For Those Who've Come Across the Seas
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## CONTACT

**Editor**  
Fr Chris Warnock  
Phone 8632 0550  
thewitness@pp.catholic.org.au

**Producer**  
Pirie Signs and Designs  
7 Pt Germein Rd  
Port Pirie 5540

**Advertising**  
Mr Neil Davidson  
O’Reily House  
105 Gertrude St  
Port Pirie 5540  
Phone 8632 0558

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In our diocese we have become familiar with men and women who have been asylum seekers and refugees. Indeed, the origins of our diocese in terms of the first priests to the northern areas which later became our diocese were themselves refugees. The priests from Sevenhill who came to open up our diocese were Jesuits expelled from Austria because they were Jesuits, and the men and women they accompanied from Germany to the new colony of South Australia were fleeing religious anti-Catholic persecution in Prussia.

We have known the work of so many of our people among the asylum seekers detained at Woomera and Baxter. We have seen what fine citizens so many of those detainees have become. As a nation we opened our arms in the 1980s to the Vietnamese boat people, and later to several tens of thousands of Chinese after the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

In Pirie before that we saw the effective immigration after the Second War, and earlier still, what a transformation the arrival of the Italian people from Molfetta brought with them when they came in the 1890s. Quite movingly, the Italian community chose this Scripture passage for its memorial to the pioneers.

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as a brother among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God. (Lev. 19:33-34)

So when we see on our televisions the misery of these people, and their great numbers, people who would return home if it was not a place of death, our hearts should be moved to do what we can. Pope Francis somewhere has a beautiful saying, that when we touch the wounds of the poor we are touching the wounds of Christ. And being followers of Christ, we have no option but to respond as well as we can to work to reduce the suffering of the poor. That is why I wrote to John Rohde, Mayor of Port Pirie supporting him and offering our cooperation as a diocese in his efforts to house some of the Syrian refugees.
From Boat Person to Bishop A

I was one of the boat people who escaped from South Vietnam.

During migration awareness month [August], the new Australian Catholic Bishops Conference delegate for migrants and refugees, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen ofm conv, shared his journey from survival as a refugee to nurturing a longing to become a priest, before being appointed Auxilliary Bishop of Melbourne.

‘The escape happened after South Vietnam had fallen to the Vietnamese communist forces in 1975.’

‘My parents who had escaped by boat themselves from North Vietnam in 1954 encouraged me and my siblings to escape. They had experienced the cruelty and tyranny of communism.’

From an early age, ‘you could say that risk-taking and freedom-seeking were in our blood’.

‘Our boat journey was risky. There were more people onboard than the boat could carry safely. By the third day, we had run out of food, water and fuel. From then on, we were at the mercy of the elements. On the seventh day, we drifted near an oil rig, half alive and half dead.’

Fortunately, Bishop Long and some family members were rescued and brought to a refugee camp off the coast of Malaysia. He stayed there for a year and four months.

Bishop Long travelled with his sister in law and her two young children, an 18-month-old boy and a four-month-old girl. ‘My two older siblings, including the father of the two children, had escaped before and settled in the Netherlands. It was my duty to accompany them and take them to their father. I only made it half way, even though it was the most difficult half. We parted company at the refugee camp: they went to the Netherlands in November 1980.

‘In December 1981, I was accepted and brought to a country I knew nothing about: Australia.’

Speaking about life in Vietnam before fleeing, Bishop Long explained that ‘following the Fall of Saigon, the victorious communist government was extremely harsh in its rule, particularly over South Vietnam and those it considered imperialist collaborators such as officials and soldiers of the former regime’. Within a few years, Vietnam was reduced to total chaos: international embargo, war against China and Cambodia, forced collectivisation, not to mention the proliferation of the so-called “reeducation camps”- a euphemism for the communist gulags. ‘We grew up in poverty, isolation and in a state of constant fear.’

Vocation

‘I was in St Paul’s Minor Seminary for my native diocese of Xuan Loc, 60km north of Saigon, when the Liberation Army arrived and turned it into their barracks. We were expelled and my desire for the priesthood would remain concealed until I found myself in the free land of Australia.’

The decision to become a priest or a religious is often quite complex and multifaceted. ‘In my case, it began when I was 13 years of age, living in one of the most turbulent periods of my country’s history. The war and its terrible effects had a profound impact on me, even as an adolescent and a young man.

‘The decision to become a priest was initially motivated by a desire to help people who suffered. Then, as I became more mature, I was able to test and deepen that desire in the context of my faith and lived experience.’ Bishop Long says that it was his encounter with the Franciscan Friars in the Melbourne suburb of Springvale, following his arrival in Australia in 1981, which was critical to his vocation discernment. ‘I was at
the stage where I really wanted to continue my pursuit for the priesthood, which was interrupted by the communist victory, 30 April 1975, and the watershed events that followed; escape by boat, refugee camp in Malaysia and arrival in Australia.

It was the friars’ ‘simplicity and especially their service to the marginalised’ that appealed to Bishop Long immediately. ‘I wanted to share in their vision of life.’ The native of Dong Nai, Vietnam was ordained a priest of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual (O.F.M. Conv) on 30 December 1989 and appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne on 20 May 2011 at the age of 49.

**Culture Shock**

Bishop Long described arriving in Australia on a Malaysian airlines flight as ‘a culture shock landing in a strange and foreign country for the first time in my life.’

‘For us, one of the biggest changes was the move from the extended family structure that was so much welded into the Vietnamese society to the free, egalitarian and independent spirit that characterises Australia.’

The absence of family makes matters worse for refugees, Bishop Long notes. ‘I myself was on my own when I set foot here. This resulted in a profound sense of dislocation and isolation. I suspect many unaccompanied youths and young adults like myself resorted to alternative forms of family structure to give them security and familiarity. I was fortunate to have found and lived with an elderly Vietnamese couple before making my way to religious life.’

