



CHRISTMAS 2022

WELCOMING

Displaced Persons in the Parish and Community



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OUR TEAM

Dcn Greg Lowe, Director
Grace Kurniawan, Office Manager

SOCIALS

@wacatholicmro



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nigel Hayward, Chair
Sr Jacqueline Jones, Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition
Michael King, Diocese of Broome
Deborah Robertson, Diocese of Bunbury
Dcn Paul Reid, Caritas Australia
Francis Leong, Catholic Mission
Renay Grech, Treasurer

CONTACT

WA Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office

23 Victoria Square, Perth 6000
T: (08) 9220 5950
E: wacmro@perthcatholic.org.au



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dcn Greg Lowe

Visa-holders continue to be vulnerable in the Perth community as the 'post-pandemic' phase morphs into a looming economic downturn which means awareness of work rights continues to be important - especially for those for whom English is not their preferred language. WACMRO will be holding a work rights session early next year for visa holders.

On a different note, the Catholic Church in Australia celebrated the annual World Day of Migrants & Refugees (Sunday, 25 September). Many parishes in the archdiocese took the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contribution of migrants and refugees to the local church and the Perth community. This is such a respectful thing to do and so important to acknowledge - especially when the Catholic Church is twice as multicultural as Australia's other Christian denominations.*

May the Christmas break provide us time for reflection and relaxation even as we remain mindful of the many needs of our fellow human beings - especially those persons and their families who have been impacted by modern slavery this year.

*2021 National Church Life Survey

Ukrainian Rapid Response

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



Parish Modern Slavery Project

The Project is set for 2023 and will use a head-heart-hands model of community engagement.

The Project will provide the parish with multiple opportunities to:

- be informed about the current reality of modern slavery
- learn about Church teachings on human dignity and the Gospel call to neighbour love.
- implement a key strategy to eradicate the risk of modern slavery from parish supply chains.

If your parish is interested in signing on to the Parish Modern Slavery Project, there will be an information session early in the new year.



SCAN ME

Scan the QR code to view The Record article: 'What does a slavery-proofed parish look like?'

SWAP IN & SWAP OUT

These practical steps help eliminate the risk of modern slavery from the supply chains accessed by the parish for parish morning tea events.

1 IDENTIFY

Identify the coffee, tea, and hot chocolate you regularly provide for parishioners at morning teas.

2 CHECK THE LABEL

Check the label on the product to see if it displays one of these certificates:



WACMRO

West Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office
An Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

3 SWAP

If no certificate is visible on the label, swap out your existing tea, coffee and hot chocolate and swap in a **certified** coffee, tea, and hot chocolate product from your usual supplier.

The three biggest supermarkets now have certified tea, coffee, and hot chocolate products on their shelves.

Contact WACMRO if your parish would like to get involved in the **Parish Modern Slavery Project**: wacmro@perthcatholic.org.au

Draw Near Project

Two parish-school faith communities were involved in the Project this year: Our Lady Of Mercy, Girrawheen, and Sacred Heart, Thornlie.

The Project assisted vulnerable asylees in Perth with food and hygiene care packages.

The Project also provided an opportunity for school staff and parishioners to learn about asylees living in their postcode and examine Church teachings regarding the displaced person.

Persons seeking asylum are extremely vulnerable as they await their status as refugees to be legally recognised through issuance of a permanent visa.



Principal Ondine and Fr 'Sam' from Our Lady of Mercy Catholic community partnered to complete a Draw Near Project in August.

The Draw Near Project is part of the **Welcoming Parish Initiative** from WACMRO. The Initiative is made up of a Project, Program, and a Process as follows:

- the *Draw Near Project* assists visa-holders in the parish neighbourhood
- the *Welcoming Actions Program* is designed to create culturally safe parishes
- the *Funded Welcoming Process* provides opportunities for refugee support from the Catholic community.

Members of the Thornlie Catholic community, Thornlie, dropping off food packages for distribution among asylees.





School Refugee Bursary

The School Refugee Bursary provides a student from a refugee background with a funded placement at a Catholic School.

With the recent influx of school-aged children from Ukraine, school placements have been a priority for the families.

WACMRO approached 9 schools to place some 16 Ukrainian children.

I want to thank CEWA schools across the metropolitan area for their support of this displaced community.

Catholic School Principals have offered placements, waived tuition fees, provided uniform and welcomed these children. It has been inspiring to witness such Christian leadership.

If you are a school and would like to register an interest in supporting a newly arrived child, please contact WACMRO.

Cultural Competency for Mission Seminar

This year, two seminars were completed.

The seminars are designed to create spiritually and culturally safe, authentic, enculturated faith communities.

Seminar 1 was offered to religious and Seminar 2 was attended by Safeguarding Officers from around the archdiocese.

I am grateful for the work of Mr Patrick Fox, a Certified trainer Berlitz Cultural Orientations Model® from Catholic Mission Australia in facilitating the seminars and WACMRO looks forward to providing the seminars in 2023.

