



Dear Sir/Madam,

## COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

We are a Catholic Society at the University of Newcastle. We have the duty to carry out Christ's mission at the University and its environment. We foster the spiritual and social wellbeing of our students; empowering them to become a community of missionary disciples. Among other leadership qualities, we help students to seek out opportunities for social justice and healthy interpersonal relationships both within the campus and in the wider community. Due to the circular nature of our university, we also reach out to non-Christian students and students with little or no religion.

Most of our international students have found a sense of home within the Catholic Society. We are constantly looking for ways to respond to the needs of students who are overwhelmed by their new environment, students who are struggling to cope being away from their families and friends. We create a safe space for them to relax, unwind and take some break from their academic workloads, to relax and interact with other students. We also direct them to places of worship which is similar to what they have in their countries or what could fill that gap.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, it has become difficult to provide such services to students directly. We have tried to keep in touch with them via phone calls, text messages, zoom chats /prayer meetings. It has really helped most of our students especially with social distancing which makes it difficult for them to move around. However, we have received calls from students especially international students that they need more support as this pandemic affects their parents and sponsors and they cannot go home to them at this time. There are also local students who have lost their jobs and cannot return to families for support. The University is doing a great job to support some of these students, but the demands are outweighing the support from the University that is also struggling to cope financially in these tough times. We are trying to see how we can help the University in supporting these students.

We therefore come to you as a student body to partner with us in supporting our students in whatever capacity you can. Students are struggling to pay for food and rent, to call their family/ friends and to stay healthy. Your assistance will be very much appreciated. You can assist with **groceries, food vouchers, gift cards, call cards, or cash donations.**

Thanks in advance for helping our students cope at this time.

For gift/material donations, you can drop them off at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church  
262 Sandgate road Shortland 2307 NSW.

For cash donations:

**BSB:** 062831

**Acc. Number:** 10529004

UoN Catholic Society.

Contacts:

0469829125. Camillus

0404666971. Michael

0412691227. Greg

0402918375. Mary-Anne

Yours Sincerely

.....  
Fr. Camillus Nwahia

Catholic Chaplain

For the UoN Catholic Society.