The Holy Family in Exile

In the Holy Family, we see the story of every refugee family. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, when they fled to Egypt for safety, shared in the fears and experiences of every migrant, and refugee forced to leave their native land. Later in his life, Jesus continued to identify as a “stranger” in need of welcome (Matthew 25:35) and regularly experienced the hardship and grief of exile as a man with “nowhere to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). Jesus and the Holy Family, therefore, serve as the perfect models and protectors for all



And today, the Catholic Church continues to advocate for the dignified treatment of all migrants and refugees. Pope Francis invites us to a more profound awareness of the mission of the Catholic Church: “We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved.”[1]

Human Dignity





Justice and Mercy

The purpose of the law is to serve justice and mercy. It is not illegal to seek asylum, and the migrants who seek refuge in Australia are not criminals for doing so. Laws that subject asylum seekers to arbitrary and prolonged immigration detention, stop them from seeking protection or split up families fail to recognise their fundamental dignity. The Catholic Church advocates the implementation of just and rapid procedures to determine each person's claim for protection.