



What's Up? is a newsletter of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care. It provides A GLIMPSE of recent, current and forthcoming events in multicultural and cross cultural pastoral care in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and beyond. P: (07) 3324 3451 | W: [cmpec@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cmpec@bne.catholic.net.au)  
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# What's Up?

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## A vision of the future

“For the first time in years that I have attended the Multicultural Mass, I became aware of just how natural the communities have come to fit within the archdiocese.”

have escaped dreadful conflict in that region.

A number of parishes are already doing great work in accompanying newly arrived families as they settle in Australia. Bracken Ridge, Bald Hills, parts of Redcliffe, Woodridge and surrounding areas, are already very much involved in this accompaniment of scores of families that have arrived. In the archdiocese, we are humbled by the resilience, devotion to family and commitment to faith shown by each and every one of these families.

There are a number of other traditional Christian churches who have also shown great support to these families.

Let us consider, as a Church, the words of Archbishop Mark: “We ask that this gathering will become a prophecy, a vision of the future that beckons, a future of the Church that is genuinely catholic, genuinely universal, but also a prophecy of what lies ahead for this nation of migrants and refugees.”

**Clyde Cosentino (CMPC Director)**

I witnessed at this year’s Multicultural Mass a cohesion of singular purpose amongst the many cultural communities in the archdiocese.

For the first time in years that I have attended the Multicultural Mass, I became aware of just how natural the communities have come to fit within the archdiocese. Gone is the stigma of the communities being seen as ‘exotic faith outposts’ who come to the centre stage once a year at a Multicultural Mass.

The size of the communities, the incredible amount of devotional liturgical events celebrated by the communities within parishes, and the many Catholics within the communities who are actively involved in the parishes, is a concrete example of Archbishop Mark’s statement that the Church is ‘crossing

a great historic threshold’ from what we have seen it to be – namely an Anglo-Celtic church, to what the reality is – a diverse multicultural Church.

At this year’s Multicultural Mass, more than 1200 people from around 35 countries celebrated. It was a sheer joy and privilege to be part of such a gathering.

While the archdiocese is blessed to have so many communities in its midst, it is also blessed in seeing a number of new and emerging communities growing in faith such as the Brazilians, Congolese, Myanmar, Sri Lankans, Tongans and Fijians, to name a few.

In particular, the archdiocese is seeing the growth of Christian communities coming from Syria and Iraq who

### **DATE CLAIMER: ACMRO National Conference | February 2017**

The Fifth Biennial National Conference on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees hosted by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office will be held in Melbourne in February next year. Information and updates will be made available on the ACMRO website in due course.





### Latino American

## A spiritual and blessed experience

*Scalabrinian priest, Fr. Ignacio (Nacho) Gutierrez who is Chaplain for the Latino American Catholic Community in Brisbane and Parish Priest at Holy Spirit Parish New Farm shares an important event in their community:*



In the context of the Jubilee Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francisco last year, the Latino American Catholic Community in Brisbane celebrated at the beginning of this month of September 2016 a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Stephen. Around 150 people attended this spiritual and blessed experience. The crossing of

the Holy Door gave us a deep sense of connectedness with the Mercy of God. Walking, praying and meditating together as a community of faith strengthened our bond as members of the Body of Christ. Receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation and participating in the Holy Eucharist strengthened our spiritual lives and

our awareness of the importance of walking toward sanctity by serving one another. Our faith was renewed and we finished this pilgrimage with a sense of gratitude to God and to our Catholic Local Church for helping us to live, express and nurture our Faith.

## Pilgrimages at Marian Valley



September this year saw a number of pilgrimages happening at Marian Valley in Canungra: the Maltese, Slovenian, Mauritian, Korean, Filipino and the Italian Community (photo on left, thank you to Dino Varrichio). Next to go on annual pilgrimage are the Ukrainian (9 October) and Indonesian (29 October) communities. The Marian Valley is run by the Pauline fathers and brothers). For more information visit <http://www.marianvalley.org/>

## Albanian Community celebrates

The Albanian Community and parishioners of Kingston-Marsden Parish celebrated the canonization of Mother Teresa on Sunday 4 September. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. The Brisbane Missionaries of Charity who were also at the celebration brought with them a relic of Mother Teresa.

