

**PRAYER RITUAL TO ACCOMPANY THE
MIGRANT JUBILEE CROSS
OCTOBER 2025 – OCTOBER 2026**



**TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT, 7.00PM**

PRESIDER: BISHOP MARK FREEMAN

GATHERING

Entrance Hymn

During the hymn, Assistants to bring the Cross and a candle forward to place in the display at the front.

Pilgrims of Hope

Refrain: Like a flame my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path I trust in you.

- 1 Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son. *Refrain*

2. God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free. *Refrain*

3. Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him. *Refrain*

(Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri
English translation: Andrew Wadsworth)

Introduction

Bishop Mark: Today we celebrate with the Migrant Jubilee Cross, which has been making its way around Australia, starting from the Jubilee of Migrants in October 2025 with the theme 'Migrants, Missionaries of Hope'.

The Cross is a gift from migrant communities to the broader Church, showcasing the faith and contributions that they bring. The cross has been created to symbolise the Church as:

a place of refuge...

a place of welcome...

a place of integration...

and a place of solidarity.

As it journeys across Catholic parishes and schools, may it touch our spirits and bring us together in hope.

We acknowledge the First Peoples of this land, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations and Elders past and present. They were the first to care for this sacred land and to share its resources with migrant communities. May we gather in the spirit of reconciliation, valuing all of our rich cultures and walking forward in hope together.

We now light the candle in front of the Migrant Cross, to represent the light of Christ that shines across the whole world.

Assistant to light the candle

Call to Prayer

Bishop Mark: Let us begin in prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Bishop Mark: Let us pray.
God of everlasting hope,
You have accompanied us along all of our journeys.
Help us to praise your name together with joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

LISTENING AND RESPONDING

Bishop Mark: Now let us hear a vision of unity of all peoples from the book of Revelation.

Reader 1: A reading from the Book of Revelation [7:9-12, NRSV].
After this, I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'
And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm: **Ps 27 The Lord is My Light and My Salvation**

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.
The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life:
before whom shall I shrink?
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long.
To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness,
in the land of the living.
Hope in God, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord.

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REFLECTION *Bishop Mark Freeman*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Bishop Mark: As pilgrims of hope of many peoples and languages,
we turn to our God in trust with our needs and those
of the world, as we pray:

Reader 2: For all who journey as migrants.
May they experience God’s faithfulness, love and the
light of hope. God of Peace, hear us.

All: **God of Peace, hear our prayer.**

Reader 2: For the migrants among us.
As missionaries of hope, may they be valued and
invited to share their faith, gifts, contributions and
resilience. God of Peace, hear us.

All: God of Peace, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For our parishes, schools and local communities. May they always be places of refuge, welcome, integration and solidarity. God of Peace, hear us.

All: God of Peace, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For those who have died and all the generations before us. May they join their praises to the great multitude of saints in the presence of the Lamb of God. God of Peace, hear us.

All: God of Peace, hear our prayer.

Bishop Mark: God of Peace, you bring us all together in unity under the cross of Christ. As we stand before it as one people, hear our prayers and increase the faith that we share. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Bishop Mark: And let us pray together in the words that Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

Bishop Mark: So let us conclude with a prayer from Pope Leo:

Let us ask the Lord to help us live according to the example and teachings of Jesus — with humility, with generosity, learning to know one another so that we may truly share, to come to know one another so that we may build genuine human communities where no one is in need, where all of us feel like brothers and sisters.

May the Lord strengthen and help each of us to be living witnesses of his love in the world.

All: Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Blessing and Dismissal

Bishop Mark: May God the Father, who cares for his children, bless us.

All: Amen.

Bishop Mark: May God the Son, who knows the migrant journey, bless us.

All: Amen.

Bishop Mark: May God the Spirit, who inspires unity and celebration, bless us.

All: Amen.

Bishop Mark: In the name of the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop Mark: Let us go peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives.

All: Thanks be to God!



Recessional Hymn

O God Who Walks With us

(Official Hymn for the Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross)

1. Lord, help us to keep on walking.
Sustain us, O Bread, we are blessing.
We encounter you in moments of grace.
To you alone we fix our gaze.

Refrain: O God, who walks with us, your people.
From wanderers, now called pilgrims.
By your hand, you guide your beloved nation,
to our true home, where your love reigns.

2. Lord, help us to keep on sharing.
Nourish us, O Bread, we are breaking.
We encounter you in our co-pilgrims.
What we do to them, we do to you. *Refrain.*
3. Lord, help us to keep on growing.
Bind us, O Bread, we are celebrating.
Send us all to the fringes and margins,
to draw all people to this pilgrimage of hope.
4. O God, who walks with us, your people.
From wanderers, now called pilgrims.
By your hand, you guide your beloved nation,
to our true home, where your love reigns.
To our true home, where your love reigns.
O God, who walks with us.

Words: Don Mauro S. Gomez. Music: Nilo G. Nucup. Composed: August 17, 2024
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<https://acmro.catholic.org.au/jubileecross>