



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: cmcp@bne.catholic.net.au
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What's Up?

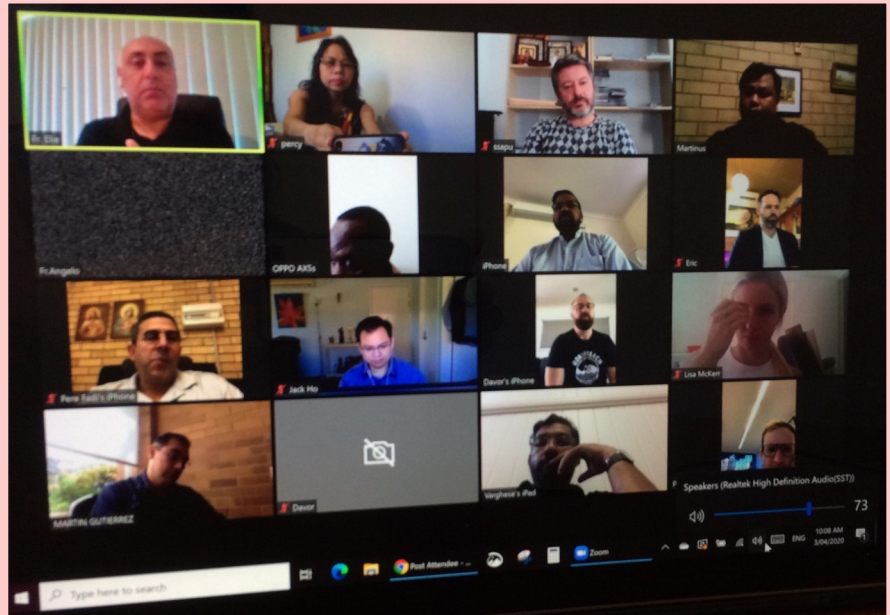
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June 2020

CHAPLAINS GO VIRTUAL

On the third of April, two days before Palm Sunday and a few days away from Easter Triduum, the Community Chaplains Group in the Archdiocese of Brisbane connected online for the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown in Australia on 22 March.

This was the Group's second of six bi-monthly meetings scheduled for 2020, and a timely one. The zoom technology enabled the Community Chaplains to share their experiences of coping with and adapting to challenging situations presented by COVID19 restrictions. By then, some Chaplains have started livestreaming Mass, some have encouraged their communities to access livestreamed Mass from their country of origin, and



some have encouraged their communities to access Mass in English livestreamed from the Cathedral of St Stephen.

Below, Evangelisation Brisbane Executive Director Deacon Peter Pellicaan sends a message to the Chaplains and Leaders of cultural communities in the archdiocese.

Dear Fathers and Community Leaders,

What a year 2020 is turning out to be! An Easter Triduum with no parishioners and now we move toward a Pentecost Sunday with not more than 10 people permitted!

Indeed this year has thrown some serious challenges to all of us and required us to re-think how we connect, engage and share the love of Jesus in new ways.

Not only has COVID-19 impacted our ministries, it's also impacted many of us at a personal level. Being shut off from our friends and our community has had a detrimental effect on many of us and left some feeling despair, loneliness and even depression.

In this moment, a key focus at Multicultural Pastoral Care is not just resourcing but encouragement. Whilst the faithful are separated, we remain united in Christ who has neither left us or forsaken us. Our Lord can and

does continue to make our joy complete and in him we continue to find the source of faith, hope and love. To this end, I leave you with St Paul's words to the Roman Church:

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:3 – 5)

Thank you for all you do, and may God bless you in these challenging times. I look forward to meeting you again on Zoom, but look forward to the day we can meet again in person.

Every Blessing,

Deacon Peter Pellicaan
Executive Director
Evangelisation Brisbane



Catholic Cultural Communities : Faith and Life during COVID-19

As of this writing, Queensland is very slowly and cautiously easing out of COVID-19 restrictions. This is a much-awaited glimpse of recovery since the beginning of lockdown in Australia on 22 March when life almost stood still. Among many other major restrictions, people could not go to church.

For people who speak in languages other than English, this loss of physical connection to their linguistic and cultural expressions of faith and spirituality made coping doubly difficult.

Despite the challenges, positivity and creativity abound. Here is a snapshot of how cultural communities in the Archdiocese of Brisbane have adapted to social distancing measures by taking full advantage of online communication technology. As well, many have attended to and continue to respond to the challenges and urgent needs caused by COVID-19.

