

EASTER 2022

WELCOMING

Migrants & Refugees in the Parish and Community



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SOCIALS

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dcn Greg Lowe



The pandemic has brought to light that cultural communities need to dialogue with a trusted leader first before there is communal acceptance around a public health initiative – for example, COVID vaccination requirements. In this regard, the local church is ideally placed to make its contribution to society through its migrant community chaplaincies. I wish to thank the Archdiocesan Migrant Chaplains Group for their work at this time.

The scandal of war in Ukraine has come with dreadful human cost - we are already receiving online requests for help from families both inside Russia and from the Ukraine.

The war has highlighted the socio-politico and quasi-religious question currently before humanity: are nation states sustained by respecting human rights, for example through democratic forms or should they adopt authoritarian principles and behaviours to control populations. At stake is the belief that each person has an innate dignity which comes from God.

Onshore, there are vulnerable visa-holders that still need support and this newsletter focuses on the work WACMRO is doing with this marginalised group in Perth.

Have a blessed Easter

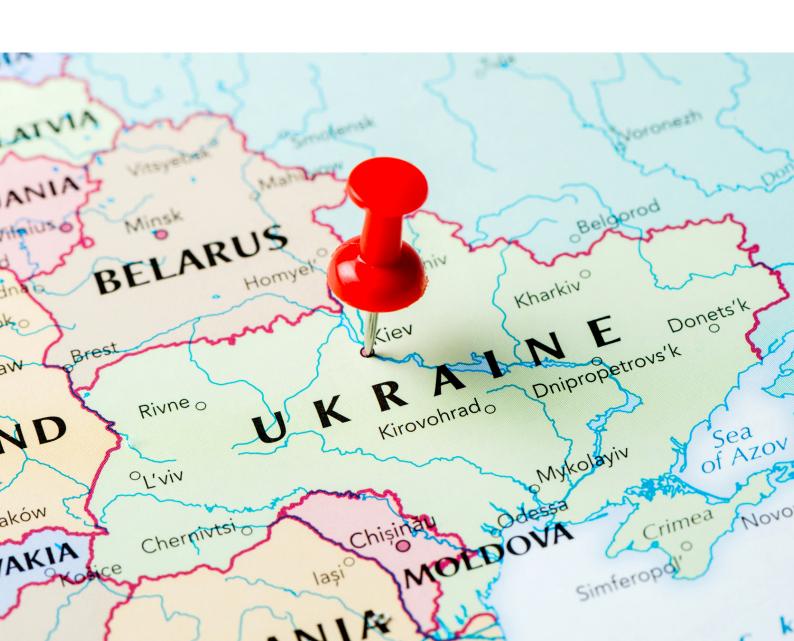
Ukraine

If you have family in Ukraine who you wish to bring to Australia, please click the link for the latest visa information: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/ukraine-visa-support

Currently, WACMRO is working to support New Arrivals from Ukraine. Families need accommodation, employment, access to schooling, Conversational English, financial assistance, and trauma counselling.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, please contact: wacmro@perthcatholic.org.au





Modern Slavery Initiative

The Modern Slavery Initiative is designed to identify and support vulnerable migrant and refugee visa-holders out of slavery onshore by taking steps to eradicate the risk of slavery in the supply chains accessed by the archdiocesan chancery in Perth and the diocesan chanceries in WA.

Modern Slavery Statement

WACMRO is working with the Archdiocese to complete its second Modern Slavery Statement for submission to Government. The statement will report on work done in 2021.

As the archdiocese undergoes organisational changes, future statements have been placed on hold. This will give the local church time to consolidate the good work already done within its administrative structures.

Parish Modern Slavery Project

Late last year, Bishop Don Sproxton invited parish priests to explore their stance on modern slavery, as an act of parochial neighbour love, by engaging with the Parish Modern Slavery Project. Currently, three parishes have signed on to trial the Project with a view to becoming 'lighthouse parishes' in the future for other parishes.

As part of the Project, clergy can purchase slave-proofed clergy shirts at a discounted price. Contact WACMRO for details.

"This project is an act of neighbour love and protective hospitality as much as anything else,"





Scan the QR code to view The Record article:

'What does a slavery-proofed parish look like?

Look for these logos. Every time you buy a certified products is another opportunity to help eradicate modern slavery.







Welcoming Parish Initiative

The Initiative is made up of a Project, Program, and a Process.

The Draw Near Project offers material outreach to visa-holders in the parish neighbourhood, the Welcoming Actions Program is designed to create spiritually and culturally safe communities for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) peoples and the Welcoming **Process** Funded provides opportunities for community-based refugee support.

Draw Near Project

Currently, three parish-school faith communities have signed on for 2022. The Project will take place during Term 2 and Term 3 at Girrawheen, Mirrabooka and Thornlie.

The Project will assist vulnerable asylees in the postcode with food and hygiene care packages. Persons seeking asylum are extremely vulnerable as they await their status as refugees to be legally recognised through issuance of a permanent visa.



Welcoming Actions Program

The Cultural Competency for Mission seminar is part of the Welcoming Actions Program and is designed to create spiritually and culturally safe, authentic, enculturated faith communities.

The online Seminar focuses on welcoming cultural differences and cultural communication and serves as an antidote to ethnocentrism. It will run from April to June.

This is a collaboration with Catholic Mission. WACMRO is grateful to the Knights of the Southern Cross and the Missionary Congregation of the Sisters of the Apparition of St Joseph who has contributed to the financing of the Seminar.



to view the seminar schedule.

Funded Welcoming Process

The School Refugee Bursary is part of the Funded Welcoming Process. It provides a student from a refugee background with a funded placement at a Catholic School supported by the parish and WACMRO. Currently, there are three schools participating.

If you are a school and would like to register an interest to support newly arrived Ukrainian refugee children, please contact WACMRO.

