



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 | E: cmcpc@bne.catholic.net.au
www.multiculturalcare.org.au

What's Up?

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September 2020

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, community, sea, and waters where we live and work. We pay our respect to elders past, present and future and value the contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make in our society.

Archdiocesan

Multicultural Mass:

Cultures to gather in spirit

The usual 1000+ crowd that attend the annual Multicultural Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen will be reduced to just over a hundred this year due to COVID19 safety measures.

This year there is a temporary break from the usual features of past Multicultural Mass gatherings, meaning, no large-scale community sharing of food and entertainment.

There will also be an absence of the usual variety of choirs that make this yearly celebration a distinctively joyful and lively gathering of Australians from various cultures.

The good news is, more people will be able to attend Multicultural Mass 'in spirit' because this gathering will be made accessible online.

So, on Sunday, 27 September 2020, all are invited to access the webcast link archbne.org/bzw about 10 minutes before Mass start time of 2:30pm.

People are advised not to attend Multicultural Mass at the Cathedral on this day as only a limited number of cultural community representatives have been registered to attend Mass.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge will be main celebrant, and priests from various cultural communities will concelebrate.

In observance of the
106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees
Theme: *Forced like Jesus Christ to flee*

Archdiocese of Brisbane 

MULTICULTURAL MASS

2020

National Migrant and Refugee Week - 21-27 September 2020

Seed of Grace

Live web cast: archbne.org/bzw

Sunday, 27 September
2:30 pm Cathedral of St Stephen



Multicultural Mass is an opportunity to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity and the immense possibilities that this richness brings to the life and faith of local church communities and wider societies.

The Mass is held in observance of the annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees (27 September) and National Migrant and Refugee Week (21-27 September).

Parishes and schools are encouraged to hold their own parish or school Multicultural Mass (at any time of the year if 27 September does not suit, or encourage parishioners and students to access the Archdiocese of Brisbane's live webcast. More information on this link: <http://multiculturalcare.org.au/action/archdiocesan-multicultural-mass/> Further queries, please contact Percy on 3324 3451.

106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees - 27 September 2020

Suggestions for parishes, communities & families

The 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be on Sunday, 27 September 2020.

Reflect and take action

Parishes, schools and communities are invited to reflect and take action on alleviating the needs of vulnerable migrants and refugees.

With his message for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, '**Forced like Jesus Christ to flee**', Pope Francis asks us to focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people around the world.

The Pope's reflection is grounded on the experience of Jesus Christ and his parents as displaced persons and refugees.

Resources that would aid individual or online group reflections can be found on the Migrants & Refugees Section website <https://migrants-refugees.va/>

Raise awareness

Resources found on the Migrants & Refugees Section website come in the form of short videos, graphics, quotes and images are also useful for parishes, schools and communities that use digital communication tools for raising awareness, such as e-news bulletins, Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

Over the last few months from April this year, the main theme 'Forced like Jesus Christ to flee' was further developed into six sub-themes. The following videos have been released:

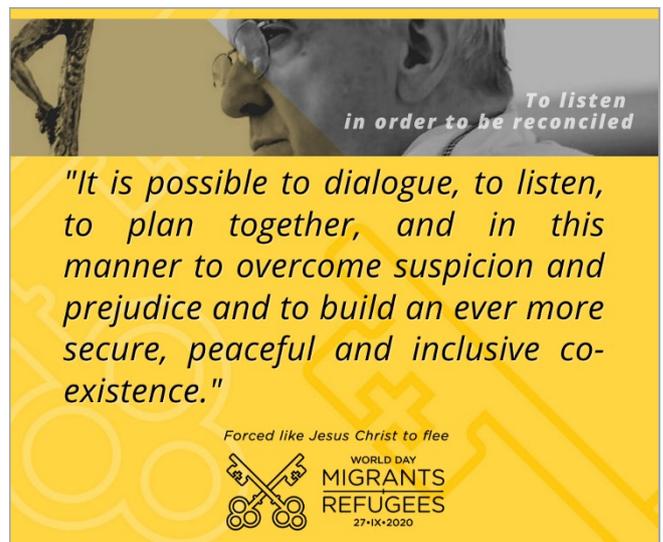
- ⊕ **to know in order to understand;** [\[Pope Francis' video 1\]](#)
- ⊕ **to be close in order to serve;** [\[Pope Francis' video 2\]](#)
- ⊕ **to listen in order to be reconciled;** [\[Pope Francis' video 3\]](#)
- ⊕ **to share and thus to grow;** [\[Pope Francis' video 4\]](#)
- ⊕ **to involve in order to promote;** [\[Pope Francis' video 5\]](#),
- ⊕ **to collaborate and therefore to build.** [\[coming soon\]](#)

