

Helping our Refugee Families and Friends Forum for Parishes

Saturday 25 August: 9.30am - 1.00pm



This forum is part of our [Welcome the Asylum Seeker Parish Support Program](#). It will be an interactive occasion between speakers and participants, with emphasis on how to take up the many opportunities we have to reach out to refugee families and friends.

It will bring together asylum seekers, parish leaders with a variety of experiences supporting refugee families, Catholic support agency leaders and parishioners.

You are encouraged to invite friends from your own and other parishes, to help extend the network of support as wide as possible.

The need for support is great, with support for many asylum seekers currently being withdrawn by the government

In attending this forum, parish representatives will be empowered to contribute more, thereby helping to create a stronger network of support and advocacy for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Guest Speaker: Phil Glendenning AM, Director Edmund Rice Centre. *“If the Catholic Church in Australia cannot stand up for, and be seen to stand up for, the weakest, the poorest and those who are most vulnerable ... then we would be a sad replication of the Church Jesus wants us to be”*.

RSVP BY: 20 August 2018
VENUE: Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St (enter via Lansdowne St) East Melbourne
(car parking available on the premises)
COST: \$20.00 (includes lunch)
BOOKINGS: <https://www.trybooking.com/WBHM>
ENQUIRIES: Adrian Foley: Adrian.Foley@css.org.au

For catering purposes, please advise if you have any special dietary requirements.

**Helping our Refugee Families and Friends
Parish Forum
Saturday 25 August 2018, 9.30am – 1.00pm
Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne**

Program

The Forum will contribute to increased parish support of people seeking asylum and refugees by:

- Promoting the Gospel message on refugees
- Exploring the important role parishes play in supporting people seeking protection
- Highlighting processes for initiating and developing Parish engagement, including
 - ◊ Commencing Parish-based support
 - ◊ Providing accommodation, hospitality, material support

Expected Outcomes

- Parish representatives enthused and empowered to contribute more
- A stronger network to sustain support initiatives and advocacy
- A media statement calling for fairer refugee policies

9.00 – 9.30	Registration and Light Refreshments	
9.30 – 9.35	Liturgical Reflection	Fr Gerard Keith, Parish Priest, Resurrection Parish, Kings Park
9.35 – 9.40	Welcome and Introduction	Denis Fitzgerald
9.40 – 10.20	Asylum seekers' stories	Two asylum seekers, introduced by Sr Brigid Arthur
10.20 – 11.20	What can parishes do to help our friends in need? What is already happening? An interactive session led by Parish leaders supporting asylum seeker and refugees, discussing how parishes commence support, the ways in which they help, and what still needs to be done.	Parish leaders in refugee support, with Sr Brigid
11.20 -11.50	Break, light refreshments	
11.50 – 12.30	Refugee Policy: What needs to be done	Phil Glendenning AM, Director, Edmund Rice Centre
12.30 -12.50	Wrap up session Key points arising, draft media statement, agree on follow up, evaluation	Denis Fitzgerald
12.50 – 1.00	Closing Liturgy	Fr Gerard Keith