Many, especially in the early years of Vietnamese settlement in Australia experienced discontinuity and brokenness and this inhibited their ability to adapt successfully, the Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne says. He describes the Melbourne suburb of Springvale as ‘a true melting pot’ where there was generally ‘more tolerance in a predominantly migrant suburb than other places.

I experienced a few instances where I was made to feel unwelcome.

‘Once I had eggs thrown on my back by a group of youngsters. But they were isolated instances. On the whole, I felt accepted and this sense of acceptance increased gradually as I assimilated into Australian society.’

Vietnamese refugees arrived en masse in Australia during the seventies and eighties, ‘the White Australia Policy might have been abolished formally. However, legacy of that policy may take years if not generations to do away with. In the meantime, like other minority groups, Vietnamese refugees have to earn their place in Australian society against all the odds,’ he adds.

The experience of the Vietnamese refugees is clear evidence that even the most traumatised and the most impoverished group can be integrated in our multicultural society and can make a positive contribution, Bishop Long states. ‘The fear that our social cohesion might be undermined or that our very future might be compromised on account of an “Asian invasion” has been proven unfounded.

‘Today, Asian Australians have joined the mainstream in every aspect of our society. Even the sceptics of multiculturalism would concede that Australia has evolved to become a much more dynamic, diverse and interesting place.’
Immigration Policy

In terms of Australian policy regarding refugees, Bishop long appeals to our Government for a more humane policy towards asylum seekers, ‘one that is in accordance with our international obligations, our status as a prosperous and civilised society and most of all our tradition as a generous and welcoming migrant country’.

‘I realise that in the real world, we cannot have an open border policy. I even concede that we should stop human trafficking and prevent unnecessary deaths at sea. However, these concerns must not lead us to treat asylum seekers and refugees with cruelty, harshness and injustice.’

Bishop Long cautions that ‘Australia risks dishonouring its own legacy of “a fair go” for the way it dehumanises asylum seekers’.

He remembers with pride the Australia that ‘rose to the challenge in the past with its generous embrace of migrants and refugees. It proved itself especially courageous during the Indochinese exodus and accepted an unprecedented number of Asian refugees’. ‘Australia changed for the better as it always has with each successive waves of new arrivals. Australia is what it is today because of their determination and drive for a better future. We honour the legacy of this great nation not by excessive protectionism, isolation and defence of our privilege at all costs. Rather, we make it greater by our concern and care for asylum seekers in the spirit of compassion and solidarity that has marked the history of our country from its beginning,’ he explains.

Bishop Long acknowledges the advocacy and practical work carried out by the Australian Catholic Migrants and Refugees Office and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, in particular during this migration awareness month, August 2015. The bishop delegate for migrants concluded that the Church’s position on refugees is based on the inherent dignity of every person, on their human rights and on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

‘Human life is sacred because each person is created in the image of God. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers and refugees must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival.

He concludes that we should all learn from the example of Jesus, who was a refugee himself in Egypt and who identified with the marginalised and persecuted, ‘he inspires all Christians to work for a better world, for a better society and especially for the protection and care of asylum seekers and refugees’.

Aoife Connors

Responding to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Friends the gut wrenching side of Syria, as in all conflicts, calls each human being to consider the one family of God and us in particular to the one Table of the Lord. Our Caritas Australia involvement/response is ongoing regardless of the headlines and is present on the ground floor….something we are quietly proud of. Many of our people are regular donors to Caritas and they receive mail outs similar to what Bishop Greg has forwarded. Our Diocesan practice for any Appeal/Crisis is to encourage anyone who wishes to respond to do so through our own Caritas or Catholic Mission. It is always a chance to educate/remind us all of the ongoing work of the Church often unheralded and without the huge advertising others undertake. So please, encourage people to donate either directly or through the Parish and also to look up the Website of Caritas.

Fr Paul Bourke

The Caritas web site gives access to good information and excellent resources. www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-crisis-appeal
For Those Who've Come Across the Seas

The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Social Justice Statement for 2015–16 challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. It invites us to recognise the desperation that has driven these people to seek refuge far from their homes.

The Statement’s title is For Those Who’ve Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers. The title, taken from the words of our National Anthem, is intended to remind all Australians of how this nation has aspired to be a place of welcome and inclusion.

In this Statement, the Bishops address the divisive national debate over asylum seekers, especially those who arrive by boat. They confront Australia’s current deterrence-based response and remind us of the needs of the nearly 60 million people who are displaced around the world.

The Statement takes its inspiration from the actions and words of Pope Francis on his 2013 visit to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where he met the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned for those who had died. It begins and ends with the Pope’s own words and is strongly based on the Scriptures and Catholic teaching.

The Bishops’ document traces the experiences of asylum seekers from their flight from persecution and danger, through their perilous journeys, to their experience in Australia of indefinite detention, deprivation and insecurity. It asks why both sides of Australian politics have felt the need to introduce such cruel and self-defeating policies as offshore processing and indefinite detention.

This Social Justice Sunday we are invited to reflect on the call of Jesus to welcome those in most need and to give comfort to those who come to us in flight from fear and suffering.

Pope Francis in Lampedusa

Lampedusa is an Italian island 70km from the Tunisian coast – closer to Africa than it is to the Italian mainland. Lampedusa is the main arrival point for boats carrying asylum seekers from Africa who are seeking asylum in Europe. Many have died making the journey.

Pope Francis visited Lampedusa in July 2013. After he preached at the Eucharist, he prayed:

Lord, we beg forgiveness
for our indifference to so many of
our brothers and sisters.
Father, we ask your pardon
for those who are complacent and closed
amid comforts which have deadened their hearts.
We beg your forgiveness
for those who by their decisions on the global level
have created situations that lead to these tragedies.