Read up

Pope Francis gives enormous importance to the plight of the millions of forgotten men, women and children forced to migrate within their own countries and known internationally as 'internally displaced people' (IDP).

To raise awareness on the plight of the internally displaced people, and what we as a Church can do to alleviate their suffering, the Migrants & Refugees Section produced the document 'Pastoral Orientations on Internally Displaced People'.

The document builds upon the teachings of the Catholic Church about the internally displaced and provides practical guidelines for local Churches affected by forced displacement and identifies pastoral practices which can be carried out and renewed. The resource is available in various languages and formats <https://migrants-refugees.va/en/idp/>



More of the above social media resources are available on the Vatican's Migrant and Refugee Section. <https://migrants-refugees.va/>

Suggestions for parishes, communities & families

How about online gatherings?

Parish Multicultural Mass

Organise a parish Multicultural Mass and, just like the Sunday Mass, make this available online (livestream from Parish Facebook page or other platforms). Ensure Mass participants in the church adhere to parish COVID19 safety protocols.

Migrant and Refugee Kit.

A good parish resource produced by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office will be available online from 14 September 2020 <https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/>. It offers prayers and reflections for use in preparation for World Day for Migrants and Refugees.

Online Multicultural Lunch

Host an online Multicultural lunch (or breakfast, or dinner) and invite friends who, or whose parents, come from other countries. Use this as an opportunity to catch up and tell stories of welcome. Don't forget to start and end with Prayer.

Online YouTube Night (or Day)

Host a YouTube Night (or Day) and choose video clips or documentaries that explore or reflect on migrant and refugee issues.

Examples:

Jesus was a refugee

<https://youtu.be/oRLpc54D5Jw>

The Reality of Persecutions

<https://youtu.be/42cHxJZwriY>

Exile

https://youtu.be/xSua9_WhQFE

The Book of Exodus (Part 1 of 2)

<https://youtu.be/Ouf-PgW7rqE>

The Book of Exodus (Part 2 of 2)

<https://youtu.be/b0GhR-2kPKI>

The Refugee Council of Australia's resource page <https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/video-resources/> features **stories of successful refugees** such as **Munjed Al Muderis** (Orthopaedic Surgeon and Clinical Lecturer), **Hieu Van Le** (Governor of South Australia) and **Najeeba Wazefadost** (Founder and President of Hazara Women of Australia).

Read a book about migrants/refugees

Refugee Week UK suggests a line up of books about exile.

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/read-a-book-about-exile/>

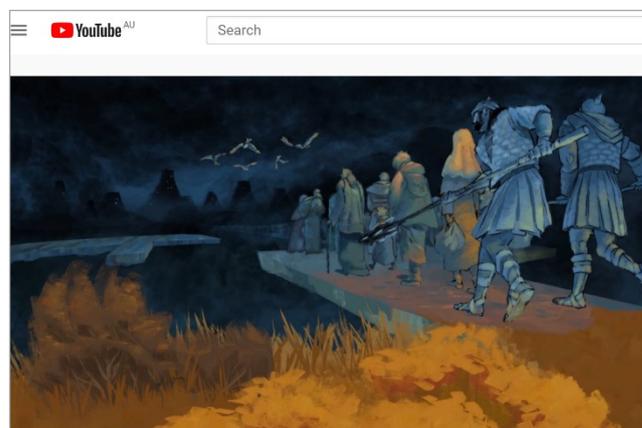
Best source is the **Scripture**. For online bible users, search the word 'strangers', 'sojourners' or 'foreigners'.

