 'good works' of the Catholic Church by volunteering.

(pause) Please stand for the entrance hymn.

## Universal Prayer Petitions

1. We pray for these volunteers that they may continue to serve charitably, selflessly, with gentleness and patience. We pray to the Lord.
2. We pray that by the good works these volunteers perform the world may know the Good News of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord.

## Blessing of Volunteers

[This takes place after the prayer after communion before the final blessing. The celebrant will ask all volunteers to stand. The PowerPoint slide with the prayer on it can be displayed].

**Celebrant:** God our Father,

We give you thanks for these volunteers and the work they do.

We pray that you pour out your abundant blessings upon them and their ministry. Grant them good health and support them in their service.

May they continue to serve you and their neighbours generously so that by the good works they do, the Gospel may be proclaimed in the world.

We also pray that you bless the people whom they serve.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.