Words of Welcome

Today we are in the week when the Church in Australia invites us to pray for migrants and refugees to our country. Some of us may be migrants or refugees, and certainly most of us are the descendants of migrants or refugees.

Australia is a special place. Our population is made up of many cultures, thanks to the migrants and refugees who have made this country their home over the years. Today, let us celebrate the richness of our nation, with its population drawn from various countries, races, cultures and religions. Let us resolve to welcome the stranger, and to create a harmonious and multicultural nation that offers freedom, peace, democracy, acceptance and opportunity to all.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

Lord Jesus, You call us to work with and support one another. You call us to work for the common good of all people, and to bring hope, justice, truth and freedom to our world. You call us into community with the whole of creation. We are called to give total service to one another, and to give every person dignity and respect.

May we remember that while society and the political climate may encourage us to think only of ourselves, as Christians we are invited always to choose what is for the common good. Let us pray now to the God who welcomes and provides for all, who hears our prayers, and in whose image we are made.

* We pray for the Church: that Christ may become more visible in our commitment to serve God and all people. Lord hear us.

**ALL: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

* We pray for refugees: that God’s presence will give them comfort in their insecurity, and that our efforts will bring them hope and justice. Lord hear us.

**ALL: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**
• We pray for all migrants who have made Australia their home: that they may live in peace, happiness and prosperity; and that we may all be enriched by the values, customs and cultures that we share. Lord hear us.

ALL: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

• We pray for ourselves: that we may welcome the stranger, offer support to those who have recently arrived, and give comfort to the homesick. Lord hear us.

ALL: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

• We pray again for ourselves: that we may be prepared to help people in developing nations; that we may live simply so that others may simply live. Lord hear us.

ALL: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

God our Father, hear our prayers for all who are made in your image and likeness. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.