

## Discussion Forum 2



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Catholic Social Justice Teachings on migrant workers



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OFFICE FOR  
**JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE**

# Migrant Workers Catholic Social Teaching

# JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

The Church is called to be the People of God which embraces all peoples and brings to them the proclamation of the Gospel, for the face of each person bears the mark of the face of Christ! Here we find the deepest foundation of the dignity of the human person, which must always be respected and safeguarded.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2013**

It is less the criteria of efficiency, productivity, social class, or ethnic or religious belonging which ground that personal dignity, so much as the fact of being created in God's own image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26-27) and, even more so, being children of God. Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ!

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2013**



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# JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

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.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2013**



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OFFICE FOR

# JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2013**



Migration can offer possibilities for a new evangelization, open vistas for the growth of a new humanity foreshadowed in the paschal mystery: a humanity for which every foreign country is a homeland and every homeland is a foreign country.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2013**

The presence of migrants and refugees seriously challenges the various societies which accept them. Those societies are faced with new situations which could create serious hardship unless they are suitably motivated, managed and regulated. How can we ensure that integration will become mutual enrichment, open up positive perspectives to communities, and prevent the danger of discrimination, racism, extreme nationalism or xenophobia?

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2016**





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# JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

Biblical revelation urges us to welcome the stranger; it tells us that in so doing, we open our doors to God, and that in the faces of others we see the face of Christ himself.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2016**

Many institutions, associations, movements and groups, diocesan, national and international organizations are experiencing the wonder and joy of the feast of encounter, sharing and solidarity. They have heard the voice of Jesus Christ: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock” (Rev 3:20).

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2016**

Yet there continue to be debates about the conditions and limits to be set for the reception of migrants, not only on the level of national policies, but also in some parish communities whose traditional tranquillity seems to be threatened. Faced with these issues, how can the Church fail to be inspired by the example and words of Jesus Christ? The answer of the Gospel is mercy.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2016**

Public opinion also needs to be correctly formed, not least to prevent unwarranted fears and speculations detrimental to migrants.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2016**



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# JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age (Matthew 25:35-43).

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2018**

In this regard, I wish to reaffirm that “our shared response may be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2018**



The most economically advanced societies are witnessing a growing trend towards extreme individualism which, combined with a utilitarian mentality and reinforced by the media, is producing a “globalization of indifference”. In this scenario, migrants, refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking have become emblems of exclusion.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2019**

The truth however is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single “we”, encompassing all of humanity.

**Message for the World Day of Migrants and  
Refugees 2021**

People living in poverty ask for love which means much more than providing welfare. It involves respect, acceptance and recognition. Such respect, acceptance and recognition affords them the dignity of being empowered to determine for themselves their own means of growth.

Those who are spiritually poor lack a sense of meaning. When the spiritually poor encounter the materially poor, they begin to walk together and find ways to address each other's needs.

The Church must address the causes of poverty and exclusion. This requires action to protect the rights of those who are poor and excluded. This may require public denunciation of those who are responsible for this poverty and exclusion.

The suffering of those who are poor is at one with the suffering of Christ. A synodal Church, in seeking to draw closer to Christ, must walk with those who are poor and excluded to learn from them about Christ who is the way.



There is a danger that we may distinguish between the Church and those who are poor – “them” and “us”. The Church must try to put those who are poor at the centre and learn from them;