



Media Release - September 3, 2024

Resources published for World Day of Migrants and Refugees

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has published online resources to help Catholic communities, parishes and schools mark the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

In his message to mark the day, Pope Francis emphasises the Church’s commitment to walking alongside migrants and refugees. The message theme “God walks with His people,” draws parallels between the biblical Exodus and the journeys of modern-day migrants.

Pope Francis highlights the synodal dimension of the Church, describing it as a joint journey of the People of God, akin to the migration towards the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Pope draws comparisons between the Israelites’ journey from slavery to freedom and the struggles faced by contemporary migrants, emphasising God’s presence and guidance. “God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalised.”

Pope Francis highlights the importance of recognising migrants as a living image of God’s people on their way to the eternal homeland. He calls for a renewed commitment to walking together with migrants, seeing in them the face of Christ, and offering support and compassion.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry, said the Pope’s message emphasises the synodal dimension of this significant day, urging the faithful to walk together with migrants and refugees “synodal together.”

“Pope Francis draws a poignant parallel between the biblical Exodus and the journeys of modern-day migrants, highlighting their shared experiences of fleeing from oppression, abuse, insecurity, discrimination, and lack of opportunities,” Archbishop Prowse said.

“The Pope insists that, just as in the Exodus, ‘God precedes and accompanies his people.’”

Archbishop Prowse shares his personal observations, noting how migrants and refugees often seek blessings for religious items, which serve as essential companions on their hazardous journeys. These items remind them that Jesus travels with them, offering comfort and hope.

Online resources are available to support the celebration of the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024 (WDMR).

Dating back to the First World War, the celebration takes place on the last Sunday in September—29 September this year.

Fr Khalid Marogi, the director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, says the online resources will support parishes, schools, and other Catholic communities in marking the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Fr Khalid adds that we are invited to unite with Pope Francis in prayer and action, ensuring that every encounter with our sisters and brothers in need is an opportunity to meet the Lord.

The Migrants and Refugees 2024 webpage includes liturgy resources for primary and secondary schools, homily notes, prayers of intercession, and parish bulletin notices. The resources can be accessed at: <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2024>

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