
REFUGEE and MIGRANT SUNDAY – 31 August 2008Source: www.ncca.org.au

This year on Refugee Sunday Australian Churches will remember the needs of the people of Iraq, and those who have lost lives, limbs, family, friends, homes and livelihoods are remembered.

The NSW Ecumenical Council particularly draws attention to the plight of Assyrian Christians, giving thanks for the contribution being made by the Assyrian Church of the East, to support and raise the pressing issues facing their people. We also give special thanks at this time for the continuing work of our shared ecumenical project, the House of Welcome which offers such vital assistance to refugees from Iraq and elsewhere. Please remember Fr. Jim Carty and his team.

Prayer points please pray especially for:

- Assyrian and other Iraqi Christians, Mandaeans, and all Iraqi refugees
- a greater response by the world community to the needs of Iraq's peoples
- the *House of Welcome's* continuing ecumenical hospitality in Sydney to refugees from Iraq and elsewhere; and for all those working with refugees across the world
- the Holy Spirit to transform violent hearts and minds into seeds and bearers of peace

Prayer for Peace in Iraq

Loving God, we pray for the people of Iraq.

We pray that your mercy and grace reaches those who have suffered from continued bombings, and political, ethnic and religious divisions.

Hear the cries of the thousands who grieve the loss of their children, the death of family members, the death of security and well-being.

We pray for the people and leaders of the countries which have sent troops to Iraq, both in the past and the present, and for all efforts to create peaceful relations within Iraq, between Iraq and its neighbours. Help us to rise above national self-interest and seek the true well-being of all.

We pray for all political leaders, that they will have the wisdom to provide a security not based upon the threat of power, but on the truth of compassion, and the vision of one world for all.

We pray for justice and peace, justice that tears down walls that divide nations, a peace that builds bridges of hope between peoples. Amen.

Sarah Menassa

Promoter of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Franciscan Provincial Office 47 Victoria Street, WAVERLEY NSW 2024

Telephone: (02) 9369 9309 Fax: (02) 9369 9322