

PPC Social Justice Report 9th June 2021

Yass Rural Australians for Refugees, is hosting a special event to launch Refugee Week 2021 on **Sunday 20th June at 2:00pm at the St Clements Church Hall, 20 Church St, Yass.**

The theme of Refugee Week in 2021 is "Unity" and they are promoting this theme by celebrating some of the good news stories about the resettlement of Vietnamese families in the Yass township during the early 1980's. The effort to sponsor and resettle families in Yass was the result of a united effort by the different Church groups in the town. These groups were galvanised into action in 1979 after an appeal from Archbishop Edward Clancy for parishes to help resettle 40 Vietnamese families in the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese. The story of how a rural town came together to welcome some of these refugees is a good news story worth celebrating. The stories of the families and their contribution to the community and the world are inspirational. YRAR hopes that, through this forum, people will be reminded of how our rural hospitality to refugees has helped our community and Australia to flourish.

The Parish of St Augustine has particular connections to this group and members of the original committee from St Augustine's Parish are speaking at the event along with members from other churches. They will be sharing the story of how they came together, the joys and difficulties of the process and the amazing achievements of some of the Vietnamese families and their subsequent generations. The other member of the panel will be our very own PP, Fr Peter My .

The event will be hosted by award winning journalist Paul Bongiorno AM, Contributing Editor, Network Ten

This is a Covid Safe event with refreshments following the presentation. Please encourage your families and friends to attend this Refugee Week event.

ALSO: There is a new national Catholic campaign, 150 Days of Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, who seek our involvement.

The campaign is led by the Josephites in this year of St Joseph, Patron of Refugees, and was launched by Bishop Terry Brady in Sydney on 1 May.

<https://www.sosj.org.au/150-days-for-refugees-josephite-justice-network-launches-new-campaign/>

The focus is on the tens of thousands of people whom the Federal Government is mistreating in our communities, resulting in many organisations and individuals (including Catholics), having to provide the necessary support. **The campaign concludes with a Day of Lamentation and Call to Action on the Church's World Day of Migrants and Refugees (Sunday 26 September).**

This campaign is supported by the Sydney Archdiocese Justice and Peace Office (JPO). JPO provides the secretariat for the new Catholics for Refugees network, led by Bishop Vincent Long.

Web: <https://catholicsforrefugees.org.au/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicsforrefugees>

Tim McKenna is the only member of this campaign for the Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn and he is wondering if we could have the Archdiocesan Mass for the Campaign on the Day of Lamentation in Yass this year? What do you think?