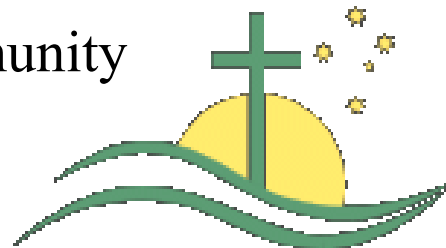




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr C, 15/16 October, 2022

The Central West Opens its Hearts to Ukrainian Refugees

Part One - One Brave Family Makes the Move Over the Mountains - by Philippa Waters

On 24 February 2022, I went to be bed in my safe home in Millthorpe, NSW, reading the news. The first story that sat at the top of the news feed was the Russian invasion into Ukraine, and the subsequent refugee crisis. The article called for Australians to house displaced Ukrainians who were fleeing their homes. One quick link via a Google Doc: Can you help, yes, or no? I clicked yes. After pressing submit, I quickly turned to my husband and asked if he thought we might be able to help accommodate Ukrainian refugees. "You've already submitted the form, haven't you?"



I quickly shared the article with friends and colleagues at James Sheahan Catholic High School and our local Public and Catholic Primary Schools. Within an hour, many of us signed up. Then nothing. No replies. No phone calls. Silence. After a few weeks of my four children nagging, "When are they coming mum?" I called the main contact in Sydney, Olha Lyeskakova. Having helped over one hundred refugees find employment and support, Olha was sleep-deprived and direct, "No one wants the regions, they are scared of brown snakes and guns." It turns out, like most of the Northern Hemisphere, our Ukrainian friends had seen two movies: "Crocodile Dundee," and Baz Luhrmann's "Australia.". Understandably, no one wanted to escape Putin's tyranny only to be bitten by a brown snake or shot at by a red-necked cowboy from the Wild West.

I was saddened. The Central West I knew was rich in so many ways, but in particular: rich in community. As far as my family had experienced, the Central West was the perfect environment in which to provide a happy childhood to kids and trauma therapy to those who had fled war. I went back to work feeling frustrated that we weren't able to share this natural therapy and ideal lifestyle with others.

A few months later, I got desperate late-night call from Olha. Alex, Vika, Dennis (4) and Dima (2) Volodin had fled their home city of Dnipro, making the difficult decision to leave behind their two businesses, their apartment, cars, extended family, and pets. After spending five months living on the floor of a church in Romania with fifteen other families, they spent their entire savings on one-way tickets to Australia. When Alex arrived at Sydney Airport no one was there to meet him. He anxiously scanned the airport looking for a safe corner in which his family might sleep. Frantically he googled Ukrainian Facebook groups for refugees and found Olha's number. Olha drove to the airport and organised the family's temporary accommodation and their connection to social services.

Soon after, Olha and Anni Gallagher of Orange Council, helped Alex to successfully apply for a job with PJJ Company, Orange. "He can't catch a train to Orange due to the floods and they have no savings, can you help?" All newly arrived Ukrainians at this point were given Humanitarian Visas and these came with 28 free nights' accommodation in a hotel, after which time, they had to find their own way. As we opened the door to their small, dark apartment, Vika burst into tears, we too started to cry. No time for language, just big hugs. They trusted us to place their two bags and two children into our car and we made the careful journey back over the Blue Mountains to Millthorpe.

[photo: Alex, Viktoria, Dennis (4) & Dima (2) make their journey to the Central West]

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtu.be/9qccLnfxEPw>

Reconciliation
Saturday 10am—10.30am

Priests:	Passionist Community	St Paul Apostle North	St Paul Apostle South	St John's
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)	Fr Brendan Connell CP	Primary School	Primary School	Regional College
Fr Luke Bulley CP	Fr Brian Gleeson CP	Ph. 9700 6068	Ph. 9700 3663	Ph. 9791 3366
	Fr Kevin Hennessy CP	Principal	Principal	Principal
Parish Staff:	Fr Luke Bulley CP	Mrs Mary Lucas	Mr Paul Gleeson	Mr Tim Hogan
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)				
Didi Karkas (Secretary)				

PARISH BINGO NIGHT

Please note that **FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER** is our next bingo night. It starts at 7pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or with a group. All proceeds will go to the running of the soup van. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

Please note that this event is not for anyone under 18 Years old

SENIORS EVENT

Though it is very late in the year, we are planning to have our first senior event. We hope to hold it on **WEDNESDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER** (day after Melbourne Cup Day) from 10am. Sign-up sheets are available both in the Gathering Space and the Foyer. Please put your name & contact number if you wish to attend.

