**Anglicare Sunday Speaking Notes**

Introduction (Slide 1)

Thank You (Slide 2)

* Make a point to say a big thank you to everyone who supports Anglicare already or has in the past. Their contribution has helped us support thousands of people in our community who just need a bit of extra help.

About Anti Poverty Week (Slide 3)

* Today is the launch of Anti Poverty Week, a nation-wide event to bring awareness to poverty in Australia. It runs for the week of October 15th – 21st.
* “Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship in Australia or overseas.”
* Anti-Poverty Week is a week when we can all do something about poverty.

The Hidden Need: Poverty in Australia (Slide 4)

* There is an inaccurate perception that Australia is without poverty, but sadly that is not true.
* The statistics show that:
  + 2.99 million Australians live below the poverty line\*
  + 1 in 6 Australian children live in poverty\*
  + 105,000 are homeless on even given night in Australia (and 45,000 of those are young people)\*\*

*\*ACOSS Poverty in Australia Report 2016*  
*\*\*Homelessness Australia factsheet*

About Anglicare (Slide 5)

* Anglicare is the social justice arm of the Anglican Church
* Their/our aim is to help the most disadvantaged children and families to hope, heal and thrive so they can lead lives free from poverty.

Our Services (Slide 6 + 7)

* Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT provide a diverse range of services in the Community Services sector to bring holistic support to those in our local communities.
* Anglicare’s services include – Foster care and residential care, retail op-shops, disaster recovery, disability services, financial support services, crisis housing and homelessness services, food relief, retirement living, refugee support, youth services including a youth health practice, parenting support, mentoring, early learning and Anglicare College.

Where We Work (Slide 8)

* Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT works across 3 Anglican Diocese – the Canberra and Goulburn Diocese, Riverina Diocese and Bathurst Diocese.
* The work of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT extends outside these diocese in Nowra and South and South West regions of Sydney.

Our Biblical Mandate (Slide 9)

* The Biblical Mandate for us to show compassion for those in need is outlined throughout the Scriptures.
* Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”
* Proverbs 31:8-9 “Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
* These can relate to the Lectionary reading for October 15. The passages in Exodus 22 and Matthew 22 suggest that we can choose to be faithful and grateful and respond to God’s extraordinary provision, or we can transfer our worship and gratitude to other created things that may appear precious but by comparison are worthless.

Helping People in Crisis (Slide 10)

* Anglicare strives to meet the urgent need of people in our communities who are going through a season of crisis.
* In the past financial year, more than 7000 people were supported through emergency food relief. Most of the food we give to families in need has been generously donated from churches, schools and members of the public (especially during our annual Pantry Appeal).
* To give you an idea of the increasing need, in Goulburn alone, the number of people accessing our service as increased by 30% in the past year. Almost 600 people were assisted in the past year when our contracted number for that service was only 258. And this is only in one town in our region.
* While we strive to meet the needs of people at the most critical time, it is also important to Anglicare to combine these services with early-intervention and prevention to move them beyond merely surviving, towards long-term independence and positive life outcomes. (continues on Slide 11)

Long-term Support (Slide 11)

* These process of moving people toward positive life outcomes is how Anglicare is working to break the cycle of poverty. We/ they call it the ‘Survive and Thrive’ Approach.
* Some of the programs used to support people in the longer term include: parenting support, playgroups, health care, financial counselling, mentoring, youth services and education pathways.

Our Stories (Slide 12)

* Today is all about how we can work together to do something about poverty and hardship in our community.
* The Carwoola Bushfires that happened earlier this year are an example of how Anglicare and local Anglican churches can work together to overcome times of distress.
* More than 12 family homes and 45 buildings were destroyed in the blaze.
* Peter Bavington, a warden of Bungendore Anglican lost his home while working as a volunteer fire fighter protecting his neighbour’s properties. Anglicare, with the help of Bungendore Anglican Parish were able to: provide Disaster Recovery volunteers at the evacuation centre, provide meals and clothing to those who had lost their homes, arrange accommodation, and provide pastoral care and ongoing counselling to those affected by the Carwoola bushfire.

Our Stories (Slide 13 – VIDEO)

* This video tells the story of a couple who have donated to Anglicare for 20 years. Find out about why they believe in the work of Anglicare and how their faith has stirred them to give generously. The video also includes the story of one of our clients whose life has been transformed thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

How You Can Help (Slide 14)

* There are a number of ways that you can come along aside Anglicare to make a difference in our community.
  + Donate – monetary donations can be a one-off or you can setup an automatic monthly contribution. You can also donate clothing to our op-shops or non-perishable food to our pantries.
  + Pray for Anglicare’s work, clients, staff and volunteers.
  + You can encourage your church to get involved! For example, you can start your own Pantry Appeal collection or start a Christmas toy-drive for young people in residential care. Some parishes also run Op-Shops in partnership with Anglicare.
  + You can create a lasting legacy that will transform the lives of the generations to come by leaving a gift in your will.
  + You can join the Anglicare team by becoming a volunteer. With Anglicare’s diverse range of services, there is a role suited to everyone.
  + You can also help us break the cycle of poverty by becoming a mentor to young people at risk (Riverina only).

Conclusion and Thank You (Slide 15)

* *Encourage your congregation to fill in the response sheets on their seats. As you collect them at the end of the service and send them back to Anglicare, we can contact members of your church about how they would like to get involved in our ministry.*