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website - www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call (02) 8306 3499.

Associated Resources
The ACSJC website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements) has resources available for download free of charge. They include Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes, a PowerPoint presentation and resources for schools and social justice groups.

Prayer Cards and ‘Ten Steps’ leaflets can be ordered from the ACSJC on (02) 8306 3499 or by email: admin@acsjc.org.au.
“For Those Who've Come Across the Seas

Leaving your country for good is one of the hardest decisions a person can be forced to make. It means a break with all that you know … Asylum seekers carry sorrow and distress and depend on human sympathy. An asylum seeker is a kneeling person; kneeling in front of the ship to ask for a reduced escape price; kneeling in front of the aid agency asking to be saved. They get on a boat, on a piece of wood, not knowing where it is taking them; their safety and security limited to that piece of wood, risking starving or drowning at sea.

Social Justice Statement pg 10

“\n
When we Australians support policies of cruelty and rejection, we close our ears to Christ’s call and turn him away from our doors. We know that we are better than this. As Christians, we know that it is within us to hear the call of Jesus. As Australians we have shown ourselves willing to take the path of generosity and leadership. We can do so again.

Social Justice Statement pg 20
We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalisation of indifference.

UNHCR (2015),
Social Justice Statement pg 8

Of the world’s 59.5 million forcibly displaced: • 38 million were displaced in their own countries. • 19.5 million were refugees. • 1.7 million applied for refugee status in 2014 alone. • Only 105,000 refugees were resettled in other countries.

UNHCR (2015),
Social Justice Statement pg 8
Sr Angelique Namaika Transforms her Community

Helping girls and young women overcome trauma and heal following beatings and sexual violence is the healing ministry of Sr Angelique Namaika, a woman with a passion for justice who is transforming her community.

Sr Angelique received the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Nansen Refugee Award in 2013 for ‘her exceptional courage and unwavering support for survivors of brutal violence in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).’

Sr Angelique was invited to share her experiences with people in Australia. Her visit coincided with Migrant and Refugee Awareness month, August 2015.

‘I’ve came to Australia to give my testimony about the activities I’ve developed for women who have been victims of atrocities of the Ugandan Rebel Group the Lord’s Resistance Army,’ she said.

‘There are lots of kidnappings in the villages - women and children, boys and girls, mostly between 10 to 12 years old.’ Many of the LRA’s victims are raped, beaten and forced into sexual slavery.

Sr Angelique lives in a small village called Dungu where she has helped to rebuild the lives of more than two thousand women.

Many of the women taken to the bush by the rebels, never return. Of those who escape, their bodies are mutilated. ‘Arms have been amputated, they have become victims of sexual abuse and many women return pregnant.’

Sr Angelique helps the women to overcome trauma, recuperate after rape and abuse and rebuild their lives by learning new skills and doing practical activities.

‘It’s very important to listen to the women to help them overcome the trauma. Some women choose prayer in order to heal.’

‘We also have activities to help the women gain jobs to become self sufficient in their lives and to become independent in society.’ Activities range from baking bread to sewing and culinary classes, agricultural skills to literacy classes.

Sr Angelique has established a bakery, which employs 200 women and has made bread affordable for people in the village. She has built a school, an orphanage and started a farm to provide employment and fresh food.

Asked whether she was worried about the children and women in her care while she was overseas, Sr Angelique said, ‘God will protect them, he always does.’
Parishioners of Hawker welcomed the arrival of Bishop Patrick Buzon, Fr Carlos, Fr. Harold, Deacon Ramel’s mother, Yolanda and sister Johanna, at Mass on Wednesday 2nd September. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Patrick, concelebrated by Fr Carlos, Fr Jimmy, and Fr Harold. Bishop Patrick spoke of the beautiful landscapes of South Australia as he travelled through the Mid North farming country and then through the scenic Flinders Ranges, reflecting on our country’s abundant space and ability to grow food for a great many people.

The congregation gathered together after Mass for a group photo and a quick familiarisation with each other and the facilities of the Church and Presbytery. The visitors were hosted by Carmel Smulders for Morning Tea before touring to Wilpena Pound and Willow Springs Station.

We hope our visitors enjoyed their experience of South Australia’s North, especially in the good season we are experiencing.

Pat Wiseman

Quorn Welcomes Filipino Visitors

Michael McAuley, Fr Ramel, Yolanda, Johanna, Bishop Patrick, Marlene McAuley, Carmel Smulders, Marj Rowe, Pat Meekums, Pat Wiseman, Fr Jimmy

Ramel’s Visit to Quorn

Quorn hosted a visit from Deacon Ramel’s family from the Philippines. Sharing a meal at Geraldine and Graham Davis’ house in Quorn, are Ramel’s mother Yolanda Morales, Fr Jimmy, Marlene McAuley, Carmel Smulders, Bishop Patrick Buzon, Marj Rowe, Michael McAuley, Fr Carlos and Ramel’s sister Johanna. The visitors were delighted to be shown around our Diocese as well as a brief visit to Sydney by Fr Jimmy Pantin, Parish Priest of Quorn.
Deacon Ramel Morales

Homily preached by newly ordained
Deacon Ramel Morales

St Mark’s Cathedral, Port Pirie, Sunday 6th September

Today is Father’s Day in this country. Let us remember and appreciate everything our fathers did for us, who have sacrificed much and loved us unconditionally. Let us make this day a very special one for them because of the special role they have played in our lives. I wish all fathers who are here today a great Father’s day! I would like to thank everyone for your generosity in helping the Father’s day appeal to show your continuous support and care for our priests and the Bishop in the Diocese.

