

MULTICULTURAL E-NEWS

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MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY 2023

The Archdiocese of Adelaide celebrated the 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees with Holy Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral at 2.30pm, on Sunday 24 September 2023. This annual multicultural mass is a feature on the diocesan calendar drawing more than 250 people from parishes and communities across Adelaide to come together to the Eucharistic Table celebrating the unique fabric of our multicultural church.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the celebration this year is "Free to Migrate or to Stay". Pope Francis imploring "We are called to show respect for the dignity of each migrant. And recognise that whatever place we decide to build our future, whether it be our country of birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinctions and without excluding anyone."

Father Dean Marin, Vicar General, began the Mass welcoming everyone – especially those that have come from distant lands. He also gave a warm welcome to our missionary clergy, expressing much gratitude as he acknowledged their selfless vocation to minister to us here in Australia. Monsignor Minh-Tam Nguyen from Vietnam, Father Michael Kyumu from Kenya; Father Laszlo Horvath OFM from Hungaria; Father Selva Leenaiah and Father Santhosh Nazareth CSC from India; Father Pastor Mumburi CP from Tanzania; Father Angelo Cagna CS, from Italy, Father Tomas Ruiz CS from Mexico; were all recognized and appreciated for their ministry here in Australia. Father Dean reminded us that God’s love is infinite and immeasurable and we need only to trust it.

The Cathedral was full of joy, with choirs from Africa, Vietnam, China and Indian (Tamil Nadu) – uplifting the liturgy with such gusto and vibrancy!

The church was full of people young and old, from many cultures; some who migrated recently and other who migrated more than 60 years ago! Many in national costumes, representing their culture and faith they brought to Adelaide making up our diverse multicultural church.

The Readings were beautifully read in Sri Lankan and Konkani; with the universal prayers read in Vietnamese, Albanian, Korean, Slovenian, Spanish and Indonesian.

A highlight was at the Lord’s Prayer, where Father Dean invited the congregation to pray this familiar prayer in our mother tongue, in unison! What might have been chaotic instead was a beautiful moment of unity in diversity! Concluding the Mass with prayer from Pope Francis’ for migrants and refugees; a prayer of hope where all people live in peace and harmony wherever they may be.

After the Mass, coffee and icecream awaited !!– lots of smiles were abound and God’s sun shined on all. There was a such joy on the lawns with each person inspired by our differences but united in our faith and love.



THE FEAST OF VALAINKANNI 2023 - OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH

The Feast of Vailankanni was celebrated by the Indian community on 10th September 2023 at Annunciation Church, Hectorville. This celebration was organised by the Adelaide Tamil Catholic Community (ATCC) supported by Fr Anthoni Adimai, the Chaplain to the Tamil Community. The flag hoisting Mass was held on Friday, September 1, 2023, followed by the Rosary. Nine consecutive days of novenas were held in various houses. Father Anthoni sincerely thanked the families that hosted these prayer evenings and those who joined this prayerful worship as the statue of Our Lady of Vailankanni travelled from family to family during this time of the Novena.

On Sunday September 10th, 2023, at 2.30 p.m., the celebration commenced with a procession of the statue of Our Lady of Vailankanni on the St Joseph's school oval.

The Feast day was attended by more than 200 faithful. The rosary was recited in Hindi, Tamil, English, Konkani and Malayalam, and the statue was processed into the church. The mass began with the traditional Aarathi – with the altar prepared with much love and care - with flowers, lights and decorations. The choir was exquisite showing the tamil music and the talent of the various parishioners.

The main celebrant was Father Matthew Newman, who humbly was joined by eight Indian Priests. The homily centred around Mary, her birth and devotion and the beautiful faith the Indian community has brought to Adelaide particularly Hectorville this day. Father Mathew also took the opportunity to thank the missionary priests for their faith, their courage, and their strength in a sometimes challenging climate (when ministering abroad)– the people responded with spontaneous applause which showed that his words had touched the grateful hearts of our faithful here in Adelaide.

At the end of the Mass, the flag was lowered and everyone was invited for fellowship and hospitality after the Mass.



THE FEAST OF ST MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA 2023



On the 10th September, 2023, the Albanian Catholic Community came together to honour their patron Saint, Mother Teresa of Calcutta in a beautiful Mass held at Mater Christi Church at Seaton celebrated by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan DD and concelebrated by Father Tomas Ruiz CS, PP of Seaton, and Father Angelo Cagna CS, Italian Chaplain to the Seaton Community.

Beginning with a procession around the grounds of the Mater Christi Church; the community prayed the rosary together in Albanian, Italian and English.

This was a very special day – as two great women were remembered, revered and prayed for – St Mother Teresa of Calcutta – deeply loved by the community for her care for the poor

And

The Franciscan Sisters of St Anthony – who serve in the Seaton Parish, were celebrating another step in the beatification of their foundress: Mother Miradio of the Providence of St Gaetano!

During the Homily, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan read out the decree for Mother Miradio, endorsed by Pope Francis. This was a very proud and awaited occasion for the Franciscan Sister of St Anthony who have been in Adelaide serving since the late 90's, invited to minister Pastoral Care at our Aged Care Facilities. Their Pastoral care work extends to the physical, emotional, recreational, cultural and spiritual needs of the care recipients as well as providing assistance and support to their families.