The photo below was shared by Archbishop Mark on his Facebook post.





## Multicultural teams enjoy a game of soccer

The Timor Leste soccer team under the care of Canossian Sister Odete Moreira recently enjoyed a day of friendship game at Roma St Parklands with the St Stephen's Young Adult Ministry under the care of Canossian Sr Thao Nguyen and Fr Leonard Uzuegbu.

Players for the multicultural St Stephen's YAM team are from Australia, Nigeria, El Salvador, Vietnam, Brazil, Colombia, Iraq, the Congo, Philippines, Egypt, India, Samoa and the Pacific Islands. (Thank you to St Stephen's YAM for the photos.)



The next soccer match will be between the Timor Leste and Latin American teams on 9 October, 2pm at Gregory Park Milton. All welcome.



## Filipino Community to build new shrine

The Filipino Community is one of the first few communities to have their shrine built at the Marian Valley in Canungra.

Built in 1995, the Filipino shrine houses the icon of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the statues of Santo Nino, Filipino saints San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod and the Black Nazarene. After welcoming Filipino pilgrims for many years, the present shrine has gone beyond repair. It was decided that a more cost-effective way was to build a new shrine on the same site.

The Filipino community went on their annual pilgrimage at the Marian Valley on 24 September. Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Fr Terry Nueva (Filipino Chaplain & Acacia Ridge Parish Priest) and the Pauline fathers. This was followed by rosary, procession and community picnic.



## Brazilians share an atmosphere of fun and joy

A vibrant young community, the Brasileiros Catolicos em Brisbane held a fundraising event at St Patrick's Church parish hall on the 1st of October. Proceeds will go to activities that foster solidarity and fraternity in the community.

On sale at this fundraising event were an assortment of Brazilian coffee, cakes, pies, bread, cheese, fruit juice, to name a few.

Photos on the right show the community playing some 'serious bingo'. Fr Paul Mahony SM (inset) shows his winning bingo cards. Fr Paul comes to Brisbane each month to celebrate Mass

with the community. (Photos courtesy of Katia Torres.)

The Brazilian Community gathers for Mass on the first Sunday of each month at 5pm at St Patrick's Church in Fortitude Valley.





## Multicultural Mass 2016

### Not a show but an affirmation of faith and unity



**Offertory Procession: Archbishop Mark Coleridge prepares to receive Mass offering carried by the South Sudanese community.**

Far from being 'a show of cultures', the Multicultural Mass that occurs every year at the Cathedral of St Stephen and the cultural celebrations that follow is a humble but powerful affirmation of faith and unity that is truly present across the rich and diverse cultures in the Brisbane archdiocese.

Now on its 44th year, this year's Multicultural Mass was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August at the Cathedral of St Stephen in Brisbane. Mass was celebrated for the fourth year running by Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

In his homily, Archbishop Mark said that migrants and refugees are God's gift and that they are an integral presence in the life of the Australian church and nation.

"In some ways you are the future of the Catholic Church in this part of the

world." the Archbishop said. "You haven't come here by accident; you come here as the gift of God and we need you." he said.

"Here at the Cathedral today, we give thanks for the great variety of communities that make up the Church. And we ask that this gathering will become a prophecy, a vision of the future that beckons, a future of the Church that is genuinely catholic, genuinely universal, but also a prophecy of what lies ahead for this nation of migrants and refugees."

The Chaplains and priests ministering to ethnic communities in Brisbane who concelebrated with Archbishop Mark were Fr Albert Chan MSC (Chinese), Fr Pio Hendi OFM Cap (Indonesian), Fr Paul Mahony SM (Brazilian), Fadi Salame (Maronite), Fr Stephen Kumyangi (South Sudanese),

"Here at the Cathedral today, we give thanks for the great variety of communities that make up the Church. We ask that this gathering will become a prophecy, a vision of the future that beckons, a future of the Church that is genuinely catholic, genuinely universal, but also a prophecy of what lies ahead for this nation of migrants and refugees."

**- Archbishop Mark Coleridge  
Multicultural Mass 2016**

Fr Francis Elie (Melkite), Fr Joseph Vu SVD (Vietnamese), Fr Nacho Gutierrez CS (Latin American), Fr Terry Nueva (Filipino) and Fr Fransiskus Yangmintia CS (New Farm).

