



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 29-30 June, 2024

'Lighting a candle' in Refugee Week

(written by Andrew Hamilton SJ in Catholic Magazine)

When we think of refugees, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the numbers and bad news. Nine million people, more than a third of Australia's population, have been driven from home in Sudan; most of the population of Gaza has been displaced; people have fled violence, starvation and poverty throughout the world; and governments in wealthy nations have increasingly treated refugees as less than human. Bad news comes in floods that can leave us despairing or apathetic.

The theme of Refugee Week (16–22 June) this year invites us to reflect on family and finding freedom. It draws our minds and hearts away from the tyranny of numbers to the lives of the women, men and children we call refugees. It invites us to see them from inside and to listen to the stories of their flight from the places and communities they called home. We may be awed by the passion for life and freedom that led them to seek life elsewhere, may celebrate the resilience that they have shown as they walked such a hard road, and may wonder at their devotion to family in the face of all the crises that test it.

We may also celebrate the kindness of strangers they have met along the way: the people who offered them shelter and food, welcomed them, helped them to settle in a strange new country and reached out to them in friendship on their long journey. These are the gifts that we would like our

families to receive in hard times. They are also the qualities that we would like think are characteristic of our own nation. Refugee Week invites us to celebrate these qualities in those who treat others not as strangers but as sisters and brothers in the world family.

Throughout the month on June, Pope Francis also invites us to pray especially 'for migrants fleeing their homes', that those 'fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.'

While he does not specifically mention refugees, he certainly has them in mind when he speaks of those who have been 'forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence'. Not all, however, would fit the legal definition of refugees. Pope Francis typically focuses on persons and not on the categories into which we place them. The experience of fleeing from war and hunger is traumatic for all human beings, whether we call them refugees or not, and doubly so when they find no hospitality at the end of their journey.

Pope Francis' prayer intention invites us to take our attention away from the big abstractions of war and its supposed justifications, and from refugee policy and its exclusions. We are instead to focus on the human experience of those who have fled death and homelessness, who have lost children and been wounded, who face starvation, lack of medicine and new fears of attack, and who are excluded from their own country and from neighbouring nations. continue to back page

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

[https://youtube.com/live/
bzhjtlQmXkw?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/bzhjtlQmXkw?feature=share)

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

St Paul Apostle North Primary School

Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South Primary School

Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional College

Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for Next Week
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading Ezekiel 2:2-5

A reading from the book of Prophet Ezekiel

A spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard one speaking to me: "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a Prophet among them

Psalm

To you I lift up my eyes
O you who are enthroned in the heavens
as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master

As the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress
so our eyes look to the Lord our God
until he has mercy upon us

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy
for we have had more than enough of contempt
our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn
of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Considering the exceptional character of the
revelations, to keep me from being too elated,

a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor
Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 6:1-6

Jesus come to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching

Reflection

readings show us how God works through human weakness and the importance of faith. These themes help us understand how God empowers us and calls us to trust in Him. God's Empowerment of Prophets: God empowers Ezekiel to speak to the rebellious people of Israel.

How can you trust in God's strength when you feel weak

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

THANK YOU TO MARY LUCAS

Mary Lucas bid farewell to the education department this term. Mary has dedicated 50 years of her life to education, including 13 years at St Paul Apostle NORTH School. At our parish school Mary began as a classroom teacher while also holding down the role of deputy



principal, ultimately becoming the Principal, a role which she has held for the past 8 years. We the community of St Paul Apostle, thank Mary for her dedication and love in providing education to the children, so that they could successfully learn the skills required for the world beyond school. We wish her all the very best for a joyful retirement, one that is truly well deserved.

THANK YOU

Last Sunday we celebrated the thanksgiving Mass for Fr Tuan Paul's ordination at 11am, followed by a gathering at the hall. This celebration would not have run so smoothly without the help of many hands. We thank all who gave of their time to assist with planning, setting up, serving, cleaning, bringing food to share and of course, all of you who attended and joined us in congratulating Fr TP. Everyone has ensured it was indeed a very special day.



2024 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

If you wish to have your child to be part of this year's sacrament of Confirmation program, you are required to send the completed registration form by the 4th of October, 2024 (you can obtain the registration form from our website or from the Parish office Tuesday-Friday 9am to 2pm. Your child must be in Grade 6 and have already received their Sacrament of Reconciliation & First Communion.