Next year?

Be extra keen and hopeful. Pray for the end of the pandemic and plan next year's activities.



Check out last year's ACMRO Migrant and Refugee Kit until the 2020 Kit becomes available from 14 September 2020 <https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/>



Introducing... the

The ministry of **Multicultural Pastoral Care** now sits within **Evangelisation Brisbane's** area of **Inclusion**, alongside other ministries including Ecumenism & Inter-religious Relations, the Reconciliation Action Plan initiative and Justice, Peace & Ecology.



At the heart of the Catholic Church is the call to love. This means that everyone is welcome in the Catholic Church. It is true that at times the church have not been the best at welcoming and there is a need to work on developing intentional pathways of inclusion.

Led by Associate Director Eric Robinson, the Inclusion Team will work towards identifying and removing barriers of exclusion within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Vision

The vision for the Inclusion initiative is that every person from every 'tribe and nation' and from every perspective, situation and orientation is welcomed, included and represented in the Catholic Church. We aim to create a 'unity which is never uniformity, but a multifaceted and inviting harmony' (Joy of the Gospel, 117).

This means the development of intentional pathways of inclusion that enable people from all walks of life to be able to journey toward the Eucharistic centre.

It also means that for those who don't wish to walk this journey, we are intentional about listening and understanding their story in order that they know that they are loved and valued.

The Inclusion initiative is therefore, committed to identifying and removing barriers of exclusion within the Archdiocese of Brisbane, whether that be unconscious or conscious, institutional or individual, through fostering strategies of engagement, empowerment, equality and equity.

What the Inclusion Team intends to do in the next few years

Over the next few years, the Inclusion Team hopes to:

- ⊕ Develop a skilled and committed EB workforce by facilitating professional development for EB staff to increase their cross-cultural skills and awareness; understanding of ecumenism and inter-religious relations; and their dialogue and knowledge; and their commitment to social justice issues, ecology, First Nations peoples and the Archdiocesan Reconciliation Action Plan
- ⊕ Foster and coordinate multicultural pastoral care in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and beyond
- ⊕ Create deepened awareness and commitment in parishes on social justice, peace and ecology issues
- ⊕ Deepen solidarity with First Nation Peoples, Refugees, People Seeking Asylum, and the people of West Papua with a view to understanding the injustices they face
- ⊕ Implement the Reconciliation Action Plan
- ⊕ Implement the Plenary Council outcomes including developing pathways of inclusion for all people with a focus on those with disabilities, women, the divorced and remarried, and members of the LGBTIQA+ community
- ⊕ Promote the essential nature of ecumenism and inter-religious relations to the local church in the Archdiocese through prayer, communication, education and building relationships with other Christians and those of other faiths.



Eric
Team Leader

Peter
Justice, Peace
and Ecology,
and guide dog
Mack



Christian Unity and Inter-religious relations

Reconciliation Action Plan

Multicultural Pastoral Care



Margaret



Cynthia



Percy



Jess



and Tricia (1-day volunteer)

Multicultural Pastoral Care : Updates

Rest in Peace

Heartfelt condolences and prayers for Fr Martinus, Fr Stefan and Fr Fadi and their families:

- Fr Martinus Situmorang OFM Cap (Indonesian Chaplain) whose father passed away in Indonesia on 7 August.
- Fr Stefan Sapun (Ukrainian Chaplain) whose Associate Pastor, Fr William Lawrence died on 5 July. Photo on right: Fr William Lawrence (standing on left) with Fr Stefan and two Ukrainian parish ladies when the Ukrainian Parish hosted the Community Chaplains Meeting in August 2018.
- Fr Fadi Salame (Maronite) whose childhood friend (and part of the family) was killed in the Beirut explosion disaster.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Beirut and the Lebanese diaspora. May Lebanon recover from the recent explosion disaster in Beirut. May they rest in peace.

