



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR EVANGELISATION, LAITY AND MINISTRY

MEDIA STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Time to deepen solidarity with migrants and refugees

Australian Catholics are encouraged to reflect on stories of hope as they mark the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on Sunday, October 5.

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office has produced a set of resources based on the theme for this year “Migrants, Missionaries of Hope”, which is aligned with the Jubilee of Migrants.

Pope Leo XIV has invited the faithful to reflect on the deep connection between migration and hope, and to renew their commitment to welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants and refugees.

“In a world darkened by war and injustice, even when all seems lost, migrants and refugees stand as messengers of hope,” Pope Leo wrote in his official message marking the day.

“Their courage and tenacity bear heroic testimony to a faith that sees beyond what our eyes can see.”

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees resources are available at: <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2025>

They include:

- Pope Leo XIV’s official message
- Archbishop Christopher Prowse’s reflection
- Liturgical and prayer resources for parish and school communities
- Personal stories and reflections

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry, said: “Taking time to sit back and listen to some of their wonderful stories generates a great sense of hope and an appreciation of their courage. For this reason, they are among the great evangelisers and leaders of faith in our Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope.”

Fr Khalid Marogi, national director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, said: “These resources are designed to inspire action and reflection across Australia. We invite all

communities to use them to deepen their understanding and solidarity with migrants and refugees, who continue to enrich our Church and society."

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees has been observed by the Catholic Church since 1914.

It is a time to express concern for vulnerable people on the move, to pray for their challenges, and to raise awareness about the opportunities migration offers.

For inquiries or further information, please contact:

Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO)

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