

Catholic Bishops' target reconciliation at all levels as a key issue for the Australian Church
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In a Pastoral Statement to be released tomorrow, the Australian Catholic Bishops have identified reconciliation at all levels as a key issue for the Church, along with the issues of justice, openness and spirituality. The 38 minute video, *Faces: The Mission of the Australian Church*, will be launched nationally by Cardinal Edward Clancy, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference on:

Tuesday, 13th October 1998 10:30am - 12:00pm
State Parliament House Theatre
6 Macquarie Street, Sydney

"Traditionally, the general perception of mission has been limited to overseas missionary work. This Pastoral video recognises the many and varied ways in which individuals and communities fulfil the mission of the Church at the local, national and international level," said Cardinal Clancy.

The video focuses on the lives of three ordinary Australians, who in different ways, carry out the mission of the Church:

Lyn Brown, a wife and mother of three from Gosford, NSW volunteers her time to help settle refugees and migrants in Australia. Lyn has recently converted to Catholicism.

Eddie Kneebone, a non-Catholic from Albury-Wodonga who teaches primary students about Aboriginal history and culture. Eddie also helps farmers in the Albury-Wodonga area to preserve sacred Aboriginal sites on their land.

Sister Patricia Pak Poy, a Mercy Sister, campaigns internationally for the banning of landmines. Patricia is an Australian government delegate to the United Nations and is one of this year's recipients of the honour of Member of the Order of Australia.

The inclusion of Eddie, a non-Catholic, in the video shows the willingness of the Church to listen to all voices regarding reconciliation and issues of social justice.

"While the stories of only three people are highlighted in this video, the Church in its broadest sense, has been an active participant in the areas of reconciliation and justice for nearly two thousand years," said Cardinal Clancy. "We intend to continue to fulfill this challenging mission in the future."

Faces, which was two years in the making and produced by Catholic Mission, was developed from the findings of a national consultation. This is the first time the Catholic Bishops have presented a pastoral statement in a video documentary format.

The video will be launched in each capital city and diocese in Australia.

[Click here to read the launch statement by Cardinal Clancy](#)