

Make Room this Christmas

Will you stand up for those seeking refuge among us?



AUSTRALIA

Dear friends,

As Christmas approaches, we need your support to continue our critical work accompanying, serving and advocating for people seeking asylum who are facing homelessness in our community.

On the first Christmas night, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem weary from their journey, only to find there was **no room at the inn**. In the humblest of shelters, they brought the Christ child into the world. They would soon have to flee their homeland for Egypt, seeking safety from persecution.

This is a story we cherish at Christmas time. But it is also a story of displacement, uncertainty, and the search for safety. For Christians, it speaks of God accompanying humanity in person, being identified especially among vulnerable people facing the most difficult circumstances.

The Nativity is a refugee story.

Today, here in Australia, men, women, and children seeking asylum face the same challenges when they too seek safety from persecution, often arriving in a new place with nowhere to sleep, no community to welcome them, and no certainty about tomorrow.

“How we look at others is what counts, because it shows what is in our hearts.

We can look and walk by, or we can look and be moved with compassion.”

~ POPE LEO XIV

This Christmas, you have the power to stand up for those seeking refuge in our community.

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia walks alongside people seeking asylum who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of destitution. Many have fled war, persecution, and violence, only to be left without a safe place to call home. The people we serve are excluded from basic government supports, are often not permitted to work, and have limited access to the psychosocial conditions needed to heal and rebuild here in Australia.

Inspired by the mission of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, at JRS Australia we go where the needs are greatest.

Our Casework and Emergency Relief team provide much needed support to those seeking refuge who face housing insecurity. Our Foodbank program helps more than 130 families each week, keeping food on the table so that they can focus on what matters most. Our Women’s Space also offers a ‘home away from home’ for women facing violence here in Australia.

Our work is life-saving and life-affirming, but we cannot do anything without our generous supporters.

Your Compassion Can Be Someone's Shelter

All our programs are at risk without the generosity of our community. Your gift to our Christmas Appeal will provide pathways to **emergency accommodation, food security, transport**, and the first steps towards **healing and recovery** for people with **nowhere else to turn**.

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 before Christmas, to help us better support the hundreds of people seeking refuge who are without secure housing, during the hottest and most difficult months of the year - and to set them up for 2026.

- **\$75** - provides a week's worth of groceries for a person with no income
- **\$150** - covers essential travel to medical, legal, casework and employment appointments
- **\$500** - funds two weeks of emergency accommodation
- **\$5,000** - supports a family to stay in their homes and out of homelessness
- **\$50,000** - sustains our emergency relief program for six months.

Everyone deserves support to find a safe place to lay their head, everyone deserves to feel welcome, and everyone deserves the dignity of a stable home.

This Christmas, will you help JRS Australia be the “innkeeper” who opens the door?

In gratitude,

Fr. Brett O'Neill, S.J., and your friends at JRS Australia

P.S. Donations are tax-deductible, and every contribution, no matter the size, has a direct and lasting impact.



donate here ↘



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Please act now.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____
 Telephone (____) _____
 Email _____

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Please return to:

Jesuit Refugee Service
 PO Box 522, Kings Cross NSW 1340

I wish to make a donation as follows:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other \$ _____

Donate online (single or recurrent donation):
<https://aus.jrs.net/en/donate/>

OR I enclose a cheque/money order

payable to Jesuit Refugee Service for \$ _____

OR please debit my credit card the amount of \$ _____

Visa Mastercard

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Expiry date ____/____

Cardholder's name _____

Signature _____ LINK0319