The Maronite Eparchy has launched the **Beirut Disaster Relief Appeal** in collaboration with Maronites on Mission Australia. All funds raised will go to the many families in urgent need of help in Beirut. Donations will be distributed in collaboration with charitable organisations on the ground in Lebanon and can be made on the Maronites on Mission website (www.maronitesonmission.com). Prayer for Beirut in English is on this link <https://theoblogy.org.au/prayer-for-beirut/>



Mass for you at home in languages other than English

<http://multiculturalcare.org.au/diversity/faith-online/>

The Multicultural Pastoral Care website features a page that lists Mass in various languages that can be accessed online. The website also provides links to various service providers that have COVID-19 information in various languages.

<http://multiculturalcare.org.au/>



A REQUEST FROM

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
COVID-SAFE live-out weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples on 24-25 October 2020 at Hendra (Brisbane inner suburb) – going home on the Saturday evening. For bookings/details contact: Maria and David Murphy, ph (07) 3342 1456, email

dandmmurphy@optusnet.com.au

website: www.wmme.org.au

Watch their video – https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V3PwNz9ENP1tiaSUaT1C_gqYkIgHxzQ8/view?usp=sharing

Alleluia for All That Is
(Continued from page 8)

cultural communities, I was also able to learn about the culture and spirituality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

And there is still so much more to learn.

For many years, the Archdiocese has provided the solid ground that cushioned my unsettledness. Having no extended family in Australia at all, some of my former workmates have become my adopted family.

The people I have encountered in the course of my work (some have gone to heaven) are constant reminders that I am not alone in this journey towards 'home', towards God, ultimately. Working here cultivated my otherwise dormant virtues of compassion, faith and hope, and widened my vision from self-centredness to global awareness.

"I am thankful and grateful that through my work in the Archdiocese, I am able to contribute, however small, in the mission of the Church, and in my particular area of passion — multicultural pastoral care."

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At the end of the August staff meeting of Evangelisation Brisbane, I received a bunch of lovely flowers, a card and wonderful compliments. *Maraming salamat po*. Many thanks. Compared to most, I don't think I've done that much.

Like everyone else, there were 'formative punctuations' in my 25 years — disappointments, loss, repeating stressors.... Nevertheless, I draw inspiration from the book *Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia for All That Is* (by Sr Joan Chittister OSB and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams). And for all the welcome, trust and support I received, I am truly thankful.

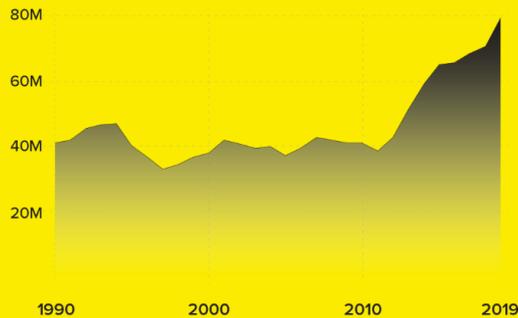


Percy Pamo Lawrence

Cultural and Administration Support

79.5 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

at the end of 2019 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.



- **26.0 million refugees**
 - 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate
 - 5.6 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate
- **45.7 million internally displaced people¹**
- **4.2 million asylum-seekers**
- **3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad**

¹ Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/>

Global refugee population is now 26 million

UNHCR's latest annual Global Trends report reveals that, as at 31 December 2019, there are 79.5 million forcibly displaced people in the world, including 26 million refugees and 4.2 million people seeking asylum.

The report also said that 'at least 100 million people were forced to flee their homes during the last 10 years, seeking refuge either within or outside the borders of their country'. Forced displacement and statelessness continue to be a major concern in various parts of the world.