How difficult it is to be deaf? More so, how difficult to be both deaf and mute as our gospel today speaks about? That is why Jesus, who out of compassion, heals a deaf and mute person. Deaf-mutes are people that could not talk to us orally due to the fact that they could not speak and hear. They could only talk to us through sign language. They are the persons who most of the time felt ashamed or inferior to others because of their disability. This sometimes happens to me because, as you are all aware, I have a hearing disability too!

However, God listens to my special needs through the generosity of His people, particularly, in the diocese of Port Pirie. Likewise, in the gospel story, Jesus recognises the special needs of the deaf mute. He understands his situation very well. So when Jesus healed him, He brought the deaf mute person away from the crowd so that he would not get embarrassed in the midst of the people but would feel the compassion and the love that Jesus has for him.

How does this gospel apply to us? Many of us Catholics live with the same disability. Deaf-mutes are not only the people disabled in speech and hearing but also there are what we call “social deaf-mutes”. They are those people to whom no one listens, those people we don't want to talk to and those who have no voice or influence in our society.

My dear friends, we are so fortunate that God gives us gifts of speech and hearing. Serving those people is one way of recognising God for the gifts He has given us, our speech and our hearing. These gifts can be used sometimes in an abusive manner by taking them for granted. Though we are capable of hearing we may be deaf and mute to the Word of God. We are deaf and mute to respond to the needs of our neighbours even though we recognise that we can help them but sometimes we choose not to hear and not to speak.
Our gift of speech is given by God in order to communicate truth, justice and goodness, not lies, hatred, or gossip. We should use our gift of speech to bless rather than to swear; to appreciate rather than to criticise. In our second reading, Jesus reminds us to treat one another as brothers and sisters or be aware of favouritism.

Jesus told the deaf mute today, “Ephphata” which means, “be opened”. This is also the message of Jesus for us today. Be opened! to the cries of our neighbours and to the healing of God. So as we continue in this Eucharist, let us pray that God may open our eyes to see Him and ears to hear Him and hands to serve Him in all people especially in the poor, the weak and the helpless.

My dear friends, it is not a question of how extraordinary the gifts we receive from God are but how we use these gifts for God and his people. It is up to us how we make these gifts bear good fruit for others.
Monsignor Frank Cresp's 60th Jubilee

On August 3rd 1931 Monsignor Frank Cresp was ordained a priest in St. Theresa’s Church, Renmark, by the Rev Bishop Gallagher (the Church in Berri being too small)

To mark the 60th Anniversary of Ordination, celebrations were held over two days. Firstly, a Concelebrated Mass with his fellow priests and friends in St. Mark’s Cathedral and secondly, with his family and parishioners at the Cathedral Sunday Mass.

In his quiet humble way Fr. Frank enjoyed these celebrations which evoked many memories of these 60 years of ministry to the people of the Port Pirie Diocese. Upon Ordination he was appointed a Curate to the Cathedral Parish and given responsibility for Risdon Park and the YCW. After saving up 10 pounds, he purchased a bike and was on his way to meeting as many families as possible, even putting it on the train to Crystal Brook when ministering there. His next appointment saw him in Peterborough for a few months, where the people left an indelible mark on him. He then had a few more months in Port Lincoln with Dr Darby Walsh and that’s another long story. In 1964 Fr. Frank was appointed to the Inland Mission residing in Leigh Creek until he could get a caravan to live in, in Coober Pedy and thus he became the first Parish Priest of Coober Pedy. Upon getting himself housed he set about with the help of local miners digging out the beautiful jewel of an underground church of St Peter and St. Paul. “God built it we only had to find it” he always said.

These years in the outback endeared Fr. Frank to all whom he met, station families, stockmen and women, drovers, fencers, teachers, medical staff, road workers … he was always made so welcome at their kitchen tables, smoko breaks and campfires.

In an effort to connect the Station people with the township people, he and his good friend Ian Rankin (RIP) of Mable Creek Station, established the Coober Pedy Races, using a grader to mark out the track which has been used till this day and brings outlying people into the township and raises valuable donations for the RFDS.

Following Coober Pedy Fr. Frank went to Cummins/Tumby Bay, then to Woomera, Snowtown and finally back to his beloved Peterborough. It was here in Peterborough that he found time among his duties to collect, catalogue and restore the historical collections of the Diocese. With a grant he commissioned Sister Margaret Press RSJ to research and write up the life of Bishop John Norton “Bishop of the Railways. As Vicar of the Diocese under Bishop Eugene Hurley he set about finding, restoring and photographing all the graves of the deceased Priests of the Diocese and this led to the publication of the book “Good and Faithful Servants” (now in its 2nd edition) giving a short biography of each of these priests.

As the collector and curator of all these historical items Fr. Frank preferred the title “collector of old things” and so it is fitting that after 19 years in Peterborough, he has been able to oversee the setting up the archives for the Diocese in Port Pirie.

Upon retiring Fr. Frank went to Barmera, however after a few years his health and eyesight deteriorated and he eventually took up residence in St. Joseph’s House in Port Pirie, not far from the Archives where he loves to read and share the history of this Diocese and ‘collect old things’ for the next generation.

Sr Helen Duke RSJ
What an amazing life!
During August the Snowtown Parish celebrated Fr. Pope’s 90th year and 67th Year of priestly ordination.

After the 10am Mass at Port Broughton on the 16th August parishioners and visitors from Adelaide, Port Pirie, Kadina and surrounding areas gathered at the Motel for lunch to celebrate with Father who had conferred Sacraments to many of those present.

On Friday 21st August a double celebration was held at Redhill. Four of our young lads were confirmed by Fr. Francis assisted by Monsignor Pope. We gave thanks for the long life and remarkable energy, dedication and pastoral ministry of Monsignor Pope.

On Monday 24th August local parishioners from Snowtown gathered for Mass and a shared lunch. A number of the residents from the Lumeah Nursing Home also attended.

