

Social Justice Report: Wednesday 28th April 2021

Year of St Joseph: Pope Francis has proclaimed a “Year of St Joseph”, running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. In his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”).

It would be great if we could (belatedly) include some events in the parish calendar to celebrate this special year. Some suggestions would include:

- Using the resources provided by the ACBC and the Wollongong Archdiocese to run some discussion groups on the role of St Joseph as, “ a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows” (Pope Francis, 8 *Patris corde*, 8th Dec 2020). Lenten discussion groups who have been keen to continue post-lent could be encouraged to use these resources for their continued meetings.
- Pope Francis considers St Joseph to be the special patron of refugees and asylum seekers. Therefore it would be great to encourage parishioners to attend the scheduled event being hosted by Yass Rural Australians for Refugees on Sunday 20th June to celebrate the start of Refugee Week. The event will focus on the good news stories of Vietnamese refugees and the resettlement of three refugee families in Yass at the beginning of the 1980’s. Some members of St Augustine’s Parish will be presenting their stories at the event.
- “5. *A creatively courageous father*

The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider Saint Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.”

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

Care for Creation: some parishioners have expressed an interest in undertaking the *Laudato Si* Animators course being run by the Global Catholic Climate Movement. This program is not for the fainthearted with weekly 2hr zoom meetings at difficult times (due to the International nature of the program), weekly homework and a capstone project at the end of the program. Please pray for these busy people that they find the resilience to complete the program. This would mean that we have some Ecological champions in our parish to guide us in the implementation of *Laudato Si*. Please see below the extract from Alison Weeks, Chair of the Holy Spirit Parish and part of the PPC network regarding efforts occurring throughout the Archdiocese in relation to *Laudato Si*.

‘Last week I was one of a group of several parishes who met with the Archbishop about implementing the theology and practice of Laudato Si throughout the Archdiocese. Led by the Laudato Circle of Belconnen South parish and including the Cathedral, North Canberra, North Woden, O’Connor and Holy Spirit parishes, this group is now an interim body developing the terms of reference, membership and priorities for a broader, Archdiocesan-wide Taskforce or Reference Group on the Implementation of Laudato Si.

The Archbishop commented that the message of Laudato Si is “of the Lord” and that it gives the ecological movement a soul. He said that its implementation is a mainstream church responsibility; we are a theological community with an ecological dimension. He asked me to contact you to find out what is happening in the parishes. For example, Holy Spirit Parish is taking the first steps towards becoming an Eco-Parish (see the Global Catholic Climate Movement). South Belconnen has put in solar panels. What of your parishes?

*Could you please let me know if your parishes have initiatives underway or planned under the auspices of Laudato Si? The Archbishop said that the new body should be led by the laity and he would also be interested to learn of any ecological champions in your parishes.”
(Feb,2021)*

Safeguarding: I believe it is time we address what was identified by our parishioners as our number one priority at the St Augustine’s Plenary Council Workshop #2 – 6th February 2019, The suggestions made at that meeting are available at the following address: <http://staug-yass.org.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Plenary-workshop2-feedback.pdf>

Effective ways of addressing many of those suggestions include:

- Ensuring that we are all familiar with the Archdiocese's child protection code of conduct. <https://cgcatholic.org.au/professional-standards/child-protection-code-of-conduct/>
- Inviting the Archdiocesan Institute of Professional Standards and Safeguarding Manager to speak to the PPC and /or parishioners
- Reviewing the NSW Government’s 10 Child Safe Standards for Faith Based Organisations and implementing the recommendations relevant to St Augustine’s Parish. https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/838/CSS_ImplementationGuideFaithOrganisations.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y