PARISH BINGO

Our next parish Bingo will be on **FRIDAY, 19 July** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or as a group. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly adults only (18 years or over). Unfortunately, we are bound to a strict policy which states that anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER COLLECTION

During the winter time, the Vinnies received so many request from people who needs assistance. For that during this cold time, we will have a 'special collection' to support the work of this group in the hope of keeping 'warm' the disadvantage people. We will conduct the special collection on every Mass next weekend (6-7 July)

PROJECT COMPASSION

Our Parish contributed a total of \$4,904.50. Thank you to all for your generosity. If you are yet to drop off your Project Compassion Boxes you can still do so at the Parish Office. Receipts for the tax year ended 30/06/2024 are with Didi or at the AV Desk

WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN

Wellsprings for Women is an organisation committed to providing programs and services in an environment that is caring, nurturing and safe for children, young people and adults at risk. Their work is majority funded by donations and fundraising activities. One of their annual fundraising events is

a High Tea. This year's high Tea will coincide with their 30 Year anniversary. It will be held on SATURDAY, 20th July 2024 from 2-4pm at Kennedy Hall, Killester College, 433 Springvale Road, Springvale 3171. Cost is \$65pp. If you wish to attend please register using this QR code by the 8th of July



Readings:

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Wis 1: 13-15; 2: 23-24
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Ezekiel 2:2-5
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Raymond Cabral, K. Bhaskerrao, Rui Manuel Campos, Annette Tanner, Ruby Reid, Kay Dal Lago, Maureen Dawson, Michael Arcaro, Margaret Ferrao, Danny Sugunasekera, Roger Gray, Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Ronella Tyrell, Meti **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Fred Steinwall, Giuseppina Bartuccelli, Martin Van Ratingen, Clairette Marie Leo, Lauren Houghton, Alex Loudon Snr, Nicolina Laratta, Ingram Mirando, Gayle Short, Elena Allegany, Cyril Allegany, Eric Anthony, Theresa Anthony **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

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We may be able to do little to relieve their suffering. To pray for them, however, keeps them in our hearts, minds and conversations, and perhaps may also flow into the policies of our government. Refugees are commonly seen as a problem. They are not a problem, but persons who have great problems. To live fully human lives, they call for our attention, our understanding, our compassion and our generosity. For Christians these responses flow out of and into prayer. To dwell in prayer on the images that we see in the news may help us enter their experience and long to change it.

We might dream that the dusty and ill-fed children whose pictures we see will grow up after being given opportunities to follow their dreams. Those of us fortunate enough to be friends of people who have had to flee will be familiar with their stories of violence, hunger and fear. We will also have wondered at the extraordinary generosity of so many people whom they have

met on their way, and how they have nurtured resilience and hope in the most difficult of times. We cannot but hope that their brothers and sisters fleeing from their homes in their own land will also find hospitality in our nation.

When we enter the life of refugees from within and see their extraordinary stories of suffering, resilience and love of family, and the importance of small gestures of kindness in their lives, we have a lens through which to judge the ways wealthy nations like our own reject them.

This refugee week, however, is not a time to curse the darkness. There is enough of that in our world. Refugee week is a time to turn our eyes to the myriad lights that shine in refugees' eyes, to the candles of their generosity of spirit in the face of so much rejection, and to the pools of light surrounding their families. It also calls us from cursing the darkness to light our own candles as we reach out to people who seek our protection and as we plead their cause.

The Parish Team is Looking for a New Member

Position: Safeguarding Officer and Visitation Coordinator

Purpose of the Position:

The key purpose of this role is to work collaboratively with the Parish Team to promote the safety of children and young people and to coordinate visitations within the Parish.

Responsibilities and duties will include:

- Promote the importance of and foster an understanding of child safety.
- Facilitate the communication of information in relation to child safety within the Parish.
- Respond to requests received for visitation and/or communion.
- Coordinate pastoral visitation to homes within the Parish.

The position will initially be for 7 hours per week but can be spread

over 2 days.

While there will be an opportunity to do some of the work off site, the bulk of the work will be done from the Parish office. We envisage this new person to be integrated into the existing Parish Team.

Although there are no specific qualifications for the role, a basic understanding of computers and solid communication skills would be beneficial.

Please send a brief letter of application with a resume to Fr Brendan Connell CP at St Paul Apostle Church 5 William Hovell Drive Endeavour Hills 3802. Alternatively you can drop the application into the office or email it to

office@stpaulapostle.com.au.

Applications close on Friday July, 5th at 5pm.

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Lakni Weerasekera Diane Heaton
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Diane Allegany Anne Astin	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Janina Gorski Grace Sudjono	Jennifer Tanti Diane Allegany	Melissa Krajacic Charlene Nheu