As in previous years, Multicultural Mass was held in the archdiocese in observance of the National Migrant and Refugee Week which this year carries the theme from Pope Francis' message for the for the 102<sup>nd</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees, *'Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us, The Response of the Gospel of Mercy'*.

This year's Mass had twelve choirs – the most number of choirs participating compared to past years.





## Why is Multicultural Mass important to you, your community and the archdiocese?



Below are responses from our Multicultural Mass planning representatives and ethnic chaplains:

- ⊕ Multicultural Mass is important to our Community to continue to keep our culture for our young people.
- ⊕ Multicultural Mass is very special and important to my community because we don't have our own priest to celebrate Mass in our language. And to come once a year and take part/pray in our language makes me so happy.
- ⊕ It is important because it brings different communities together; it helps people get to know each other and their cultures.
- ⊕ Multicultural Mass is very important for my community to get together with other Catholic communities and share the Word of God, pray together and also network.
- ⊕ It is important because It allows us of the same Faith to come together to praise and honour our God in our many languages, colours and diversity. It enables us to feel the unity that bonds us in Faith and momentarily remember that even in our diversity we are still one People – God's People.
- ⊕ It is one way to recognise that God is for everyone. God loves us regardless of our colour, age, country ....
- ⊕ Multicultural Mass is an extraordinary way to unite us in Faith to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ. Also it is a great opportunity to make all the communities to engage and to get to know people from different backgrounds.
- ⊕ It shows how God is in all, how God's message, although in different parts of the world, is the same Jesus. Jesus said, *for your fruits they will recognize that I'm the one.*

(Continued on page 7)

Above: Prayers of the Faithful. Below: a variety of food and cultural performances.

### *Not a show...* (Continued from page 4)

The choirs are from the Burundian, Chinese, Filipino, Italian, Korean, Latin American, Maronite Lebanese, Samoan, South Sudanese, Tongan and Vietnamese communities.

The Cathedral accommodated a standing room only of up to 1,200 attendees representing approximately 35 countries.

About 17 ethnic communities donated a variety of food that fed 'the hundreds'. Volunteers from these communities also and assisted in the orderly distribution of food and drinks.

The annual Multicultural Mass is organised by the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care in coordination with the Ethnic Ministers Group and their communities represented in a Planning Group.

(See related article on page 8: Archbishop Mark Coleridge's homily at last year's Multicultural Mass.)

**Percy Pamo Lawrence**



In the last few months, the staff of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care have done work on the following:

### CMPC assistance and referrals

From the beginning of this year to date, a total of 92 individuals and agencies have been assisted or referred to government and non-government service providers.

### Financial responsibilities in ethnic communities/Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable adults

CMPC has been working closely with the Archdiocese in ensuring all ethnic Catholic communities are undertaking their financial responsibilities under the new Archdiocesan Financial Management Policy for ethnic Catholic communities. CMPC has also been closely working with the Archdiocese regarding the processes and implementation of the archdiocesan policy on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### Newer communities

There are currently 17 established ethnic communities in the Archdiocese of Brisbane (those with appointed Migrant Chaplains and/or Pastoral Workers). The newer communities that do not have chaplains include, to name a few, the Brazilians, Congolese, Myanmarese, and Sri Lankans, Tongans and Fijians. CMPC is conscious that these

fledgling groups will need nurturing and support in order to grow into strong chaplaincies. The Italian Community is also experiencing a surge of younger transient migrants who come and go.

Meanwhile, there are communities that have been in the archdiocese for a long time but have become smaller in number and therefore no longer have chaplains – the Maltese, Albanians, Slovenians, Dutch, Portuguese, Franco Mauritian and Papua New Guineans, to name a few.

### Ethnic Ministers Group

Members of the Ethnic Ministers Group (comprised of 17 established communities mentioned previously) continue to meet every two months. Their recent meeting discussed identity and purpose. There will be further discussion on objectives, authority of such a gathering in the archdiocese, clear expectations and outcomes as well as financial responsibilities.

### Multicultural Mass in parishes

An increasing number of parishes now celebrate their own Multicultural Mass on Migrant and Refugee Sunday, or on another Sunday during the year.