Gathering in spirit

The manner in which some of our cultural communities observe Holy Week and Easter is slightly different from what is available in parishes—language and faith expression, in particular.

There are at least 28 cultural communities in the archdiocese that gather for Mass celebrated in their own language. (Check out this [link](#)) Those with Chaplains celebrate more regularly than those without Chaplains. The latter relies on the availability of priests who work in parishes, as well as the availability of a church venue. At the onset of COVID-19, communities that didn't have Chaplains were temporarily disconnected from their familiar non-English speaking faith-families.

As Palm Sunday and Holy Week drew near, some communities made full use of modern technology. Because of language needs, they were one of the first in the archdiocese to live-stream Mass and made this public on popular social media platforms such as YouTube and Facebook. There must have been much trial and error that went on, but in the end, people from non-English speaking backgrounds were able to gather in spirit and all were grateful; their worries arising from physical, social and spiritual disconnection lessened.

Some communities, particularly those without chaplains, had a number of options. Some accessed live-streamed Mass from their country of origin while some accessed Mass in English from a familiar parish, from the Cathedral of St Stephen in Brisbane or other states, or from TV. Mass on Good Friday and Easter was telecast live on Channel 10. 'Mass for You at Home' continue to be telecast on [10Play](#).

The Multicultural Pastoral Care website provides a list of the above-mentioned Mass online in various languages. <http://multiculturalcare.org.au/diversity/faith-online/> The website also provides introductory background on each cultural community. <http://multiculturalcare.org.au/diversity/faith-online/>



Above: Mass accessed online on Palm Sunday.

Social distancing together

Chaplains and community leaders ensured community connectivity by sending regular messages via Facebook, Messenger and WhatsApp. Bible studies, prayer gatherings and meetings continued via Zoom, Messenger or Skype. Individual catch ups by telephone were encouraged, particularly constant checks with the elderly and those who do not or have limited access to the internet.

Emergency support

A number of communities including the Latin American, Indian, Filipino, Brazilian, Indonesian and other affected communities have responded to SOS calls from international students and temporary visa holders. Some mobilised networking groups, held social media fundraising initiatives and contacted service providers in order to meet the urgent needs (food, accommodation and finance) of these vulnerable groups.