What causes this massive displacement over the past decade? The report refers to major crises including (but not limited to):

- ⇒ the outbreak of the Syrian conflict early in the decade, which continues today
- ⇒ South Sudan's displacement crisis, which followed its independence
- ⇒ the conflict in Ukraine
- ⇒ the arrival of refugees and migrants in Europe by sea
- ⇒ the massive flow of stateless refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh
- ⇒ the outflow of Venezuelans across Latin America and the Caribbean
- ⇒ the crisis in Africa's Sahel region, where conflict and climate change are endangering many communities
- ⇒ renewed conflict and security concerns in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Somalia
- ⇒ conflict in the Central African Republic
- ⇒ internal displacement in Ethiopia
- ⇒ renewed outbreaks of fighting and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ⇒ the large humanitarian and displacement crisis in Yemen.

The report states that forty percent of the forcibly displaced (approximately 30 – 34 million of the 79.5 million) were children below 18 years of age. During crises and displacement, children, adolescents and youth are at risk of exploitation and abuse, especially when they are unaccompanied or separated from their families.



Syrians are the largest forcibly displaced population

At the end of 2019, the report notes that Syrians continued to be the largest forcibly displaced population worldwide (13.2 million, including 6.6 million refugees and more than six million internally displaced people). When considering only international displacement situations, Syrians also topped the list with 6.7 million persons, followed by Venezuelans with 4.5 million. Afghanistan and South Sudan had 3.0 and 2.2 million, respectively.

More on <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/>

Volunteers needed

The Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast is looking for volunteers who speak languages other than English and are willing to give some time each week to make friendly phone calls, in their language, so that MCCGC is able to provide additional support across Queensland through their *I Speak Your Language* program. *I Speak Your Language* is a free Queensland-wide program, funded by the Queensland Government, that matches volunteers with people who are in need of connection in their own language. It's a wonderful social support program, especially at this time when many people have been socially distancing for a while and may be feeling isolated. To find out how you can volunteer or get social support for yourself or a loved one, email ispeak@mccgc.com.au or visit their website <https://www.mccgc.com.au/mccgc/>



Unite Against Racism – Call to Action Toolkit

The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs is committed to supporting Queensland's multi-faith, multicultural communities and the benefits they continue to bring to Queensland.



The Unite Against Racism – Call to Action Toolkit aims to bring Queenslanders together to promote positive messages about diversity and inclusion.

This toolkit contains key messages, links and hashtags as well as ready-made assets for use in print, digital and social media channels to encourage 'a call to action' to all Queenslanders to stand together and reinforce Queensland as a diverse, harmonious and inclusive place to live.

Visit the DGLRMA website: <https://www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/about-us/our-department/unite-against-racism.html>

DV Resources in various languages

Resources that have been developed to help victims and their friends and family know the signs of abuse, where to get help and how to provide support are now available in a number of languages.

On introducing the resources, Faiza El-Higzi, Member of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council says that women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have other vulnerabilities that can intersect with family violence. This includes social isolation, migration and settlement issues, language difficulties, past

experiences of trauma and a lack of support and knowledge about their rights and choices.

The translated resources are available in 29 languages including Arabic, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Korean, Samoan, Spanish, Vietnamese, Amharic, Burmese, Croatian, Dinka, Farsi, Filipino/Tagalog, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Malay, Oromo, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Somalian, Swahili, Tamil, Thai, and Turkish, and are available for download at www.qld.gov.au/dfvresources.

Report racism online



The new online racism reporting tool developed by the Queensland Human Rights Commission will allow people to let the Commission know about their experiences and have those experiences recorded, even if they don't want to make a formal complaint.

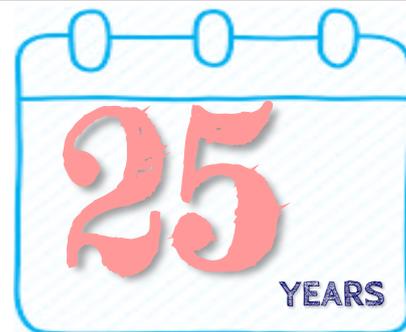
It will also mean people who don't know the name of the person responsible for the act – particularly common for acts of racial abuse which happen in public places, for example – are able to lodge a report.

