

National Day for Migrants and Refugees

On the National Day for Migrants and Refugees, to be celebrated in most Catholic parishes around Australia this weekend, parishioners are encouraged to play an active role in making life for migrants and refugees in Australia a better one.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has designated the last Sunday in August as the day in the church calendar to be dedicated to prayer, thought, consideration and action for migrants and refugees. This day was formerly known as Immigration Sunday.

As the Holy Father says in his message for this day:

The next World Day will afford the opportunity to reflect on the conditions of migrants and refugees and will be an incentive to identify their priority needs and to work out responses more in harmony with the respect of their dignity as persons and the duty to accept them. Faith works through Charity 21 August 1996

Director of the Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, Father John Murphy, actively promotes a greater awareness of the issues confronting migrants and refugees in Australia. "There are plenty of things we can all do....write letters to local and national officials about your concerns; organise social events with a view to introducing local migrants and refugees to your parish/school community; become a friend to a refugee family; organise support networks, we all have a gift or talent that would help the plight of migrants and refugees".