At the our last lesson in Redhill we discussed Fr Pope’s unflagging commitment. On an average we worked out that over 67 years of Priesthood he would have celebrated 34,840 Masses. This is not counting Weddings, Funerals and other special celebrations.

Sr Kerry Keenan RSJ

Brodie Peter Maloney was baptised in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Quorn on Sunday 28th June by Father Jimmy. Godparents were Shannon Maloney, Brodie’s cousin and Darren Broadbridge, Brodie’s uncle. Brodie’s parents are Alex and Michael and he has a sister Lily.

Grandparents are Rosemary and Guy Skillen of Port Augusta and Mary and Peter Maloney of Quorn. Great grandparents Dave and Jean Skillen of Port Augusta were also present with other family and friends for this happy occasion.

Mary Maloney

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A very successful ecumenical “Dinner of Light” was held in the Port Pirie Lighthouse Uniting Church hall on Friday 14th August. This event, organised jointly by the Catholic parish of St Mark’s and the Lighthouse Uniting Church, was an initial receptive ecumenism celebration promoted by the Uniting Church/Roman Catholic Dialogue of South Australia. Eighty guests gathered at specially prepared tables replete with peace doves, lights of many colours and olive branches. It was an evening of sharing delicious food, conversation, music and prayer. The Florence singers and a combined Uniting Church/Catholic Tenor group provided the musical entertainment. At the end of the evening fridge magnets were given as a souvenir of the occasion and the peace doves were auctioned. The proceeds of the evening will help support an ecumenical seminary in Baguio City in the Philippines.

The theme chosen was “I am the Light of the World” since 2015 is the UN International Year of Light. Frank Miller, a Port Pirie UC parishioner who is visually impaired, spoke movingly of his personal faith journey in seeking the light.

Geraldine Hawkes (Ecumenical facilitator SA Council of Churches) led us graciously and imaginatively into a reflective experience of Receptive Ecumenism. Geraldine told a story which describes how we are generally in our interactions with one another with our tendencies to be tribal, territorial and trading. Receptive Ecumenism, she explained, has the capacity for institutional conversion – for moving us away from those tendencies for tribalism or territorialism, at least, and being drawn towards a new disposition towards one another.

Many people recognise that there is a need for healing from within as well as across our churches. Receptive Ecumenism helps us recognise a place within our own church (at whatever level) that seems to diminish, obscure or even extinguish the light of Christ and offers a way to seek the insights of another church where the light of Christ is perhaps more fully manifest.

To illustrate her talk, Geraldine shared two images depicting the encounter between Jesus and the woman of Samaria as told in the Gospel according to John, one a painting and one a sculpture. We were invited to notice the way in which the encounter is depicted by the two artists, rather than focus on the story itself. Geraldine suggests that both images illustrate different expressions of ecumenism: ecumenism as we have known it (and will continue to know it in some ways) and ecumenism in the way of Receptive Ecumenism.

The two figures, the woman and Jesus, could be seen as representing two churches. They are gathered around the well which has prominence – perhaps symbolising an issue which is receiving greater attention than the figures or the relationship. Consider ecumenism as we have experienced it, which evolves, reasonably enough, from an issue eg matter of doctrine or a social justice matter, rather than focusing on the relationship with all that it entails. Through engagement with the ‘issue’ we tell one another about ourselves and our church, or about how we can act together, from our vantage point of the Gospel…while remaining open to some learning, usually at the more individual level.
Eighty guests gathered at specially prepared tables replete with peace doves, lights of many colours and olive branches. It was an evening of sharing delicious food, conversation, music and prayer.

Water of Life - a bronze sculpture/water feature at Chester Cathedral that depicts the encounter between Jesus and the woman of Samaria, as described in John's Gospel. The base is inscribed ... Jesus said, "The water that I shall give will be an inner spring always welling up for eternal life." (John 4:14)

In this sculpture Geraldine sees aspects that illustrate elements of Receptive Ecumenism and depict a different/new/hoped for relationship with Christ and with one another.

- Two figures face to face ... tenderness and a loving gaze
- Made from the one material ... unity in Christ
- Abundance of the water which flows from the shared cup, across the hands and into the dish below...
- Who is giving and who is receiving...?
- Who we long to be...who we can be....that they may be one...so that the world may believe....that the light of Christ may shine...

Reflecting on this Dinner of Light in Port Pirie, Geraldine remembers ...

- Being encouraged by the ecumenical spirit manifest in many ways;
- The expressed delight in the variety of ways of prayer;
- The stated recognition of the importance of speaking well about one another at all times – no place for superiority or smugness.

Encouraged by Geraldine who urged us to keep singing and keep sharing meals, the organising committee, comprising members of both denominations, plans to meet again at the beginning of 2016. Another UC/RC dinner and a more broadly ecumenical event for the season of Pentecost are on the drawing boards.

For more insights, see Annual Ecumenical Lecture - Receptive Ecumenism: Encounter with Beauty, Truth and Love, contact Geraldine sacc1@picknowl.com.au or go to sacc1@picknowl.com.au
A Time With God And With One Another

One of the entries on my journal reads: “The theme that comes across as I meditated on various bible passages was that God wants to reveal himself to me, he wants it and it is his desire.” In many ways, retreat provides that opportunity to find God present in our lives – in the past, at present and the assurance in the future.

My first Clergy retreat in the Diocese was proven to be a valuable experience. It is something that I will look forward to in the future as clergy of the Diocese. The five days retreat from 17th – 21st of August was a needed break after few weeks of the busiest time of my early priestly ministry. Fr Edmund Travers msc was our retreat director. Having been my spiritual director during my seminary years, it was a delight to listen to him again and be inspired by his wisdom and insight. In particular I bring along with me the advice to “look and watch” as a way of listening because in this way of listening someone or something is revealing itself to us – they are making itself known. This is a very practical advice for my ministry – to spend time to students and parishioners “to look and watch” them and from there, a deeper understanding of their situation, their hopes and dreams, their joy and successes will be revealed. Then I can join them in their journey to Christ.