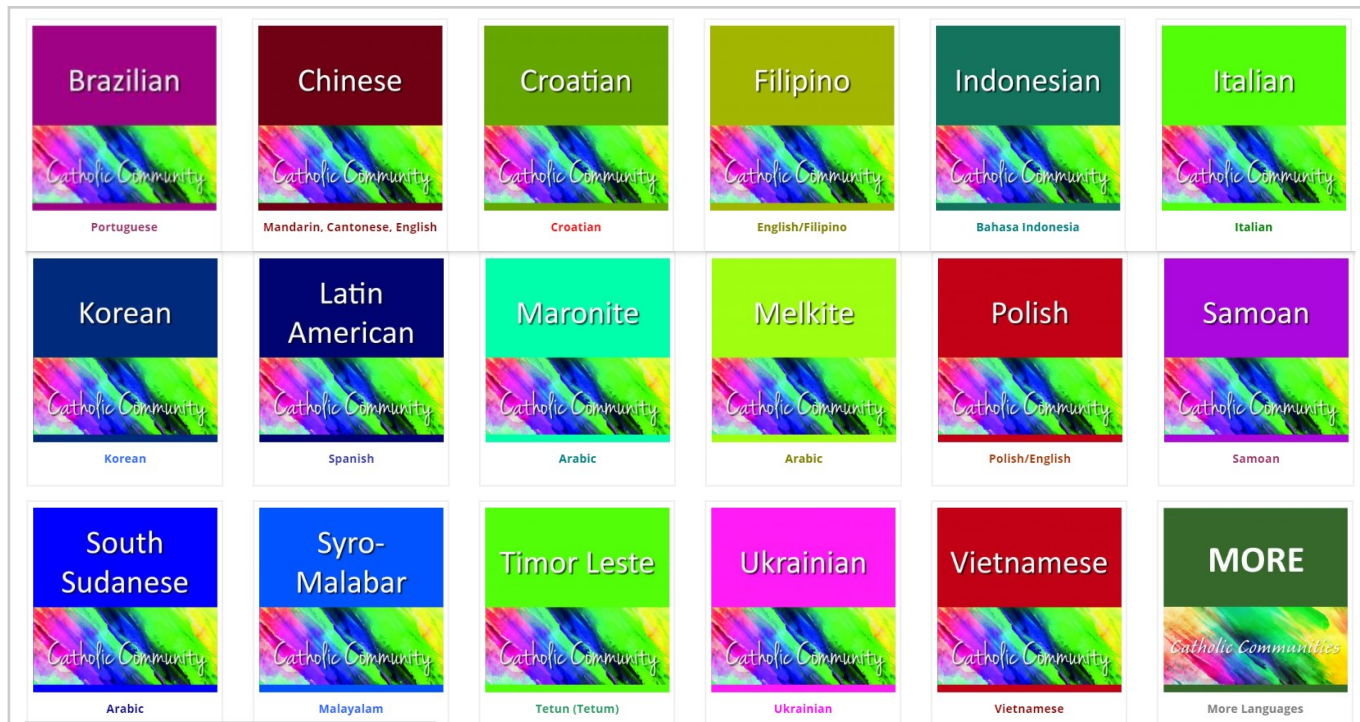
Silver lining

Chaplains and leaders of some communities realised their blessings despite all the enforced restrictions. Many had the opportunity to spend more time with family or those with whom they live. Some had the opportunity for a quiet self-reflection. Some Chaplains and leaders found that with online technology, their network widened even further. One thing for sure, the Catholic cultural communities in Brisbane join the world in praying for 'healing from COVID-19', the resumption of Church-held Masses and a return to large faith and social gatherings.

Percy Pamo Lawrence
Cultural and Administration Support

Catholic Cultural Communities : Faith and Life during COVID-19

CHOOSE YOUR LANGUAGE: The Multicultural Pastoral Care website has 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/>



Responding to urgent needs

At the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions, I heard a saying, “we are all in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat”. As I watched as these restrictions began to make their impact on the lives of many, I couldn’t help but reflect on this saying and picture each of us struggling through this very difficult and tiring storm. I pictured some of us sitting in boats that are built to withstand these kind of conditions, others that have had damage to their boat that they never would have expected and then those that were clinging to a life raft before this storm even begun.

At this time of COVID-19, our most vulnerable in society are again, at most risk. Certainly, a shining light within this storm has been the ability of each Catholic cultural community to respond to the needs of those most vulnerable in society.

A notable example of this comes from the Latin American community, who together with the UQ Chaplaincy, have been responding to the needs of vulnerable international students. The community have donated 130 food vouchers, ranging between \$30 and \$50, to students who have lost jobs or are in financial difficulty. The community have also handed out 100 hampers filled with goods and found safe places to stay for six students who lacked adequate housing.

There are many other stories similar to that of the Latin American Community, where local Catholics have stepped in to help those who have been heavily impacted by COVID-19. For now, this storm continues, but more than ever we



Photo source: Latin American Community Facebook page)

are witnessing the Grace of God breaking through and reaching out to those in need. Thank you to each Catholic cultural community within the Archdiocese that have responded with compassion for others during this time.

If you would like more information on where you or someone you know can find social assistance during this time, please contact CMPC via email: cmpc@bne.catholic.net.au

Jessica Laidler
Multicultural Projects & Research Officer

106th World Migrant and Refugee Day : Forced to Flee Like Jesus

This year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on 27 September. Pope Francis has chosen 'Forced like Jesus Christ to flee' as the theme of this special annual event. The Pope's reflection is grounded on the experience of Jesus Christ and his parents as displaced persons and refugees. With this message, Pope Francis encourages all to focus on pastoral care for internally displaced people around the world.

As in last year, the theme will be developed over the coming months in six sub-themes expressed in six pairs of verbs:

- to know in order to understand;
- to draw near so as to serve;
- to listen in order to reconcile;
- to share and thus to grow;
- to involve in order to promote; and finally,
- to collaborate and therefore to build.

For the month of May, Pope Francis has released a video exploring the first sub-theme 'to know in order to understand'.

<https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2020/>

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/>

Refugee Week : Celebrating the Year of Welcome ONLINE

Sunday 14 June to Saturday 20 June is the week when Australia celebrates Refugee Week, culminating with World Refugee Day on the 20th. Refugee Week provides an opportunity for Australians to be aware of and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees in the Australian society.

