

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)**

**31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2014**

**ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE**

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Brian Connolly Ph. 46812157 Fax 4681 4107

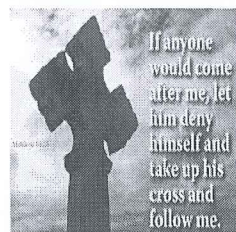
**RETIRED PRIEST:** Fr. Lino Valente Ph. 4681 3653

**RETIRED SISTER OF MERCY:** Sr. Esther Dowling Ph. 4681 2137

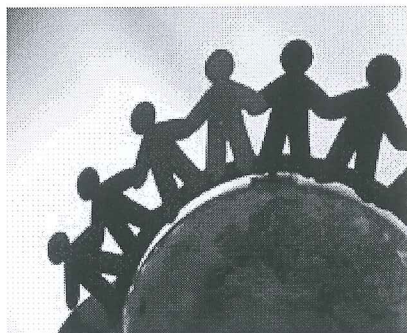
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**100<sup>TH</sup> WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES  
MIGRANT & REFUGEE WEEK 25<sup>TH</sup> – 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2014**



In his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis has called for greater international cooperation to improve conditions for the world's rising number of migrants and has called on the media to combat prejudices that make migrants unwelcome in their new countries.

*"Contemporary movements of migration represent the largest movement of individuals, if not of peoples, in history", the Pope wrote.*

According to the United Nations 232 million people, representing 3.2 percent of the world's population, are currently international migrants up from 175 million in 2000.

Noting that many migrants experience *"rejection, discrimination, trafficking and exploitation, suffering and death"*, Pope Francis wrote *"that migration needs to be approached and managed in a new, equitable and effective manner"* marked by *international cooperation and a spirit of profound solidarity and compassion."*

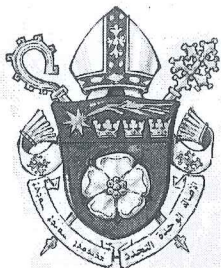
Pope Francis' message follows his July 8, 2013 visit to the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, a point of arrival for refugees from Africa and the Middle East seeking entry into Europe. Pope Francis celebrated Mass and tossed a wreath into the sea to remember the 20,000 refugees who have died trying to make the sea crossing. He referred in his speech to the *"globalisation of indifference"* to the plight of refugees and migrants.

The Pope in his message for this World Day invoked the Holy Family's experience of migration during its flight into Egypt as a source of encouragement to migrants. He wrote *"Mary and Joseph never doubted that God would always be with them. Through their intercession, may that same certainty dwell in the heart of every migrant and refugee."*



## TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD. IRAQ'S CHRISTIANS, A DOUBLE CATASTROPHE

*(A Statement from Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako,  
President of The Assembly of The Catholic Bishops in Iraq)*



*It has become obvious that Iraqi Christians along with other minorities have received a fatal blow at the core of their lives and their existence whether through displacing more than a hundred thousand Christians by force, or looting their possessions, money, and documents, or occupying their houses for just being Christian! I visited the camps of the displaced persons in the provinces of Erbil and Dohok and what I saw and what I heard is beyond any imagination!*

*Since the 6<sup>th</sup> August until now there is not yet an immediate concrete solution for the crisis we are facing. On the other hand the flow of funds, arms and fighters continues to the Islamic State. Despite the fact that we are living an organized campaign of elimination from Iraq, the world conscience is not fully awake to gravity of the situation. Now, the second phase of the calamity has already began, which is the migration of these families to the different parts of the world, thus dissolving the history, heritage, and identity of these people into void.*

*Displacement and migration have their great impact on us, both on Christians and Muslims. Iraq is losing an irreplaceable component of its society, the Christian one; hence begins the vanishing of a genuine tradition!*

*The international community, principally the United States and European Union due to their moral and historic responsibility towards Iraq, cannot be indifferent. While acknowledging all that is being done to solve this crisis, it seems that the decisions and actions undertaken until now have made no real change in the course of events and the fate of these affected people is still at stake, as if these people are not part of the human race!*

*The impassionate plea from the Patriarch for the world to intervene to prevent the extinction of Christians and religious minorities from Iraq is too long to fully publish in the Parish Bulletin. Some copies of the full statement are available in the foyer for interested parishioners. Please pray for the persecuted Iraq and Syrian Christians and those persecuted for their faith in other countries – they are our brothers and sisters and need the strong support of our prayers and concern.*

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**WEDDING BELLS:** *Congratulations to Justin Kneen and Kerri Moore, married in St. Joseph's Church this weekend. Justin was a Police Officer in Stanthorpe some years ago, and Kerri is a former student of St. Joseph's. Her nephew Michael Westerhout received his first Holy Communion last Sunday. We wish them every blessing and happiness in their married life. "Follow Christ by loving as He loves us." (Ephesians 5:2)*

**PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** This weekend, the children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are invited to gather around the Table of God's Word. They will each receive a small card with a message from God telling them how much God loves them and will always forgive them. We hold these children and their families in prayer.