The highlights of the retreat for me include the very humbling experience of being asked by my brother priest to hear his confession and to ask him to hear mine as well. Daily Masses was always a source of peace and consolation. In particular, the Mass for the dead bishops and priests of the diocese was very moving. It connects me to our local saints and brings that wonderful sense of brotherhood among the living and the dead. In addition, Mons Ray Pope's 90th birthday celebration was something to remember. It’s not only a time for prayers for ourselves and others but more importantly a time to spend time with my brother priests. Small chat over a cup of coffee, over a meal or just before each session was a refreshing and encouraging experience.

We thank Mons Paul for organising the retreat for us every year and the Jesuit Community at Sevenhill for providing us the place of encounter with God and with one another –its beautiful surrounds, comfortable accommodation and sumptuous meals are nourishment not only spiritually but also physically. (I need to watch myself because I’m growing horizontally and not vertically).

We remember during the retreat Bishop Greg and other brother priests who were not able to come. We offered prayers for our seminarians and for those considering the permanent deaconate program for our diocese. And most importantly we remember our parishioners and the world. And with the psalmist I say: “How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” – Ps 133:1 (NRSV)

Please always include us, your priests and servants in your prayers!

Fr Harold Camonias
Rural Women Gather at Bungaree Station

Bungaree Station once again hosted the Rural Women of Faith Gathering.

Women from all areas of the State and from a variety of Parishes met for the second of three weekends to take part in Faith formation which is lead and sponsored by the Josephites.

Sister Virginia Bourke rsj was the main presenter. Some of the topics covered were: Emmaus, the Humanity of Jesus, Jesus Compassion and Forgiveness.

During the weekend we were led into the experience of Visio Divina and Lectio Divina.

The Alpha Journey

The Alpha journey began in Port Pirie for the fifteen guests on the 3rd of July 2015. With love and laughter the team and guests shared a faith while enjoying the Alpha experience.

This Alpha experience was enriched by people of many faith and traditions making the 10 week journey toward deeper faith in Jesus Christ.

David and Janette Willson

Scooter City

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Domestic Mobility Aids

Mobile 0418 831 186
14 King Street, Port Pirie SA 5540
Inspection by appointment
We were both blessed and privileged to gather at Camp Willochra, nestled at the base of Mount Remarkable, Melrose for a wonderful weekend of prayer, meditation, fellowship and communion with one another.

Each and every person present at the Retreat was inspired by the leadership of Sr Anna Warlow sgs and ably assisted by Oblates Kathy Beeck and Elaine Walley, Aboriginal Elder, who shared with us their Samaritan Journey. Also accompanying the group was Sr Roberta Dillon (Sr of Mercy) who will be celebrating her Diamond Jubilee later this year.

Our journey with the Good Samaritan began on Friday evening with a special blessing given by Elaine with water from the Coolamon bowl, Kathy blessing us through the flame of the Holy Spirit Candle and the exchanging of scarves in welcoming the people who had travelled from as far away as Western Australia, Adelaide, Whyalla, Laura, Crystal Brook and Port Pirie to share time together in prayer over the weekend.

Like the Good Samaritan we were urged to be attentive to the light which burns within each of us and from there, be attentive to others around us. The gifts and talents we have, we are given to share. We do not have to be the best in the world, but to do the best we can and wonderful things will happen. Sometimes we can see ourselves as the donkey in the Good Samaritan Journey, we are the instrument used by God to help others and we may ask ourselves, “who have we carried today?”

On the Sunday we joined with the locals of the Wilmington Parish to share the Eucharist celebrated by Fr Khalid. In his homily Father spoke of the meaning of Eucharist in our lives and the significance of meals in the context of his Middle Eastern tradition. We were made more aware of the importance of gathering together, sharing a meal and celebrating not only to mark happy events but also in times of discord. During a shared meal, conflicts can be sorted out and always there is a good outcome – no need for lawyers!

The entire weekend was covered with a calm and peaceful presence, a deep friendliness between each other, coming together to share the work load in the kitchen, enjoying beautiful food and plenty of sharing, joy, laughter and tears.

We all went away knowing that the Spirit had been at work in each and every person present, enlightening our own personal journey and filled with the courage to be a Good Samaritan to those we meet along the road, through the words of wisdom spoken and shared by Sr Anna, Kathy and Elaine and the hope that we will meet again next year, to do it all again.

Philomena Jeffrey
On Sunday 30 August the Port Pirie Parish celebrated Migrant and Refugee Sunday with an International luncheon held at the Good Samaritan Hall at St Mark’s College, Benedict Campus. The Knights of the Southern Cross helped organise the function and were able to raise enough money to make a donation of $1,000 to the Port Pirie Diocese for the ongoing expenses of training of priests for the Diocese.

The people of Port Pirie were very generous in providing a large range of food from many different cultures represented in the city. Special guests included the State Member for Frome Geoff Brock and the local Mayor John Rohde. We were privileged to have guest speaker Saied Shahzadeh Safavi share with us some of his experiences as he moved to Port Pirie where he has set up a popular restaurant. He gave us an insight into the difficulties that face refugees and we recognised his gratefulness for the opportunity of a new life in another country.

Besides the magnificent array of food, those who attended were entertained with singing and dancing performances. Those who contributed were: Lenny Halfacre (Indonesia), Crenie Cumar (India), John O’Dea and Nita Stokes (Ireland), Philippines children (Philippines), Scott and Terina Everitt (Australia) and Shazad David and Alban Thomas (Pakistan).

As usual there was plenty of food left over but we were able to save this for the following week’s celebrations of Ramel’s ordination. Thank you to everyone who contributed by donating food, providing entertainment, setting up and packing up. It was a great team effort and everyone enjoyed it.