As the world continues to adapt to COVID19 restrictions, Refugee Week celebrations this year will go virtual. With the theme 'Celebrating the Year of Welcome', all are encouraged to celebrate within their own homes and communities, promoting positive images of refugees in order to assist

in a successful settlement and integration.

Check out the Refugee Week events line-up on https://action.refugeecouncil.org.au/rw20_events.

Those who wish to organise a virtual event this page provides plenty of ideas <https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/refugee-week-resources/>. Some examples, a group can host a 'Listen Party' (podcasts), a 'Watch Party' (films), watch a webinar exploring refugee issues, or even host a meal online. Groups and communities are encouraged to register their events with RCOA.

Also, this year RCOA has partnered with SBS Food Online for their 'share a meal, share a story' initiative.

The first Refugee Week events were organised by Austcare in Sydney 14 years ago. The Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) came on board and



co-organised the Week in 1987 which led to a national Refugee Week celebration from 1988 onwards. With active lobbying from both Austcare and RCOA since the 80s, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) coordinated the first World Refugee Day (June 20) in 2001 prompting Refugee Day/Week celebrations in various countries. RCOA has been responsible for the coordination of Refugee Week in Australia since 2004.

PPL



Journeys with the Migrant

For various valid reasons, people have been 'on the move' since time immemorial. The scripture is rich with stories of migration. Abraham was a nomad and his grandchildren were immigrants in Egypt. The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph were exiles in Egypt.

Israel, a people without a land, set out on a journey towards the 'Promised Land.' The story of Israel's wandering in the desert can be viewed as a necessary means to an end. The desert encounter reveals the presence of the 'God of Promise' who lives in a tent and journeys with them. When Israel finally settles in the lands of Canaan, their monarchs and prophets upheld laws that would protect the most vulnerable (widows, orphans, foreigners): 'You shall not oppress a resident alien; you well know how it feels to be an alien since you were once aliens yourselves in the land'. [Exodus 23:17]

These journeys and encounters are repeated throughout the history of human mobility. The journey towards this much desired destination is laced with sometimes conflicting realities of hope and disillusion, where 'the promise' seems to remain stuck on the horizon, the desired 'land' is never reached, and the migrant ends up an embittered wanderer instead of a committed pilgrim.

The Universal Church journeys with the Migrant as it carries out its special mission of pastoral care – different members in one Body of Christ, clergy, religious and laity – working together through foresight, planning, preparation, formation, cooperation, collaboration and outreach.

Pastoral care to migrants:

The beginnings of an organised response

The 19th and 20th centuries are a witness to significant world events and technological and economic advancements that triggered massive migration of varying intensity. The Church during this period of rapid changes responded with deep concern and dedication and regarded the phenomenon of human migration as a special and specific ministry. The Holy See, for example, with wisdom and ingenuity mobilised the Curia through magisterial documents that laid out norms which led to the establishment and/or renewal of structures that would provide organised, systematic and effective pastoral care to migrants.

One early record was Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Quam Aerumnosa* (On Italian Migrants) promulgated on 10 December 1888. In this encyclical, Pope Leo expressed concern over the plight of many Italian migrants who were

at the time living in misery and in abusive and exploitative situations in America, having left Italy without due thought and preparation and driven mainly by the desire survive and obtain a better

life. Pope Leo mentioned in this encyclical that his Pontificate founded the Apostolic College of Priests where 'a Seminary for God's ministers for the assistance of Italians dwelling in America' is being considered, indicative of the early beginnings of what is presently called 'Migrant Chaplains' (recently referred to as 'Community Chaplains' in the Archdiocese of Brisbane).

There were many women and men during the fruitful decade of 1880-1890 -- religious, clergy and laity, who



responded with great passion to the Holy See's call to provide spiritual and pastoral care to migrants. Pioneers included Vincent Pallotti, John Bosco, Francis Xavier Cabrini, Jeremiah Bonomelli and Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, 'Father of Migrants'.

Pope Leo XIII released another encyclical in 1891, *Rerum Novarum* (Rights and Duties of Capital and Labour), which explains in great detail how one's fundamental right to a dignified life is dependent on one's moral interaction with another. In this

encyclical, Pope Leo XIII names the dignity of the human person as the basis on which to build a system of human rights. *Rerum Novarum* emphasises the importance of balance; and where there is an imbalance (violation of human rights), that people respond with genuine charity and compassion.

In 1914, Pope Pius X issued a decree *Iam Pridem* which led to the founding of the Pontifical College of Emigration in 1920.

