

St Peter's Parish Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale, Snake Valley

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Refugee Week 2016 – Sunday 19 June to Saturday 25 June 2016

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. Originally celebrated in 1986, Refugee Week coincides with World Refugee Day (20 June). In 2016, Refugee Week will be held from Sunday 19 June to Saturday 25 June.

The theme for Refugee Week for 2015 to 2017 will be "With courage let us all combine". Taken from the second verse of the national anthem, the theme celebrates the courage of refugees and of people who speak out against persecution and injustice. It serves as a call for unity and for positive action, encouraging Australians to improve our nation's welcome for refugees and to acknowledge the skills and energy refugees bring to their new home.

It takes courage to be a refugee: As people who have faced persecution because of who they are (their race, nationality or membership of a persecuted group) or what they believe (their religion or political opinion), refugees need courage:

- The courage not to deny identity or beliefs in the face of persecution.
- The courage to leave all that is familiar and step into the unknown in search of peace.
- The courage to keep going in the face of devastating loss, difficulty and despair.
- The courage to begin again, to work hard and to maintain hope in an unfamiliar land.

It takes courage to speak out against injustice: In a world where refugees experience persecution in their countries of origin and often face discrimination, difficulty and rejection in places where they seek refuge, speaking out often requires courage. In Refugee Week, we acknowledge and celebrate the dedication and bravery of refugee leaders, advocates and citizens who draw attention to violations of human rights, support people at their time of greatest need and challenge callous indifference to the suffering of others.

A call for unity and action for a fairer society: The Refugee Week theme encourages Australians to celebrate the best aspects of our nation's welcome of refugees, frankly acknowledge unjust treatment of asylum seekers and refugees and commit to working together to ensure that we do better. In doing this, we celebrate the positive contributions to Australian society made over the past 70 years by the 800,000 Australians who once were refugees, taking inspiration from the second verse of *Advance Australia Fair*:
Beneath our radiant Southern Cross, We'll toil with hearts and hands;

To make this Commonwealth of ours Renowned of all the lands; For those who've come across the seas, We've boundless plains to share; With courage let us all combine to Advance Australia Fair.

All organisations and individuals holding events as part of Refugee Week are encouraged to link their activities to the national theme.

Recent Death: Peter Seuren

Anniversaries: Rosalie Barry, Con Collins, Edward Fay, Kath Fay, John Hynes, Betty Luxford,
Fr Vin Ryan

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell,
especially Margaret Cranko, Fr John Keane, Kerrie Mulcahy, Narelle Pett, Tom Preece,
Patricia Yoeman

Next week's readings: *Sunday 26th June 2016* *13th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*
Kings 19:16. 19-221 Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. cf. v.5 Galatians 5:1. 13-18 Luke 9:51-62

Masses: **25th/26th June** 7.30pm Snake Valley 8.30am Beaufort 10.30am Skipton
 2nd/3rd July 7.30pm Smythesdale 9.00am Linton 10.30am Skipton

Asylum Seeker Fundraiser - Annual Soup Luncheon

Please come along and hear how former child soldier from South Sudan, Isaac Moses, a Ballarat resident has risen from the trauma of war and displacement, to become an Australian citizen and student of Social Work at Federation University. Wednesday June 22nd, at 12.30 pm, Nazareth House Hall, Mill Street, Ballarat. Entry \$20 Conc. \$15. Cake stall and competitions.

All welcome - especially children. Inquiries - Carmel -53322103/0401175045

annekav123@yahoo.co.uk http://www.parramattamercy.org.au/images/logos/how_logo.jpg

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

The Ballarat Diocese has initiated a Lay Pastoral Ministry Program that offers opportunities for formation, study, support and accreditation for lay workers, both employees and volunteers in the diocese. Brochures are available and full information is on the diocesan website

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (under Services & Agencies/Pastoral Ministry) or contact Amanda Smith, ph. 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Lucas Catholic Primary School Opening in 2017

With our new Parish Primary School preparing to open for the school 2017 school year, the next Community Consultation Evening will be held on Tuesday, July 12th at St Thomas More Primary School Alfredton from 7.00pm- 8.00pm. This is your opportunity to have input into the school identity including the school name, motto, logo and colours and be updated on the building plans.

All enquiries to Cass Klain cklain@ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au or the new school website

www.lucascatholicprimaryschool.com.au

Holy Hour @ Nazareth House, Thursday June 30th, 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

The Victoria Welsh Male Choir in concert

Sunday June 26th, 2.00 pm Saints Peter & Paul's Church Fiskin Street Buninyong, Tickets \$30 on sale from John & Geraldine White 53412675 or 0402808299. Afternoon tea provided.

Pre-Federal Election Forum

You are invited to attend a *Pre-election Forum* to hear the viewpoints of the Candidates for Ballarat *on Issues for a Just Society* and to ask them your questions Monday June 20th 6.00 – 7.45pm Ballarat Central Uniting Church corner Dana Street & Lydiard Street South, Ballarat.

The [Australia bishops want to speak a word as part of this campaign](#) - not in order to push an ideological line or simply to defend the Church's interests but to give a voice to the voiceless and make their faces seen, however briefly in a statement such as this.

Some of those who are voiceless includes

- Refugees and asylum seekers who are often seen as a problem to be solved rather than as human beings in need of our help.
- Indigenous peoples whose cry for recognition has barely been heard and who suffer injustice at the hands of our justice system.
- The survivors of sexual abuse who whose voice is crying out for redress and healing.
- Those who suffer family violence who are often unseen and unheard, behind closed doors with nowhere to go and no-one to turn to.
- Those in the womb who are among the most defenceless, at risk of being deprived of the most basic of all human rights, the right to live.
- The elderly who are seen at times as an economic burden now that they are unable to “produce” or consume in the way the economy demands.
- Those suffering mental illness who seem not to fit in with accepted patterns of social behaviour and are often ending up in the too-hard basket.
- Those suffering addiction who can see no way out of the destructive grasp of alcohol or other drugs, gambling or pornography.
- Those entrapped in new forms of slavery who are the victims of sexual or workplace enslavement.
- The desperately poor beyond our shores who look to wealthy Australia for the help they need - often simply to survive - but find our nation less and less generous.

But it is not just individual people who are thrown away. The same can happen to the environment, both social and natural. At the heart of a healthy social environment there is marriage and the family. Yet political decisions can end up undermining marriage and providing less and less support for families despite a rhetoric that claims otherwise.