Michael Preece
The tradition of celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Martyrs started in Molfetta in the 1100’s. Crusaders on their way to the Holy Land passed through Molfetta. As the story goes, Crusaders came back with a wooden painting of the Madonna in the Byzantine style and left it at the Hospital which was in the Church of Our Lady of Martyrs where wounded and sick Crusaders would go to be rested on their return from the Holy Land. Over the years these wounded Crusaders came to revere the Madonna and were greatly consoled by the painting. In 1399 permission was given to Molfetta to hold an annual fair in conjunction with the Feast of Our Lady of Martyrs from the 8th to the 15th September. The celebrations continue in Molfetta to this day.

The tradition of celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Martyrs started in Port Pirie in 1929 as a church service and nine day Novena. Over the years it has grown to the wonderful procession and Blessing of the Fleet that takes place today. The statue of the Madonna is processed from St Mark’s Cathedral to the foreshore where it is placed on a boat to sail out for the Blessing of the Fleet. Celebrations were suspended during World War II and started again in the early 1950’s with a procession of the Statue of the Madonna around St Anthony’s church. In later years, the procession moved to Globe Oval and then from St Anthony’s Church, down Main Road and King Street and back to St Anthony’s Church. A Debutante Ball and a Novena of Masses and prayer are part of the celebrations which are always held in Port Pirie on the second Sunday of September.
St Vincent de Paul Kadina

On August 26th, the St Vincent de Paul Family Centre in Kadina was re-dedicated by Fr Adrian Noonan, marking a new chapter for the Vinnies in the Kadina Parish. It was closed for just over two months over the Christmas – New Year period to be upgraded and refurbished. The St VdeP Conference was started in 1966 to help the local people in need. The Family Centre, formerly the Sisters of St Joseph School in Doswell Terrace, was made available for use by the Society as the Family Centre in 1995. The local St VdeP Conference also conducts its support work from the office at the Family Centre.

Guests included State President for St VdeP, Brian Spencer, State CEO, David Wark, State Member for Goyder, Steven Griffiths, Sisters of St Joseph, past and present Conference Members and volunteers, along with Mini-Vinnies representatives and their teacher, Sheri Beech, from St Mary MacKillop School in Wallaroo.

When speaking to the 70 plus people there for the special day, Mr Griffiths said, “I often meet people but not often do I get an opportunity to speak to groups such as the Vinnies. I’m humbled to speak to such a large gathering of people whose sole purpose is to do good.”

When David Wark addressed the group, he stressed that the first and prime purpose is to give away goods to the people in need in the area. The second purpose of the Conference and Family Centres is to provide good quality clothing and things at a reasonable price for people who have a limited amount of money they can spend. The third reason is to make money to fund the services provided by the Society around the state. Sr Shirley O’Loghlen who taught at the Josephite School in Kadina, and Lou Bull, past founding member of the local St Vinnies branch officially marked the occasion with the cutting of the ribbon outside the front door of the Family Centre. With the help of the St Mary MacKillop School Mini-Vinnies, they also planted two St Mary MacKillop roses in the front garden beds. The special day continued with a wonderful afternoon tea supplied by the Catholic Women’s League ladies.
Plans are underway for the Port Pirie Diocese's participation in the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide, December 3-5. Accommodation has been booked and creative fundraising ideas are rolling out. Young people and their leaders will be travelling from Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Clare, Barmera and Loxton. Anyone wishing to register with the Port Pirie Diocesan Group (including all under 18s) must do so before October 23rd.

See some of the hopes that our participants have for the Festival:

Marwayne, 15 years: “To improve my Christian faith in the Youth Festival event.”

Thomas, 15 years: “To learn more about my faith.”

Brigette, 18 years: “I want to gain a reconnection with my faith as over the past few months in particular I have really fallen and been lacking with my relationship with God and the church as well as lacking an understanding of my own faith.”

Zara, 15 years: “I would use this opportunity to be able to get in touch with God. I would love to meet and connect with other youth of my age within the Catholic Faith. I would love be able to bring back some information and inspiration to help us bring more youth to our Parish.”

Harry, 17 years: “By attending I am hoping to get a closer relationship with God by experiencing and meeting different people with different views about their faith.”

Janyne, 20 years: “I have never attend to a youth festival before so it will be a great learning experience for me and also a chance for me to meet different people and make new friends along the way.”

For more information, see www.pp.catholic.org.au/caring-for-our-community/youth-and-young-adult-ministry or contact Louise Stavrou 0417 827 634 Email: stavrou@tpg.com.au

For those over 18 not wishing to travel with the group, you can register up until the Festival, but it is best to get in quickly, as the total quota for the venue is filling fast.
World Youth Day Pilgrimage
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF St JPII + WYD KRAKOW 2016

Messages from past pilgrims in our Port Pirie Diocese

Cathlich - Spain (The Holy lands - Prior WYD)
Travelling through the holy lands prior to World Youth Day in Spain was an extremely profound experience. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus provided a platform for all to come to a deeper understanding of Christ, and our role within his church.

Katarina - The Holy family - Traveling as a family means that the whole family can share the experience.

Kasia - Poland
The final mass was an incredible experience that can only be shared by those who were there. There were hundreds of thousands of people there but we were all united as one, no matter what country you are from or what language you speak, the passion and gratitude for the opportunity to be there was shared amongst us all. We were able to celebrate and party with others who have the same beliefs and values as our own and then take the time to come together as one and enjoy mass with the Pope. The final mass for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid was inspirational to see how my faith is shared by so many and how much love and friendship can spread throughout the world.