For the first time, bystanders or people who witness these incidents will be able to report them. Under the Anti-Discrimination Act, only those who are targeted by racial abuse or vilification are able to lodge formal complaints. Allowing bystanders to record and report what they've witnessed is an important way of broadening the information we capture, giving the Commission a more accurate picture of people's experiences.

If you've been targeted by racial abuse or vilification, [formal complaints can be lodged at the Commission](#), or with the police in the case of threats of physical harm. If you don't want to make a formal complaint, report it to us using the [online tool](#).

These are borrowed words, but I say

Alleluia for All That Is



Very few people knew, but on the 2nd of August this year, I quietly celebrated my 25th year as an employee of the Archdiocese of Brisbane in the area of multicultural pastoral care. It was the time to say Alleluia, thanks be to God!

My 25-year story mirrors that of the CMPC story. Whatever changes it went through reflected on me. Let me tell you our short story.

Acknowledging the past

When Catholic Immigration Office changed name and focus in 1994, its then director Mary Gavin handed over the reins to Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care's (CMPC) first director, Jose Zepeda.

I arrived in Australia during a recession and, like many others, struggled to find work. I shifted careers from journalism to office administration. Jose placed his trust in my potential and I became the Centre's Jack-of-all-trades, which I quite enjoyed.

The Centre, which shared an office with Catholic Mission, moved from the Catholic Centre (now called Penola Place) in the City to the Rosalie Parish compound in Paddington and operated there as a 'drop-in centre' for migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. The Centre offered various forms of assistance including migration advice, counselling and other resettlement needs. People sometimes come just to 'talk'.

Always on the move

After Jose's 10-year direction, six more directors followed over the next

15 years. The Centre (and I) survived three major structural reorganisations: when Church Life & Mission become Faith & Life, and when Faith & Life became Evangelisation Brisbane. I moved work location several times — from Paddington to the City, back to Paddington, then back to the City, from the 1st floor of Penola Place to the 3rd floor and finally here on Level B1 of Francis Rush Centre.

Documenting multicultural pastoral care in the Archdiocese

In 1998, Jose entrusted to me the production of a newsletter which we agreed to call *What's Up?* — an odd but catchy name, thanks to my then two-year old daughter's soft toy — Bugs Bunny.

Because it endeavoured to provide a glimpse of multicultural pastoral care in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and beyond over many years, particularly ethno-specific faith expressions and multicultural gatherings, as well as voices that speak for those who are not usually featured in bigger

newspapers, I would like to think that *What's Up?* newsletter is unique its own small way. It is, as well, a historical documentation of the (then) quietly hidden diversity of the archdiocese. There was progress in more recent years as the major newspapers began to pick up on the organic growth of cultural diversity in the archdiocese. After 22 years in circulation, Bugs Bunny might be ready to blaze a trail.

Being a smaller organisation, CMPC was able to jump into the digital bandwagon a few years earlier than

most in the Cathedral Precinct. I have assisted in the set up, running and subsequent refurbishments of the CMPC website from 2004, and ten years later, ventured into managing the CMPC Facebook.

Organising the bi-monthly meetings of the cultural community chaplains (then called migrant chaplains or ethnic chaplains) and providing a secretariat-like support to the Chaplains for 25 years gave me a deeper insight and strengthened my solidarity with the various cultural communities in the Archdiocese. The Chaplains carry out a very important ministry, but they do come and go. Those in the current group weren't there when I started in 1995 — except two, Fr Albert Chan MSC and Fr Angelo Cagna CS. It is partly from this group where I progressively became involved in the organisation of Multicultural Mass in the Cathedral of St Stephen. I've done 25, so far....

Apologies if I'm beginning to sound like I'm bragging but I do take humble pride in my work, no matter how insignificant this may seem.

Valuable learnings continue

As a staff member of a larger organisation (Church Life & Mission / Faith & Life / Evangelisation Brisbane), I carried out administrative tasks which introduced me to areas such as disability, ecumenism and inter-religious relations, youth and children's ministry and social justice and ecology.

Over the years, not only was I able to establish and maintain harmonious working relationships with various

(Continued on page 5)

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