

Ideas for Taking Action

Diocesan Conversation with Refugees & People Seeking Protection 26th Sep 2021

(Specific links to these projects on next page)

Providing food & toiletries through the Diocesan Food Drive Roster

- Sign your parish, school or organisation up, run a food & toiletries drive, and donate the goods to Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome who are feeding over 1000 people weekly.

Advocacy for Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- By signing the *Christians United for Afghanistan* petition
- By writing to/calling your local Federal MP or Senator - get training from the Sydney Alliance
- By inviting your local Federal MP to a conversation/zoom with your parish, school or organisation
- Join the Parramatta Diocese *Peace, Justice and Ecology* mailing list.

Offering welcome and friendship to Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- Forming a group to join the Parish Group Mentorship program to help settle a refugee/family into Australia
- Hosting a "Welcome Dinner"

Celebration and remembering Refugees & People Seeking Protection in liturgy and prayer

- During Sunday Mass, in prayer groups, etc.
- By organising a "Circle of Silence"

Shifting attitudes and raising awareness

- In your parish, school or organisation
→ e.g., by organising a local "Community Conversation with Refugees and People Seeking Protection"
- In everyday conversations

Supporting Organisations who work with Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- As volunteers
- Through fundraising

Links

Providing food & toiletries through the Diocesan Food Drive Roster

- Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive
- NB: During the current lockdown, Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome cannot receive physical goods. Please consider a cash donation and sign up to the Diocesan Food Drive Roster for the last quarter of 2021 or for 2022.

Advocacy for Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- Bishop Vincent Long has invited us all to add our voice to ***Christians United for Afghanistan***, a campaign asking the Federal Government to welcome, protect, reunite, and support Refugees from Afghanistan and the Afghan diaspora community in Australia. You can sign this call [here](#).
- If you want to ***contact or invite your local Federal MP or Senator***, you can find the contact details [here](#).
- The ***Sydney Alliance*** is providing a free online ***training for constituents to meet with their local MPs*** about support for Afghan Refugees: ***Wednesday 29 September, 5:30-7:00pm***. Register [here](#).
- Join the Parramatta Diocese *Peace, Justice and Ecology* mailing list to stay up to date with social justice activities in the diocese [here](#).

Offering welcome and friendship to Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains is working with the newly formed charity ***Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA)*** to train and support parish groups to host refugees in settling into Australia. Parish mentor groups are matched with a Refugee or Refugee family to welcome into their community.
Contact: Celia Vagg, celia.vagg@ccss.org.au, 0433 628 438
- Share a meal with newcomers to Australia through the ***Welcome Dinner*** Project: welcomedinnerproject.org

Celebration and remembering Refugees & People Seeking Protection in liturgy and prayer

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's ***Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO)*** publishes resources for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, each year. You can download the 2021 resources kit [here](#). ACMRO also provides information on the Catholic church's teaching about Migrants and Refugees and an overview of church documents on migration and asylum: acmro.catholic.org.au

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s ***Social Justice Statement*** for 2015–16 focussed on the theme “For Those Who’ve Come Across the Seas: Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers”. You can download the statement and resources for prayer and liturgy [here](#).
- The ***Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)*** provides information and resources to organise a “Circle of Silence”: capsa.org.au/circles-silence

Shifting attitudes and raising awareness

- The “[Diocesan Journey... Walking with Refugees](#)” steering group can assist you to organise a “Community Conversation” in your parish or organisation (online or face-to-face):
 - [Click here](#) to find out more.
 - Contact: Zoe Grant, zoe.grant@jrs.org.au, 0293 563 888
- Jesuit Refugee Service run a special school program “Refugee Voices”:
 - [Click here](#) to find out more.
 - Contact: Anne Nesbitt, anne.nesbitt@jrs.org.au,
- Watch or organise a screening of the ***award-winning video series “My Journey, Our Journey”***, which you can find on [The Well](#).

Supporting organisations who work with Refugees & People Seeking Protection

Some of the active organisations are:

- ***House of Welcome***: stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome
- ***Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia***: jrs.org.au
- ***St Vincent de Paul Society***: socialjustice.vinnies.org.au
- ***CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains***: ccss.org.au
- ***Community Migrant Resource Centre***: cmrc.com.au/
- ***Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group***: bmrsg.org.au