### Resourcing schools and parishes

The CMPC website has a resource page that provides a short list of

resources for students, teachers and parish staff on how to celebrate Multicultural Week. The page also provides general information and resources on migrants & refugees. A number of parishes and schools across the archdiocese have tapped into these resources and have called upon CMPC to visit them.

### Response to Syrian refugees

Tasked by the Archbishop to coordinate the Archdiocesan response as to the future Syrian/Iraqi refugee intake, Clyde, in recent months, has travelled across the Archdiocese keeping deaneries and parishes informed of the government response. Clyde has also been working closely with the main settlement agencies in Queensland in relation to archdiocesan resources that can be used to assist in this response.

### Communication and social media

The CMPC website, newsletter and Facebook presence continue to provide information on the multicultural and ethno-specific happenings in the archdiocese. With CMPC being part of Evangelisation Brisbane, ethnic communities are now receiving more information on archdiocesan events. Parishes in the archdiocese are now more aware and are tapping into possibilities with ethnic communities, and vice versa.

### Archbishop Mark ... (Continued from page 8)

Archdiocese of Brisbane. A great deal of the true spiritual and human energy of this diocese is to be found in the communities that are represented in the Cathedral today and that is why this Mass matters.

In the past these so-called ethnic communities, I loathe the term, but in the past the communities represented in the cathedral were treated as exotic satellites. Well let me be clear that you are no longer satellites. You are right at the heart of what the church is and does in this part of the world. That is why I as Archbishop am keen to do whatever I can to bring the energy of your communities right to the centre of the stage in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and not be left on the margin.

In many ways the Anglo-Celtic moment, of which I myself am a product, is passing if it has not passed already. The future of the church in this country, in this archdiocese and indeed right around the world, lies in other parts of the world from which my forebears came. It is no accident that we have an Argentinian Pope and all I can say is stay tuned for more. I'm not sure where we're going but I know we are going somewhere different and that God is leading us into that future. Uncertain it may be but in many ways exciting and exhilarating as well.

So here today we look back on the journey that has led you and your communities to this country and we praise God. We praise God too for the indigenous cultures of this land and I thank David Miller for his

welcome to country. Yet to the many cultures that have come here and have put down roots in this soil, for that too I praise God here today. My praise becomes a prayer that these cultures will all become the single culture of God in this land and that all our many voices will become one voice without losing any of their difference; all our hearts will become one heart without losing any of their differences. So that from the church in the future as in the past, but with different accents and songs, there will rise the great chorus of praise; who of all the peoples of the earth makes a single people who understand that pure, unspoilt religion is living that message of the truth that draws us to this moment today. Amen. [Source: Archdiocese of Brisbane website <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/articles/homily-for-the-multicultural-mass-2015/>]



## Parishes share encounters with newly arrived families

A number of parishes in the archdiocese of Brisbane continue to open their doors to newly arrived families.

A newly arrived family from Iraq was introduced to the Holy Cross Parish Redcliffe hospitality at their 18 September Multicultural Mass and Parish Expo (photo on right).

Meanwhile, the parish of St Joseph and St Anthony in Bracken Ridge continue to share their journey with their newly arrived families, this time at a recent immersion gathering of international Ursuline Provincials (lower right photo).

Following is parish priest Fr Gerry Hefferan's post on their Parish Facebook:

*One of the immersion gatherings of international Ursuline Provincials had special guests recently. Some of our new parish families from Iraq, shared stories of their homeland in Iraq, their hard experiences in Jordan as refugees and their welcome in Brisbane. They met at St Joseph's School Bracken Ridge on Friday 23th September.*

*The Ursuline Sisters came from several countries. The mothers and fathers took the opportunity to ask them to raise awareness of the plight of Iraqi and Syrian people, who are waiting in refugee camps in Jordan,*



*Lebanon and Turkey, and in other parts of Iraq and Syria.*

*With courage and a concern for those still in refugee camps, they asked the Sisters to share what they had heard with Governments, Churches and Agencies in their own nations.*

New parish families share experience at an immersion gathering of Ursuline Provincials

*The families led the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic, the language of Jesus' day. Thank you to the Sisters and to the families for shared insights.*

(Photos courtesy of St Joseph and St Anthony in Bracken Ridge)