On 1 August 1952, Pope Pius XII released the Apostolic Constitution *Exsul Familia Nazarethana* in response to large scale displacements and challenges following World War II. *Exsul Familia* is considered the 'magna carta' of pastoral care to migrants.

"The Universal Church journeys with the Migrant as it carries out its special mission of pastoral care – different members in one Body of Christ, clergy, religious and laity – working together through foresight, planning, preparation, formation, cooperation, collaboration and outreach."

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Journeys with the Migrant

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From 1946 to 1952 during the papacy of Pope Benedict XV and Pius XII there were developments in the administration and operation of structures in the migrant ministry area of the Holy See, to name a few:

- The Special Office for Migration instituted within the Consistorial Congregation supervised the procedure for formation, appointment and supervision of clergy ministering to migrants.
- The Catholic Commission for Migration was approved.
- The Delegate for Migration replaced the Office Prelate for Migrants in May 2004; the Delegate was put in charge of diocesan/religious missionaries for migrants, sea chaplains and their directors.

More structures and renewals

In the 1960s the Church welcomed and at the same time grappled with understanding and bringing to reality the message of Vatican II. In response to Vatican II's *Christus Dominus 1.9*, Pope Paul VI released the apostolic constitution *Regimini Ecclesiae* in 1967.

In 1969 Pope VI released an Apostolic Letter in the form of *Motu Proprio Pastoralis Migratorum Cura* (Establishing the New Norms for the Care of Migrants). Citing 'rapid technological and economic progress', Pope Paul VI saw the gravity of the migration situation during his time and saw the need

to review the methods by which pastoral care is provided to migrants. Pope Paul VI not only sought to bring the migrant ministry norms (including organisation, structure and delivery of pastoral care) up to date, he also encouraged collaboration among clergy and women and men religious in this area. Pope Paul VI also encouraged the formation and involvement of the laity in the migrant ministry. In the same year the Congregation of Bishops (previously known as Consistorial Congregation) issued the Instruction *De Pastoralis Migratorum Cura* which updated Pope Pius XII's *Exsul Familia*.

In 1970, with the *Motu Proprio Apostolicae Caritatis*, Pope Paul VI established the Pontifical Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migration and Tourism (attached to the Congregation of Bishops). The Commission was given the task of studying and providing pastoral care to people on the move. In 1988, with the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus*, Pope John Paul II elevated this Commission to Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerants (PCPCMI), an entity that existed until 2016. This Pontifical Council issued the Instruction *Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi*

(The Love of Christ Towards Migrants) in May 2004 under the pontificate of John Paul II.

Under the wishes of Pope Francis expressed in his *Motu Proprio, Humanam Progressionem*, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development was created in mid-2016 and began full operations in 2017. The Dicastery

“On 1 August 1952, Pope Pius XII released the Apostolic Constitution *Exsul Familia Nazarethana* in response to large scale displacements and challenges following World War II. *Exsul Familia* is considered the ‘magna carta’ of pastoral care to migrants.”

merged four Pontifical Councils -- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (PCPCMI), Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Pontifical Council Cor Unum, and Pontifical

Care Workers.

Within the Dicastery sits the Migrants & Refugees Section (replacing and enhancing the functions of defunct PCPCMI) placed under the direction of Pope Francis and led by two undersecretaries -- Fr. Michael Czerny SJ and Fr. Fabio Baggio CS.

Responding to current and continuing challenges

The migration phenomenon — large scale, continual and complex, is triggered by the ‘push-pull’ dynamics in the different parts of

the world. This is further aided or exacerbated by rapid technological and scientific advancements around the globe. As the world's wealth and power fall into the hands of a few, the scraps trickle down the burgeoning number of the vulnerable poor. Thus, the person of the migrant in different status and life situations — the worker, the undocumented, the refugee, the asylum seeker, the internally displaced, the stateless, the tourist, the student, the seafarer... all with a potential to succeed, but always susceptible to discrimination, exploitation, abuse and human trafficking.

The Church in the digital world, particularly with the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, strives to address the constant need to adapt and renew in order to respond to the migrant's changing needs.

It is comforting to read about Pope Francis' concern for the vulnerable in his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium*: “Migrants present a particular challenge for me, since I am the pastor of a Church without frontiers, a Church which considers

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COMMUNITY CHAPLAINS GROUP : Life Before COVID-19

A Taste of Syro Malabar Community Hospitality

Until the world returns to 'normal' we look at snapshots of life before COVID-19.