It is obvious these two women and their legacy of sisters live out the mission of Jesus in a very real way.

Statue of St Mother Teresa and in the Mass erected by the Albanian Community, supported by the Mater Christi church was unveiled in 2018. It was an event that united the many different cultural communities that celebrate Mass at Mater Christi every weekend.

Parish Priest, Father Tomas, praised the community the sisters and the Albanian Community showing the deep love he has for all his people, as the Albanian Community shared this feast and their joy with the Franciscan Sisters of St Anthony – Sr Quintillia, Sr Judith, Sr Dora and Sr Philomena were all present and participated in a blessing along with the Archbishop of their foundress.

After the Mass the people enjoyed a meal together, and watched the amazing Albanian Dance School performance.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MYANMAR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The Adelaide Myanmar Catholic Community celebrated their 10th Anniversary in Adelaide on Saturday 30th September, 2023, at 1.30pm at the Holy Family Church in Parafield Gardens.

This special event has been long awaited by the community with special guests from Melbourne as well as their good shepherd Father Peter Zin and Father Luka who travelled all the way from Melbourne to be part of this very special event.

Father Roderick O'Brien, a pivotal figure in the establishment of this dynamic community, presided over this unique Mass. Assisting him were priests Fr. Shibu Jacob MSFS and Fr. James Thomson, joined by Deacon Arturo Jimenea, affectionately referred to as the 'father' of the Myanmar Community. A warm reception was extended to the Canossian sisters - Sr. My Vu, Jessika, and Elsa - all of whom play significant roles in nurturing and tending to this expanding community. Father Roderick's homily centred around "thanksgiving" on many levels.

The prayers of the dedicated community touched the hearts of many, as they implored the Lord for peace to envelop their homeland and for prosperity in their new home, Australia. They also conveyed their appreciation for the warm welcome offered by the Australian people and expressed gratitude to nations worldwide that have embraced migrants and refugees.

A humble ceremony of gratitude took place for those who were presented with a splendid, traditional Burmese shawl and a special commemorative t-shirt tailored for this significant occasion! In return, the recipients expressed heartfelt and genuine appreciation to the wonderful community for their unwavering love and dedication to their faith and congregation.

After Mass everyone was invited to enjoy a feast in the Church Hall and enjoy the beautiful hospitality of the Adelaide Myanmar Catholic Community with festivities and dancing going well into the evening.



OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS AT THE HUNGARIAN CHURCH

On Sunday the 8th of October, the Hungarian Community had its annual festa, the celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of Hungary.

The celebration coincided with the actual day on which it is celebrated in Hungary.

King Stephen I, the first Hungarian king (997–1038), offered his country to Mary as the patroness of the Hungarians (Magyarok Nagyasszonya) at the end of his reign.

As a consequence, the country was often referred to as Mary's realm, the Regnum Marianum.

Father Laszlo Horvath OFM celebrated the Eucharist at 11am which was followed by a communal lunch. Members of the German community were present as well as a number of people from the Spanish community.

It was good to see the diversity of languages and cultures at this celebration in hour of Our Blessed Mother.

Father Laszlo's 30th anniversary of priesthood was celebrated at this Mass – commemorating 30 years of ordination on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi for this very special long standing Franciscan Priest in our MCPW Network.



CHINESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY INSTALL THEIR NEW COMMITTEE



The new Chinese Catholic Community committee has been established and were installed by Father Stan Lim on Sunday the 5th of November, 2023 at St Joseph's church Tranmere. We welcome Ms Louisa Au as the new coordinator to represent this committed community.

THE FEAST OF ST DANIEL COMBONI 2023



The African Choir along with the amazing liturgical dance group enriched the celebration in St Francis Xavier Cathedral on Sunday the 15th of October as we celebrated the Feast of St Daniel Comboni in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. One parishioner, so moved by the celebration shared:

“The Choir was magnificent and an inspiration to all who attended.”

The main celebrant, Father Dean Marin, Vicar General, offered this special feast in honour of a Saint who was a leading force in tackling injustice and slavery in Sudan and South Sudan. Priests, Fr Michael Musyoka Kyumu, Fr. Denis Ssemuju, and Fr Dominic Okwadha along with Deacon Alfred Donat, concelebrated the Mass – not withstanding a beautiful thank you from the Vicar General. Father Dean not only gave thanks for the missionaries TO Africa (St Daniel Comboni) but took the opportunity to thank the missionaries FROM Africa - our African brothers in Christ ministering to us here in Adelaide. Father Dean’s homily invited us to be “witnesses of the living faith” and “promote and pray for peace” as we attempt to imitate Christ in all that we do.

Four young people were baptised, and one young man was Confirmed, completing the sacraments of initiation by receiving Holy Communion for the first time.

We always give special thanks to Mr Clement Kuek who works with heart and passion to ensure these special feast day events are enjoyed by all! After Mass everyone was invited to enjoy a delicious feast filling the Cathedral Hall and enjoying the beautiful hospitality of the African Catholic Community.

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