

# REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2009

## Liturgy Notes

***For use on or around 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009  
(22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)***

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Preparation - The key to good liturgy is thorough preparation. Adapt these notes to suit your congregation. Invite people of different ages, gender and ethnicity to prepare the sacred space, to participate in the Procession, to speak the Welcome, to be readers and to engage in any other tasks. It is helpful to notify these people in advance.

In many parishes a number of languages are spoken. Some of these could be incorporated into the liturgy, always respecting its structure and balance. A reading could be done in another language, and the English translation included in the bulletin or electronically. Some of the Intercessions could be translated into another language. Appropriate hymns in other languages could be sung.

The Church could be decorated with flags; there could be a large globe in front of the altar and/or a map of the world on a wall.

Entrance Procession - The procession could include people of different nationalities in national dress, bringing flags and cultural symbols (Don't forget the Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags).

Welcome - Today is the day the Australian Church invites us to pray for refugees and migrants in our country. Some of us may be refugees and migrants, and certainly most of us are the descendants of refugees or migrants. Australia is a special place. Our population has a rich cultural mix, thanks to the refugees and migrants who have made this country their home over the years. Today, let us celebrate the richness of our nation, with its population drawn from various countries, races, cultures and religions. Let us pray that we can make this special place a sacred space. Let us resolve to be inclusive, to welcome the stranger, and to create a harmonious and multicultural nation that offers freedom, peace, democracy, acceptance and opportunity to all.

## **Gathering Rite and Opening Prayer**

**Leader:** With respect and gratitude for the original custodians of this land, we gather together today to affirm in hope and faith that we can create a sacred space in which we give thanks to God for all who live in Australia.

### **Let us pray:**

God, You are the source of human dignity, and it is in your image that we are created. Pour out on us the Spirit of love and compassion.

Enable us to reverence each person, to reach out to those in need, to value and appreciate those who differ from us, to share the resources of our nation, to receive the gifts offered to us by people from other cultures.

Grant us the voice and courage to speak out against injustice, stand up for the oppressed, and embrace the marginalized. Help us to remember that we are all one in the Body of Christ.

**Amen**

### **Penitential Prayer:**

God, you call us to be in relationship, building community with one another, working with one another, supporting and healing one another, but we have turned our back on our neighbour when they have been in need.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God, you call us into a community working for the common good of all people, making choices that bring hope, justice, truth and freedom to our world, yet we have failed to speak out against injustice and lift up the oppressed

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

God, you call us into community with the whole of creation, always cherishing, nurturing and renewing the earth. But we have taken what you have given and not shared it with those around us.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **Absolution**

God through his forgiveness draws you closer to him and in him closer to one another.

**Amen**

**Liturgy of the Word: Readings:**

1. Roman Catholic Lectionary: Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-8; Psalm 45.2-5; James 1.17-18, 21-27; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23

2. Australian Lectionary: Song of Songs 2.8-13; Psalm 45.1-2, 6-9; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8, 14-23

**Sermon / Homily Notes:**

Each set of Readings can be linked with today's celebration of Refugee and Migrant Sunday, as they invite us to respond to the Word of God by changing our way of thinking and even our way of being. While our society and political climate encourages individual choice, as Christians we are invited to choose what is for the common good. Contrary to this invitation would be an attitude of self-centeredness, overprotection of our way of life, the exclusion of others from our nation, the preservation of our culture at all costs.

## **Prayer of the Faithful / Intercessions**

Leader: Let us pray to the God who welcomes and provides for all, who hears our prayers and in whose image we are made.

- We pray for the Church: that Christ may be more visible in our commitment to serve God and all people and in our openness to continuous conversion to the Gospel and its loving concern for the poor. God of grace; **hear our prayer.**
- We pray for refugees: that God's presence will give them comfort in their insecurity, and that our efforts will bring them hope and justice. God of grace; **hear our prayer.**
- We pray for all who have made Australia their home. May they live in peace, happiness and prosperity. May we all be enriched by the values, customs and cultures that we share. God of grace; **hear our prayer.**
- Grant the people of Australia tolerance, openness and respect, so that we may welcome the stranger, offer support to those who have recently arrived, and give comfort to the homesick. God of grace; **hear our prayer.**
- Help us to change our way of thinking, to stop protecting our standard of living at the cost of developing nations and their people's quality of life. Help us to live simply so that others may simply live. God of grace; **hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of all creation, hear our prayers for all who are made in your image and likeness. We make our prayer through Christ, Your Son. **Amen**

**Sign of Peace:**

*Participants could be invited to offer one another a sign of peace, using their first language and traditional/cultural gesture.*

Leader: Christ came and proclaimed the gospel: peace to those who are far off and peace to those who are near.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**The Lord's Prayer:**

*Our Father could be said, and participants invited to pray it in their mother tongue.*

**Final Blessing**

God bless our eyes, that we may recognise injustice.

God bless our ears, that we may hear the cry of the stranger.

God bless our mouths, that we may speak words of welcome to newcomers.

God bless our shoulders, that we may bear the weight of struggling for justice.

God bless our hands, that we may work together with all people to establish peace.

God bless our hearts, that we may be transformed into witnesses of truth, justice and love.

And the blessing of God almighty, the father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen**

## **Hymns**

The Deer's Cry: St Patrick's Breastplate (from CD The Pilgrim, Shaun Davey). Who will speak: (from CD Agape, Marty Haugen). On Holy Ground: (from CD Agape, Marty Haugen)  
Australian Hymn Book Numbers 391 ; 185; 431;72; 532  
Together in Song , Numbers 690; 421  
Sing Alleluia, Numbers 42; 63  
Alleluia Aotearoa , Numbers 82; 44; 125; 59

## **Hymn Books:**

As One Voice Volumes 1 & 2 – (has CDs/tapes); 2/1 Clap Your Hands All You Nations (John L. Bell & Graham Maule); 2/3 Christ Be Our Light (Bernadette Farrell); 2/139 Gather Us O God (Monica Brown)