For more information please contact
Sr Elizabeth Young youthministry@pp.catholic.org.au

Members of the Western Regional Pastoral Council met recently in Cleve
The Pastoral Associates retreat at Seven Hill Sr Cheryle Thomson MSS, Sr Kate Connelly RSM, Julie Andriessen, Colleen Andrew, Sr Mary Howard SGS, Gayle Santic, Mary Westlake, Sr Elizabeth Young RSM

Members from the Cathedral Regional Pastoral Council met recently in Port Pirie

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Members from the Cathedral Regional Pastoral Council met recently in Port Pirie

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## Parish Contacts and Mass Times Around the Diocese

### Our Lady of the River Parish
- **Berri**
  - Fr Paul Bourke PP
  - Phone: 8582 1894
  - Fax: 8582 4291
  - Email: olor@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: 9.00am & 6.00pm

- **Barmera**
  - Fr John Stuart-James
  - Phone: 8588 2452
  - Sunday Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday 9.00am, 2nd & 4th Sunday 11.00am

- **Blanchetown**
  - 2nd Sunday 4.00pm

- **Morgan**
  - Phone: 8586 6269
  - Sunday Mass: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Saturday [Vigil] 6.00pm, 3rd & 5th Sundays 11.00am

- **Renmark**
  - Fr Medard Kunambi
  - Phone: 8586 6239
  - Fax: 8586 6259
  - Email: thereseren@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: [Vigil] 6.30 pm & 9.00am

- **Booleroo Centre**
  - Fr Benjamin Mkuchu
  - Phone/Fax: 8667 2020
  - Email: booleroocentre@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: 8.30am

- **Laura**
  - 1st Sunday 10.00am

- **Pekina**
  - 2nd Sunday 10.00am

- **Wirrabara**
  - 3rd Sunday 10.00am

- **Orroroo**
  - 4th Sunday 10.00am

- **Burra**
  - Phone: 8842 2942
  - Fax: 8892 3010

- **Cleve, Cowell, Kimba**
  - Fr Adrian Head PP
  - Phone: 8628 2189
  - Email: agh1112@bigpond.com

- **Cooper Pedy**
  - Fr Brian Mathews PP
  - Phone: 8672 5011
  - Fax: 8672 5887
  - Email: inlandmission.cp@bigpond.com

- **Cummins**
  - Fr Kevin Matthews PP
  - Phone: 8676 2194
  - Mob: 0428 282 189
  - Email: cumminsparish1@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: 1st & 4th Sundays 8.00am, 2nd Sunday 8.00am

- **Cummins**
  - Fr Paul Crotty
  - Phone: 8642 2847
  - Fax: 8641 2187
  - Email: allsaintst.a@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: [Vigil] 6.30pm

- **Georgetown**
  - Fr Leon Quinn PP
  - Phone: 8664 1056
  - Email: stjacobi@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday 9.30am

- **Gladstone**
  - Mgr Arthur Hackett
  - Phone: 8621 3943
  - Email: sacheart@internode.on.net
  - Sunday Mass: 10.30am, 8.30am

- **Johnville**
  - 2nd & 4th Sunday 3.00pm

- **Kadina**
  - Fr Adrian Noonan PP
  - Phone: 8821 3943
  - Email: sacheart@internode.on.net
  - Sunday Mass: [Vigil] 7.00pm & 9.00am

- **Kawunah**
  - 2nd Sunday 12.00pm

- **Renmark**
  - Fr Medard Kunambi
  - Phone: 8586 6239
  - Fax: 8586 6259
  - Email: thereseren@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: [Vigil] 6.30 pm & 9.00am

- **Peterborough**
  - Fr Leon Quinn PP
  - Phone: 8664 1056
  - Sunday Mass: 11.00am

- **Pt Augusta**
  - Fr Paul Crotty
  - Phone: 8642 2847
  - Fax: 8641 2187
  - Sunday Mass: [Vigil] 6.30pm

- **Wilmington**
  - Fr Steve Ardill PP
  - Phone: 8821 3943
  - Email: sacheart@internode.on.net
  - Sunday Mass: 9.00am

- **Pt Pirie**
  - Mgr Paul Quirk VG
  - Phone: 8673 2024
  - Fax: 8642 2567
  - Email: cathedralpirie@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: Cathedral [Vigil] 6.00pm

- **Simpson**
  - 2nd & 4th Sunday 6.30pm

- **Solomontown**
  - Fr John Stuart-James
  - Phone: 8588 2452
  - Sunday Mass: 11.00am

- **Crystal Brook**
  - 2nd & 4th Sunday 10.30am

- **Quorn**
  - Fr Jimmy Pantin PP
  - Phone: 8648 6185
  - Email: pantinjim@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: 8.30am

- **Roxby Downs**
  - Fr John Folkman PP
  - Phone: 8671 0925
  - Office: 8671 2307
  - Fax: 8671 2308
  - Sunday Mass: 8.00am

- **Roxby Downs**
  - Mgr Paul Quirk VG
  - Phone: 8632 3977
  - Fax: 8632 5007
  - Email: cathedralpirie@bigpond.com
  - Sunday Mass: Cathedral [Vigil] 6.00pm

- **Snowtown**
  - Mgr Ray Pope PP
  - Phone: 8865 2264

- **Streaky Bay**
  - Mgr Ray Pope PP
  - Phone: 8865 2264

- **Ceduna**
  - 1st & 3rd Sunday 11.00am

- **Candana**
  - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday 9.00am

- **Minnipa**
  - 2nd Sunday 9.00am

- **Wirrula**
  - 3rd Sunday 9.00am

- **Wudina**
  - 4th Sunday 9.00am

- **Whyalla**
  - Fr Jim Monaghan PP
  - Phone: 8645 8023
  - Fax: 8645 8042
  - Email: jimmonaghan@gmail.com
  - Email: jgmon7@hotmail.com
  - Sunday Mass: 10.30am, 5.30pm