**DECEASED:** Fr Dermot Casey (Brisbane), Laurence Zambelli, Ludwick Mlynarczyk, Bruce Freeman, Patrick Owens, George Brac, Celide Bau, Silvano Zorzi, Lorraine McQualter

**DECEASED:** Maria Concetta & Carmelo Torrisi & DFM, Minnie Cooney, Augusto Stefanon, Lewis Zanatta, Leonarda Caruso, Most Rev. Edward Kelly, Fr. Sydney Kattie

**FOR THE SICK:** Judy Perrett, Cathy Sullivan, Linda Vinciguerra, Stella Bayley, Alyssa Coxen, Debra Micallef, Margaret Ballinger, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

**THE FINAL ISSUE OF THE BIBLE EXPLORER'S HANDBOOK** is available in the foyer for those who have an interest in increasing their knowledge of all things Biblical.

### **THIS WEEK:**

## **PATRONAL FEAST OF THE DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA**



The Diocese of Toowoomba officially became a Diocese on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1929, with the Consecration of our first Bishop, James Byrne, in St. Patrick's Church, Toowoomba, which then became the Cathedral of the Diocese. Prior to that we were all part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The James Byrne Centre at Highfields (a Retreat and Education Centre) is named after our first Bishop. Its construction began in 1979 – the Golden Jubilee Year of the Diocese. Bishop Robert McGuckin became the sixth Bishop of the Diocese 2012.

There are **thirty-seven Parishes** in our Diocese which covers an area of 488,000 square kilometres, from the Great Dividing Range in the east to the Northern Territory/South Australian Border in the west, with our northern Parishes of Taroom and Augathella bordering the Diocese of Rockhampton.

After extensive consultation with the Priests and parishioners in all the Parishes of the Diocese, the overwhelming majority in the Diocese expressed the desire that "*Mary of The Southern Cross*" become the Patron of our Diocese.

At the request of Bishop Morris in 1998, the Holy See approved "*Mary of The Southern Cross*" as patron of the Diocese, with September 1<sup>st</sup> as our patronal feast day. (The anniversary of the consecration of our first Bishop in 1929.)

Our Parish is part of this Diocesan family of faith of thirty-seven Parishes. May Mary of The Southern Cross continue to lead us **into** deeper communion with her Son and each other.

There will be **Mass at 7AM** in the **Chapel**.

**MASSSES:** MON: 7AM; TUES: 7AM; WED: 11.45AM; THURS: 9:15AM; FRI: 5.30PM; SAT: 7AM; VIGIL: 6.30PM; SUN: 8.30AM

**FEAST DAYS:** MON: *SOLEMNITY OF MARY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS, Patronal Feast of the Diocese of Toowoomba*; WED: *ST. GREGORY THE GREAT*

**MEETING:** TUES: K.S.C.

## **NEXT WEEKEND:**

### **PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION - FATHERS' DAY APPEAL** **"CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED"**

The Annual Retired Priests' Foundation Appeal will be held in all Parishes of the Diocese at the **Masses next weekend (Fathers' Day)**.

The Foundation cares for all sick and retired Priests in the Diocese (there are currently fourteen being assisted by the Foundation). The Foundation depends heavily on the help of parishioners throughout the Diocese to meet the ever increasing cost of this care. **There will be an Appeal Envelope in each Parish Bulletin.**

**Please support the Foundation by way of a thoughtful and generous donation.** Donations of \$2 or more to the Foundation are tax deductible. Please come prepared to make your donation by using the Envelope which can be placed on the **special second collection**.

## **NOTICE:**

### **FUTURE NEEDS OF OUR DIOCESE AND PARISHES** **A CONSULTATION**

The Parish Council invites you to be part of the discussion and discernment process as we look to the future needs of our Diocese and Parishes with fewer Priests. Copies of the Parish Bulletin for 17<sup>th</sup> August outlining some of the challenges we all face, and the survey sheet issued last weekend, as still available in the foyer. Those who wish to respond and have a voice in the response our Parish Council will be making to the Bishop and the Council of Priests are invited to return their completed forms to the Box in the foyer or to the Parish Office by Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Hopefully this consultation increases our awareness of some of the challenges we face and the need for all of us to prepare ourselves for a future that may be different to what we have taken for granted. If necessary there will be more involvement in many of the ministries that are essential part of the life of every Parish. Thank you for your interest in this important pastoral issue.

## **COMING UP:**

**ST. JOSEPH'S PARENTS AND FRIENDS** are holding their annual **TRIVIA NIGHT SCHOOL FUNDRAISER** (Surfies, Pirates and Sailors Theme) on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 6.30PM for 7PM start in the **Bathersby Centre, Secondary Campus**. \$10 per person, maximum 8 per team. Fantastic prizes. Bar operating/BYO food platter. Bookings essential with money/nomination form to School Office by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Prizes for best dressed table. No stilettos to be worn in Stadium.

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** will be celebrated during the 8.30AM Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September. There will be no Baptisms during October and early November until Fr. Brian returns to the Parish following a hip replacement operation.

**TRIP TO MARIAN VALLEY CANUNGRA for FEAST OF ST. PADRE PIO:** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. Cost \$32. The Bus departs from the Civic Centre at 6.15AM. Payment required when booking. Please contact Nalda Sciuto on 4681 3014. No refund after Sunday 21st September.