PASSIONIST COMPANION RETREAT

Passionist Companion Retreat is on **SATURDAY, 22nd October** at **HOLY CROSS**, Templestowe. The theme is 'The Passion and Laudato Si. BBQ Lunch is provided. This invitation is open to all who are interested to attend. Donations of \$20 are appreciated. Please contact Oswyn by email oswyn.trindade@gmail.com

ASRE (After School Religious Education) for SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

ONLY for all children attending a NON CATHOLIC SCHOOL. Your next classes are **TUESDAYS of 18th and 25th of OCTOBER 2022**. Commencing at 4pm until 5pm. Parents please remember to sign them in when they arrive, and sign them out when they leave

ADORATION

We are pleased to announce that soon we will be having adoration, which is the exposition of the blessed sacrament. Times and dates will be decided over the next few weeks. We are looking for parishioners who would like to know more and spend some quiet and reflective time with the Lord for an hour each week. Please contact John Hendriks for more information on 0418308051 or Johnhendriks@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy returns on the **FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT, 27th November at 11am Mass**. We will hold this activity every Sunday during ADVENT (at the same time) Children's Liturgy is designed to help younger children understand the liturgy of the word on their level. All children from 5 years old to grade 6 are welcome to join in

THANKSGIVING & DONATION OPTIONS

It is always a little difficult to talk money, especially given the rising cost of living that is impacting our society. Your generosity and commitment has enabled the Parish and the Passionist Community to continue their various responsibilities and mission and for that we are very grateful.

Many people have suggested we adopt easier and safer ways to offer financial support so this is not about increasing your financial commitment but rather, information of the various methods that are available to those who support us. Many Churches (some for reasons of security) have "Tap and Go" facilities. I confess to feeling uneasy with this method, so at this stage we will not institute that form of donation.

We have had three methods of "Thanksgiving", namely envelopes, direct Debit from your bank account or credit card and BPAY. These will all remain, so there is no need to change if you have no desire to do so. A fourth method of donating is now available via our website so please choose whatever suits your needs. Our website is <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills> But can also be accessed at stpaulapostle.com.au Just click on the Donate tab.

Thank you for your generous support.

Blessings

Fr Brendan

THANK YOU FROM THE SISTERS OF ST ELISABETH CONVENT, MINKS, BELARUS

Last weekend we sold several of their handcrafted items and many people have generously donated money to aid the ministries of the convent in caring for those requiring long-term care, including those with disabilities. Thank you for your wonderful generosity, together we have raised \$1500



DIARY:

- 1/ on All Souls Day, Wednesday 2 November, we will have 9am & 7pm Mass
- 2/ Our Christmas Hamper list will be out in November
- 3/ Children's Liturgy - start on First Sunday of ADVENT at 11am Mass
- 4/ Parish Carols will be on Sunday 11 December 7pm - 9pm

Readings:

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 17: 8-13;
2 Tim 3: 14- 4: 2;
Lk 18: 1-8

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19;
2 Tim 4: 6-8, 16-18;
Lk 18: 9-14
www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Joanne Sweeney, Jamie Cabrera, Rosaria Nania, Betty Scanlan, Vernon Law, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Monica Evans, Adelina Frante, Horace Stolke, Mary Hili, Nestor Santos, Collette, Marcia Fernandes, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Pankaja, Fr. Jim Elmore CP, Brett Joseph Daly, Gwendoline Smith, Helene De Silva, Lowstein Cano, Vernon Clifford Kern, Victor Jayamaha, James (Jim) Helm, Francika Zerebni, Avelino Dhakul, Rogerio De Silva, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



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