### Why is Multicultural Mass Important... (Continued from page 5)

- ⊕ It creates a feeling of belonging in the society. Different cultures but we come as one in Christ. It brings the community together and value their inheritance. It fosters a close connection between the Archdiocese and the community. It creates a good feeling, great atmosphere for the community that they are not distanced from their leader, but they do belong.
- ⊕ Multicultural Mass is very important and also special to my Community because it brings/binds us all together with people from other cultures who share the same faith with us. It is truly a wonderful experience for us all.
- ⊕ As Catholics, we are brothers and sisters in Christ so we have to share our faith. It is very important to our Community to improve our knowledge (of other cultures) and work in a team.
- ⊕ The importance to retain the Multicultural Mass is strong and is unique to our various Catholic traditions. I value the mass and numbers are growing larger each year.
- ⊕ Multicultural Mass is very important to us because it is a chance for each Ethnic Group (different parts of One Body) to worship together. It is a way of introducing inculturation of different countries into the Mass for all to praise and admire and an opportunity to meet one another. It is a great occasion.

**Congratulations to Chinese Catholic Community Brisbane President Helena Cheung (below, left) and Community Member Cecilia Low, who were recent recipients of an award that recognises their contribution to advancing multicultural values in the Sunnybank Community.**



Archbishop Mark Coleridge speaks on

## WHY Multicultural Mass MATTERS



From Archbishop Mark Coleridge's homily at last year's Multicultural Mass.

We hear this afternoon of the letter from

St James; now St James was the leader of the Church in Jerusalem, which was at the time the mother church. He says to us that we have been made the children of God by the message of the truth. So the question then is what is this message of the truth which has such power? It is power enough to make us no longer strangers to God but children of God and therefore no longer strangers to each other but brothers and sisters. James himself gives us a clue when he says at the very end of what we have heard. Pure unspoilt religion, and there is religion which is impure and spoilt, but pure unspoilt religion in the eyes of God is coming to the help of orphans and widows.

In the bible orphans and widows are true stars and the bible makes a great fuss about them because at this time, in the world that gave us the bible, if you were an orphan and a widow you were seriously vulnerable. There was no social welfare. Therefore the bible makes a fuss about orphans and widows because they tell the truth of human vulnerability. I stand here and look at this great gathering in the Cathedral and I see a gathering of widows and orphans; all of us and starting with me – because we are all very vulnerable. To the extent that I deny or run away from my vulnerability I line up with the scribes and Pharisees who say they are strong and they can do it all

themselves. What fools! What hypocrites, says Jesus.

So the first part of this message of truth which makes us children of God is the truth of our vulnerability; we are much more vulnerable than usually meets the eye. Yet there is a second part of this truth, and it is that the real God comes to meet us precisely at the point where we are most vulnerable; precisely at the point where we are weak and wounded. At that point God embraces us and turns our weakness into strength and our wound into a fountain. This is the God who has made himself vulnerable, weak and wounded so that we might be healed and strong. So there is the message of the truth; we are deeply and permanently vulnerable but we are infinitely embraced by a God who makes himself vulnerable with us. This is the God who takes flesh. He becomes one of us, a god with mud on the boots.

Just as each human being is vulnerable but embraced by God, each human culture has about it its own power and beauty, its own truth. God embraces every human culture just as God embraces every human weakness. Here today what we celebrate is the power and the beauty and the truth of every culture represented in this cathedral and every culture known to the earth. God takes flesh in every one of them. We listen to their songs; we hear their voices; we see their faces and in the end what we hear is the



**“We stand at a moment in the church when we are crossing a great historic threshold...**

**What you see in the world you see in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. A great deal of the true spiritual and human energy of this diocese is to be found in the communities that are represented in the Cathedral today and that is why this Mass matters.”**



song of God; we hear the voice of God in every human culture. Christ breaks down all the barriers and makes of all our many voices one voice. All our different hearts with their different accents; he makes one heart. That is what God does in Jesus.

We stand at a moment in the church when we are crossing a great historic threshold, and the threshold is this; that the face of the Bride of Christ is changing around the world and by the day. As the centre of gravity in the Catholic Church around the world moves to places like Africa, Asia and Latin America, we see all of them represented in the cathedral here this afternoon. What you see in the world you see in the

*(Continued on page 6)*