

Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum

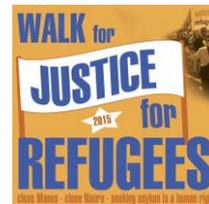
BULLETIN: February 2015

EVENTS

Palm Sunday Walks – March 29, 2015

There are Palm Sunday Walks for Justice for Refugees happening in most capital cities around Australia. We would like to encourage everyone to come along and walk with members of your local parish/ school/ social justice group/ organisation.

Why not start preparing by asking a few friends or colleagues to put **March 29** in their diaries. It would be fantastic to have a large, visible Catholic presence on the day. Now is the time to start thinking about a banner (you could use your school, organisation or parish banner or even make one with a group of friends) or plan another way to be recognized as Catholics in support of refugees and asylum seekers.



Details about the Melbourne Walk for Justice are available at: <https://www.facebook.com/palmsundaywalk>

We will have more information about the Walks in the coming weeks.

ALLIANCE NEWS

Alliance Website

The website for the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum is currently under construction. We will let you know when it is ready so that you can sign up as a member through the website.

NEWS FROM THE GROUND

High Court decision re: detention at sea

There have been many articles written about the High Court's recent decision affirming that the month long detention of 157 Tamil people seeking asylum at sea. See Fr Frank Brennan's article **High court fails high seas detainees** (Article published in Eureka Street)

<http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=42568#.VNGhbrkcQdU>

National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention 2014 report tabled

The Australian Human Rights Commission has called for all children held in immigration detention in Australia and Nauru to be released into the community. The recommendation was made in [*The Forgotten Children: National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention 2014*](#), which was tabled in Parliament on February 12th.

Source and more information: <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/news/stories/locking-children-taints-us-all-says-commission-president>

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NEWS FROM ABOVE

Saint Josephine Bakhita

St Josephine Bakhita was born in Southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name: Bakhita, which means “fortunate one,” was the name given to her by her kidnappers.



Her feast day, 8th February, has been named as the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking. She is the first person from Southern Sudan to be canonized.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) and ACRATH have released a [media statement](#) for the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking. In this statement Bishop Eugene Hurley, Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life said, 'It is imperative that we begin a journey of personal change when we mark the 8 February. Human trafficking exists in Australia and on this planet because we allow it to exist. Let us together, commit to eradicate this affront to our humanity.' Sr Anne Tormey rsm, President of ACRATH, commented 'The life of St Josephine Bakhita reminds us of the assault to the dignity, and of the suffering endured by every trafficked person.' Let us take up the challenge of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Social Sciences from November 2013 when they declared 'it is our moral imperative to make ours the last generation that has to fight the trade in human lives'.

Source and more information available from: www.acrath.org.au

KEEP UP TO DATE

Kaldor Centre: A weekly round-up of refugee news

In 2013, The Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law was established at the University of New South Wales. Each week, the Kaldor Centre produces a weekly round up with up-to-date developments in Australian and International Refugee law, policy and resettlement.

A bit about the Kaldor Centre:

Through high-quality research feeding into public policy debates and legislative reform, the Kaldor Centre brings a principled, human rights-based approach to the issue of refugee law and policy in Australia. The Centre provides an independent space to connect academics, policymakers and NGOs. It provides thought leadership in the community through public engagement and community outreach.

To find out more or sign up to for the weekly email: <http://www.kaldorcentre.unsw.edu.au/>