

Who refers a prisoner to a chaplain?

A prisoner can themselves request a visit from a chaplain or a family member might ask for a visit to be arranged for them.

Transport

Chaplains are responsible for their own transportation to and from the correctional centre. Public transport is not available to correctional locations.

Health

Prison chaplains require good hearing and mobility as well as very good emotional and psychological health.

Self care and regular professional supervision is essential.

Spirituality and faith

Prison chaplains must be active members of their parish communities and in good standing. A reference from the Parish Priest is essential.

Team development

Chaplains operate at centres in a multi-denominational team. Attendance at monthly centre team meetings is required as part of the commitment to becoming a chaplain. Catholic chaplains are also required to attend a monthly Catholic team meeting via Zoom or in person.

Our chaplains visit the following correctional centres in the Brisbane Archdiocese:

Maryborough	Woodford
Brisbane Women's	Brisbane
Arthur Gorrie	Wolston
Borallon	Palen Creek
Numinbah	Southern QLD CC

It's more than care, it's a calling.

By supporting the aspirations and needs of people with all kinds of ability and vulnerability, Centacare brings the loving care the Gospel teaches into our communities every day. As a Catholic organisation, care is our calling.

aged care

community & pastoral care

disability care

early edcare

family & relationship care

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pastoral care

Become a prison chaplain

"And when was it that we saw you sick and in prison and visited you?"

Matthew 25: 39-40



Our chaplains are on hand in prisons across South East Queensland to support prisoners. They work with chaplains from other denominations to provide a presence in prisons every day of the year.

What prison chaplains do

Prison chaplains offer pastoral care to prisoners irrespective of their religious background.

Chaplains minister to prisoners dealing with faith and other issues, such as emotional disruption, family separation, grief and loss, sickness, life changes and their concerns about life post-release.

Chaplains work alongside other professionals in correctional centres to ensure prisoners' emotional and spiritual needs are met.

By their presence our chaplains:

- assist in providing dynamic security in prisons
- nurture hope and reduce the incidence of self-harm.

Who can become a Catholic prison chaplain?

To be eligible you must be:

- a baptised Catholic with the support of your parish priest
- over the age of 18 years
- able to meet Archdiocesan requirements for volunteers, including holding a current Blue Card and consenting to a criminal history check
- registered or willing to register as a volunteer with Centacare.



People most suited to prison chaplaincy

Prison chaplains need to be:

- mature in outlook and aware of emotional and professional boundaries
- reliable and committed
- able to commit to weekly chaplaincy visits
- compassionate and non-judgemental
- able to work cooperatively in a team environment
- open to ministry in a multi-faith environment
- in good health and reasonably fit.

What training is provided?

All chaplains need to complete prescribed training, provided through both the Corrective Services Academy and Centacare. Chaplains-in-training are accompanied by an experienced chaplain on prison visits.

Availability

Each denomination is assigned a duty day between Monday and Saturday. These vary across prisons but you will need to be available on this day. In each prison all denominations are on a roster to conduct Sunday's ecumenical service.

We often talk about Jesus and the new evangelisation, but we don't often challenge ourselves enough to bring the good news to the most needy and forgotten in our society.

There is a song I like, 'Alma Misionera' (Missionary Soul); I see this song as a prayer song to God. It talks about being sent out to where people need God's love and being the hands to take his love to where they don't know him yet. Pope Francis in one of his homilies said: "Whoever was excluded from social life, Jesus included". I saw in prison ministry an opportunity to reach out to the marginalised. I believe it is a crucial part of being a Christian.

Prison chaplain