

Summary points to remember

- The Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy Team is part of your healthcare service
- We provide spiritual companionship to people of all faith traditions, and those with no religious affiliation
- We offer religious and sacramental care, and can arrange visits by representatives of most faith traditions

About the Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy Team

The Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy Team seeks to engage with the 'ultimate concerns' of people as they journey through times of illness, uncertainty or death. We support people as they draw on their own spiritual resources; the unseen things that give us meaning, purpose and a sense of belonging. For some people, the 'spiritual' is expressed through religion. For others, it is connected to the meaning they draw from their own culture, history and life experiences.

Pastoral care is sometimes called spiritual care. It is provided by trained pastoral care practitioners, and chaplains representing their particular faith communities, as well as volunteer visitors, who have their own faith while also accepting and respecting the beliefs (and non-beliefs) of others.

Our services include:

- Confidential emotional and spiritual support during illness and hospitalisation
- Emotional and spiritual support for families and carers
- Religious and sacramental care including prayer, communion, anointing
- Coordinating visits by representatives from most religious traditions
- Reflective support for staff and volunteers of Melbourne Health

We do not impose beliefs or expectations, but rather respect all beliefs and practices, drawing on individual resources of strength, courage and hope.

Sacred Space

There is a multi-faith Sacred Space available for all to visit for quiet time or prayer. It is located in the Retail Precinct, Ground Floor between The Royal Melbourne and The Royal Women's hospitals. For Muslims there is an ablutions room and prayer room.

Each week there are a variety of religious services and opportunities for meditation, as well as occasional music events. Check the noticeboard at the entrance to the Sacred Space for weekly details.



Royal Park Campus

Pastoral care is available during business hours (9am to 5pm), 5 days a week.

Catholic communion ministers visit all Royal Park wards and facilities weekly. Monthly ecumenical services are held in Transitional Care and Garden View House facilities. The **Royal Park Chapel** is available for all patients, families and staff for prayer or reflection. Monthly ecumenical Christian services are held in chapel, and all patients, families and staff are welcome. Check noticeboard at entrance for details. There is a Muslim prayer room within the chapel.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change

courage to change the things I can

and wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Reinhold Niebuhr

Contact us

To contact the Pastoral Care Office during business hours phone 9342 7292. For emergencies, call the Royal Melbourne Hospital Switchboard on 9342 7000 and ask for a Pastoral Carer/Chaplain to be paged. Nurses can also page the team directly.

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MELBOURNE HEALTH



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