

## **Diverse Cultures Gather into One Culture of God**

Migrant & Refugee Sunday has been celebrated in the Archdiocese of Brisbane in the last 45 years. Each occasion of thanksgiving reflected the joys, challenges and aspirations unique to each particular year.

On Sunday, 26 August, Archbishop Mark Coleridge celebrated his seventh archdiocesan Multicultural Mass at the Cathedral of St Stephen and once again delivered a message that encourages contemplation, dialogue and forward action.

"We gather, not just to have a festival, but to celebrate the Eucharist in which the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is made present here and now," the Archbishop said, marking the significance of Multicultural Mass as a gathering of diverse cultures through which Jesus Christ "can lead us deep in the culture of God which is the true home of every human being".

"Who else but Jesus can lead us beyond the tendency to turn within, to close ourselves off, the tendency to division, to become imprisoned in the culture that has given us birth?

"Who will lead us out of the culture that has given us birth and into the culture of God for which every human being is created? The *big* love, not the little love of the tribe, or the clan, or the family, or the nation, or the culture, but the *big* love of one human family with one God who is father of all -- and mother of all as well.

"Only Jesus can lead us deep in the culture of God which is the true home of every human being."

Archbishop Mark also noted the awkwardness presented by the widely used term 'ethnic community' which encourages the presumption that some communities are not ethnic. The Archbishop said the dominant ethnic group and influence in the Church in Australia in the past is the Anglo-Celtic ethnic community. In more recent years, the Archbishop said, much of the real spiritual energy in the Church in Australia is now found in communities from non-Anglo-Celtic background.

Expressing dislike for past treatment of communities in the Church as 'exotic satellites', Archbishop Mark called on all the cultures in the archdiocese to come centre stage in the life of the Church, "not sitting out in the margin, looking the other way, but bringing yourself and your gifts to the very centre and heart of the Church of this time, so that you can be mightily involved in shaping the future in the way Jesus Christ wants".

"And therefore I say to you, we need you in this time of profound change when the future must be shaped, a future that will look very different from us. We need the unique gifts that you bring, some of which we see and hear at this Mass this afternoon" he said.

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**Multicultural Mass 2018 Highlights:**

### *Youth and Action*

This year's archdiocesan Multicultural Mass combines Pope Francis' Message for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees -- 'Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting and Integrating Migrants and Refugees' and the Year of Youth. The Multicultural Youth Choir was specially formed this year to sing the Year of Youth song titled 'Called' by singer-songwriter Stephanie Unger.

### *We Are One Body*

The second edition of 'We Are One Body', guidelines for multicultural pastoral care in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, was launched by Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care Director Clyde Cosentino. The guidelines will be particularly helpful to those who are formally involved or have special interest in the pastoral care of migrants, refugees and multicultural communities. The original 'We Are One Body' was published in 1998 and required significant update to reflect the current local Church and Australian society. The updated 'We Are One Body' is available on the resources page of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care website [www.multiculturalcare.org.au](http://www.multiculturalcare.org.au).

### *Cooperation and Generosity*

Multicultural Mass is the result of the cooperation and generosity of various communities in the archdiocese. Approximately 25 communities led by their Chaplains, Cross Cultural Pastoral Ministers, leaders and members (NB: The Latin American Catholic community consists of many countries) were directly involved in the planning and organisation of the Mass and the celebrations that followed. A total of 13 community choirs, including the Multicultural Youth Choir, were just excellent.

The staff of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care acknowledges the contributions made by these communities who also generously provided refreshments as well as volunteers for collection, traffic control and food distribution -- a combined effort simplified in the list below:

Uncle David Miller – Acknowledgement of Country

Indonesian Catholic Family – Entrance Hymn

Various communities – Entrance Procession

Vietnamese Savio Youth Choir – Kyrie

Chinese Sacred Heart Choir – Gloria

Burundi Catholic Community - First Reading

Korean Gloria Choir – Responsorial Psalm

Sri Lankan Catholic Community – Second Reading

Tongan Catholic Community – Gospel Procession and Hymn

Lebanese Melkite Community – Gospel sung

South Sudanese St Bakhita Choir – Lamb of God

Brazilian, Timor Leste, Maltese, Iraqi Syriac Catholic, Italian and Croatian – Prayer of the Faithful

Latin American Catholic Community – Holy, Holy, Holy  
South Sudanese St Bakhita Choir – Mystery of Faith, Lamb of God  
Fijian Catholic Community – Offertory Procession and Hymn  
Filipino Youth for Christ Choir, Lebanese Maronite Choir and Indian Syro Malabar Choir –  
Communion Hymns  
Multicultural Mass 2018 Youth Choir – Post Communion Hymn  
Samoan Catholic Community Choir – Recessional Hymn  
Filipino, Colombian, Mexican, Indonesian, Samoan, Tongan, Iraqi Syriac – Entertainment  
Zach Woodward – Sounds and Entertainment MC

The presence of concelebrants is warmly acknowledged: Fr Albert Chan MSC (Chinese), Fr Stephen Kumyangi (South Sudanese), Fr Ignacio Gutierrez CS (Latin American), Fr Fadi Salame and Deacon Michael Khoury (Lebanese Maronite), Fr Elie Francis (Lebanese Melkite), Fr Abraham Kazhunadiyil (Indian Syro Malabar), Fr Stefan Sapun (Ukrainian), Fr Ilija Alandzak (Croatian), Fr Martinus Situmorang OFM Cap (Indonesian), Fr Joseph Vu SVD (Vietnamese), Fr Damien Everitt (Banyo Nundah), Fr Thomas Zaranski (Birkdale) and Fr Thomas Ismoyo (Brisbane).

The assistance extended by the Cathedral Dean and staff and Cathedral precinct agencies is much appreciated.

It is most encouraging that several parishes in the archdiocese also held their own Multicultural Mass on Sunday the 26th (or another day of the year) including Holy Spirit Parish, Bray Park, St. Flannan's Zillmere, Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish, Springfield, St Peter Chanel St John's Wood / The Gap Parish, Holy Cross Woolloowin, Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Catholic Parish and Holy Family Catholic Parish Indooroopilly.

(Percy Pamo Lawrence, posted with photos on CMPC Facebook 29 August 2018)