

Welcome to St Philip's

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Refugee Sunday, 31st August 2003

View the 2003 Refugee Sunday Education Kit on the web:

<http://www.christmasbowl.org.au/RefSun2003/>

View Entries from the Refugee Sunday Poster Competition 2003:

<http://www.christmasbowl.org.au/RefSun2003/posters/htmls/posters01.html>

Looking for Additional Refugee Sunday Resources?

See:

http://www.ncca.org.au/christian_world_service/at_work_with_refugees/refugee

Looking for More Information on Refugees?

Please go to the New Website of the National Council of Churches in Australia: www.ncca.org.au - and select the "At Work with Refugees in Australia" button under "Christian World Service" drop down menu.

How to use the Refugee Sunday Education Kit

Learn about Global Refugee Pathways and whether they lead to protection or rejection. The resources in this kit are designed to be informative and inspiring. They provide information and practical advice for church groups, congregations and the wider community about helping and responding to refugees.

Inside you will find:

- Information on Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Resources for Worship, Further Study and Action and
- Ideas for Celebrating Refugee Sunday
- Extra Resources can be found at: www.ncca.org.au

Contents:

1. A "Global Pathways" Education Sheet, describing how countries have shared the responsibility for protecting refugees and what pressures now face the international refugee protection system. Pressures result from mixed flows of people, states withdrawing from their protections obligations and the breakdown of protection in countries of first asylum that has forced refugees to move to countries like Australia in search of protection. Read about the UN's new Agenda for Protection and the High Commissioner's Convention Plus initiative. Sudan and Burma are provided as examples on www.ncca.org.au
2. A Comparative Table, which illustrates both sides of the current debate over refugees and asylum seekers and alternatives to current policies and practices. You can use this to write a letter to the editor, the Minister for Immigration or your local MP and prepare a workshop or an article in your newsletter. Download and print the PDF version as a handy background reference on key issues for your files.
3. A Refugee Sunday Statement from NCCA Head of Churches
4. A Refugee Sunday Poster to advertise the day
5. Ecumenical & Liturgical Resources for churches celebrating Refugee Sunday on around 31 August.
6. A Donation Slip for parishes, groups or individuals wishing to support refugees in Australia or abroad.

What is Refugee Sunday?

Refugee Sunday (31 August, 2003) is a celebration of the contribution refugees have made to Australia that is held every year in thousands of churches around Australia. It is an ecumenical program designed to promote understanding, compassion and recognition of the needs and challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

Refugee Sunday began in 1998, when the 15 member Churches of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) resolved to support the Roman Catholic Church's celebration of Refugee and Migrant Sunday. From 2004, the NCCA will adopt the title of Refugee and Migrant Sunday for consistency and to include broader educational messages on racism; vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking.

Each year, the National Council of Churches in Australia produces an Education Kit which contains educational reports, as well as liturgical and parish resources for help to celebrate the day and take further action.

For copies of the Refugee Sunday Education Kit, please contact James Thomson on 02 9299 2215 or jthomson@ncca.org.au

The Education Kit and much more is available on our new website at www.ncca.org.au

How can you help protect refugees on Refugee Sunday?

- Celebrate Refugee Sunday in your local church on 31 August 2003 with a special ecumenical liturgy highlighting the plight of refugees and displaced people (see below to order a free Education Kit, which contains a special Liturgy and parish resources).
- 'Welcome the stranger' in your community by organising an event with friends, family and refugees and asylum seekers from your area.
- Reflect on the ecumenical liturgy and information sheets provided in the education kit and pray for the plight of uprooted people.

Or, put your faith into action by:

- Sending us a phone card to help an asylum seeker in detention call home or call a lawyer - it's only \$5 or \$10, but it makes a huge difference to someone isolated in a detention centre
- Volunteering at the House of Welcome to assist refugees released from detention on Temporary Protection Visas (contact Lorraine on (02) 9299 2215).

Australians have always welcomed the stranger. Refugee Sunday aims to make t

welcome official.

Refugee Sunday is supported and celebrated by the 15 member churches of the N

- Anglican Church of Australia
- Antiochian Orthodox Church
- Armenian Apostolic Church
- Assyrian Church of the East
- Churches of Christ
- Congregational Federation of Australia
- Coptic Orthodox Church
- Greek Orthodox Church
- Lutheran Church of Australia
- Religious Society of Friends
- Roman Catholic Church
- Romanian Orthodox Church
- Salvation Army
- Syrian Orthodox Church
- Uniting Church in Australia

Page updated 11/09/2011

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