

Social Justice Role

The main purpose of this role is to provide a parish focus for advocacy and action on social justice issues, especially those highlighted in the annual Catholic Social Justice statements as well as specific issues we might encounter locally.

The main activity of this role so far has been to liaise with the Yass Rural Australians for Refugees Group to help support refugees in detention and with resettlement in our community, albeit that has been fleeting so far.

There are opportunities for Kitchen Table Conversations around Catholic Social Justice Statements as these have proved successful in the past (well once anyway). This year the Catholic social justice statement is about Homelessness and I'm looking forward to starting some conversations around this issue and about how we can respond as a community.

The role also provides opportunities to publicise social justice events in our community such as the Caritas Kitchen last week and the Palm Sunday Rally for refugees next month in both Yass and Canberra.

Response to Plenary Meeting of Chairperson Role:**Women in the Church - How can greater participation of women in decision-making, leadership and ministry be fostered in the Church?**

In response to the outcome of our plenary meetings there is a role for the social justice portfolio in listening to what the women in the parish want in terms of greater participation in leadership and ministry. I note that one of the suggestions made was that we have senior women servers. This is obviously an issue that Peter would be involved in, but is it really what the women in the parish want? There is no point in Peter spending hours preparing sessions for senior women servers if no one wants to do it. I believe there is a really important need for a survey of women of our parish to see how they feel about the participation of women and presence of women in the parish. What do they love and want to hold on to? What would they like to change that is within our capacity? Once we have a survey completed by the women it would be great to start some kitchen table conversations about which of the most important things they want to see happening and how we go about implementing these in a collaborative way. My suggestion from the plenary is to use the principle of subsidiarity to engage with the women of our parish and our indigenous women who are not so visible in our liturgies but have been a strong spiritual presence in our Yass history and in our school and parish and to listen to them to discern what they want.