These photos were taken on 13 February 2020 during the Community Chaplains' first of six bi-monthly meetings for the year. The meeting was hosted by the Syro Malabar Community in Northgate.

The Chaplains and Multicultural Pastoral Care staff express gratitude for the generosity and hospitality extended by Fr Saji Valiyaveetil, Parish Priest of St Alphonsa Syro Malabar Parish North Brisbane and the families who cooked, prepared and served the sumptuous Kerala-Indian lunch after the meeting.



Journeys with the Migrant

(Continued from page 6)

herself mother to all." (*Evangelii Gaudium* 210).

Recently interviewed by papal biographer Austen Ivereigh, Pope Francis gives us all a timely food for thought: "Go down into the underground, and pass from the hyper-virtual, fleshless world to the suffering flesh of the poor. This is the conversion we have to undergo. And if we don't start there, there will be no conversion". (*The Tablet*, 8 April 2020).

For the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis has chosen the topic 'Forced like Jesus to flee' inviting all to focus on pastoral care of the internally displaced people.

Towards a truly intercultural church

Pastoral care is emotional and spiritual support that goes beyond the call of duty; not 'an optional extra'. Pastoral care is inherent in the life of Christians. Jill McGilvray, author, pastoral worker

and counsellor, defines pastoral care as 'God's love in action'.

The Church teachings on the pastoral care of migrants embodied in Church documents such as *Exsul Familia*, *De Pastoralis Migratorum Cura* and *Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi*, among others, highlight the essential human rights (the right to a home country, the right to migrate, the right to preserve the native language, etc) entitled to the person of a migrant. Through the migrant chaplain, the cross-cultural pastoral worker or a caring parishioner, the migrant is welcomed and smoothly integrated into the life of a parish/community.

Looking ahead, through a well-thought process of inculturation in a multicultural context, a deeper engagement of cultures where all are beneficially transformed will usher in a truly intercultural church. The Church continues its journeys with the Migrant.

Percy Pamo Lawrence
Cultural and Administration Support



(Article appears in *What's Up?* March 2014, updated to reflect current recent events.)

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Useful Information

The **World Wellness Group** is a clinic that specialises in **multicultural health care** and strives to provide access to health care for socially disadvantaged groups.

The clinic also offers services to international students with Overseas Health Care Cover. The team has a high level of expertise in:

- Refugee and asylum seeker health assessments
- Catch-up immunisations for refugees
- Cross-cultural mental health care
- Refugee health screening
- Injury and trauma rehabilitation
- Refugee dietetics



- Refugee women's health issues including female genital mutilation
- Health promotion with culturally and linguistically diverse populations
- Holistic approach to refugee health and wellbeing

- Cultural competence in healthcare including working with interpreters

For more information, visit the World Wellness Group website: <https://worldwellnessgroup.org.au/>

\$900,000 COVID-19 package to support vulnerable communities

The Palaszczuk Government has extended Covid-19 support for vulnerable multicultural communities with a dedicated \$900,000 connections package for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

<http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2020/5/22/900000-covid19-package-to-support-vulnerable-communities>

Assistance to vulnerable people affected by COVID-19

The *Church's Social Mission during the Covid-19 Pandemic* is a document produced by the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission. It is a compilation of emergency support services that are currently available to assist vulnerable people who are affected by COVID19 (elderly, people with disability, people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, international students, refugees, etc.). The resource will be regularly updated as new information becomes available. <http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/broader-church/social-justice/>

ONLINE COURSES ON BELONGING

Dr Elsa Licumba, author of 'Freedom to Belong: My Journey of Blending Cultures' is holding cultural transition courses online in June.

Cultural Transition Fundamentals

2 June 2020, 11:15am

Duration: 45 minutes | Cost: \$25

Learning outcomes

- Understand culture and its impact of culture on everyday life
- Key stages of cultural transition

Advanced Cultural Transition

16 June 2020, 11:15am

Duration: 45 minutes | Cost: \$25

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the history of multiculturalism in Australia
- Understand Unconscious bias
- Understand the impact of migration on sense of identity

Elsa Licumba is the founder of Newcastle based Cultural Transition Consultancy, which aims to assist businesses and migrants, understand and navigate cultural transition in a new host country. Elsa also works as Sessional Academic at Newcastle Business School in Newcastle and Newcastle International College. Follow her on Instagram @freedomtobelong and website www.elsalicumba.com.

