

Refugee Week – 18-24 June 2023

Opening Prayer

Let us pray. Holy God, give us the grace to practice welcoming by receiving, protecting, promoting and integrating into our parishes and local communities those who find themselves displaced from their homelands. May we find the freedom within ourselves to be truly generous towards the newly arrived culturally and linguistically diverse newcomer in search of safety and hope.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Prayer

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for this gathering and ask that this time with you and each other will bear fruit as we work together to recognise and respect the many peoples here in Australia. May we learn to reconcile with the diversity of cultures in our communities and help realise intercultural harmony between all peoples.

We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

For Nation States: We pray that nations come to understand that borders are not an end in themselves as we are all part of one human family. May states accept the wisdom that the creative use of borders can enable all of humanity to flourish. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For governments: We pray that all governments work together to address social issues raised by the phenomena of human mobility, especially forced displacement. May governments be generous in granting safe haven to persons who seek to be free from fear of violence, persecution, and natural and human-made disasters. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those impacted by forced migration: We pray that those who are forced to uproot their lives because they must flee, may find respite from their pain and loss and experience safety and a sense of belonging in the receiving communities. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: We pray that the local churches, cities, regions and neighbourhood communities throughout Australia continue to exercise rational compassion towards those seeking asylum and humbly treat the newcomer as a person to befriend rather than as someone to fear. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.