

KIT @ KIPPAX

Staying Connected while Physically Distant

Wednesday 10 June 2020

SJA RRC

The Covid-19 restrictions have meant that the Refugee Resettlement Committee (RRC) has not been able to do much for the families we mentor. However; due entirely to the generosity of the SFX students and the parish community we were able to provide every family with a supply of games and activities suitable for individual ages and as a family group.

We alerted them to our arrival and then when they spilled out of their house we left our bundles on their driveway. Once they examined what we had put there we could tell that they were delighted, especially the children. It made us feel like Santa. To our delight, we found out that our family from El Salvador have a little "Aussie" born during April. Our asylum seeker family is coping very well but, the uncertainty of their existence here in Australia must weigh heavy.

Our brief, at a distance, visits were also a little bitter sweet. We could not accept their offers of hospitality. Like many of us, there is a craving for closer contact with friends and family than the telephone or computer. But, when your English language is still developing communicating via phone and or email is even more difficult. Let us keep Australia's refugees and asylum seekers in our prayers especially during Refugee Week 14 June – 20 June.

Submitted by Sigrid Kropp

The church will celebrate **Migrant & Refugee Sunday** on **27 Sept.**

The Pope has chosen "**Forced like Jesus Christ to flee**" as the theme for this year, and focuses on the pastoral care of internally displaced people (IDPs).

Today's Gospel Matt. 5:17-19



World Refugee Day 20 June
Celebrating the year of Welcome online
Sun 14 – Sat 20 June 2020

The aims of Refugee Week are:

- to **educate** the Australian public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia;
- to help people **understand** the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia;
- to **celebrate** the contribution refugees, make to our community;
- to focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees;
- for community groups and individuals to **do something positive** for refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, within Australia but also around the world; and
- for service providers to **reflect** on whether they are providing the best possible services to refugees.

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity for us all to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of refugee communities through theatre, music, dance, film and other events which take place all over Australia and highlight the aims of the week. <https://www.refugeeweek.org.au/about/overview/>

Perhaps there are Refugee families who would like to share the stories of their experiences with our SJA Community?

Email kippax@cg.org.au