

Social Justice Report 1st December 2021

NATSICC Retreat

Some members of St Augustine's Parish participated in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council National online retreat: '*I am the vine....you are the branches...*' It was a wonderful opportunity to come together with 120 other people from all across Australia to share, listen and learn from one another. There were excellent key note speakers from all parts of the country. The event was an opportunity for spiritual renewal and it highlighted the benefits to the Catholic community in drawing from the wellspring of Indigenous spirituality and wisdom. Hope fully we will be locking in some NATSICC Mass dates for St Augustine's Parish early in the new Year.

Laudato Si' Action Platform Update

14 November marked the next phase in *the Laudato Si' Action Platform*. On that date, Laudato Si' Planning Guides and all related materials were published, and members of the universal Church were invited to make a firm commitment to creating their own Laudato Si' Plans. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has already announced its commitment and , as you would have seen from the ad in the Bulletin, has been encouraging people and parishes to consider joining too. It will be great if we can move forward with this in the New Year.

Thank you

Thanks to everyone for their support with Social Justice activities this year, particularly to Fr Peter, Bryan and Peter for their help with the NATSICC Mass which was a very joyful event. Thanks also to all those from St Augustine's Parish who were so instrumental in making the Yass Rural Australians for Refugees event in Refugee Week such a big success: Fr Peter and the Canberra Vietnamese Choir; Kate Walker and everyone who attended "The Gift of Unity" presentation.

Finally many thanks to Annabelle and Michael Van Wanrooy for their participation in the Kitchen Table Conversation on *The Cry of the Earth, The Cry of the Poor*. It has already borne fruits in the development of Creation Corner in the Parish Bulletin and the efforts that Michael has been taking to ensure that the Aboriginal community are being kept in the loop with Parish activities. We look forward to building this momentum as we begin our steps with the Laudato Si Action Platform.