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## Day of Prayer and Fasting for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

### Sunday 5 March 2017

The Leaders of Churches in Australia invite all to join in a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Refugees and Asylum Seekers on Sunday 5 March, the First Sunday of Lent.

#### Notice for Pew sheets / Bulletins / Newsletters

1. *For use prior to Sunday 5 March*

#### **Day of Prayer and Fasting for Refugees and Asylum Seekers – Sunday 5 March**

On Sunday 5 March leaders of churches throughout Australia invite all people to join in prayer for refugees and asylum seekers. Not only are we invited to pray, but also to fast. Religious fasting invites us to stand before God, empty, placing our trust in God, ready to receive God's blessings. In fasting we join in one simple way with those who have fled their homes and seek safety for themselves and their families. Let us all pray together.

2. *For use on Sunday 5 March*

#### **Day of Prayer and Fasting for Refugees and Asylum Seekers – Sunday 5 March 2016**

Today our Gospel reading tells of Jesus fasting for forty days. Church leaders – of all traditions – invite us to join in a day of prayer and fasting for refugees and asylum seekers. We can join with Christ in prayer for those most vulnerable of God's people who are seeking safety and security for themselves and their families.

#### Intercessory prayers / Prayers of the People

For people from many nations – Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, Myanmar, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic .... As they decide to leave their families, homes and all that they know may they be guided by God's loving Spirit of wisdom embracing them and keeping them safe.

For countries who are providing shelter – Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia and Jordan. ... May their efforts to support people in great need be richly blessed.

For those waiting to have their status determined - and for those who can no longer wait. ... May the Spirit's gifts of hope, courage and strength grow daily in them as their days drag by.

For those in detention. ... While experiencing loneliness, hardship and uncertainty, may they come to know God's love for them through the kindness and support of many.

For our parliamentarians and law makers. ... May the God of hospitality and mercy fill them to act courageously for the good of those most in need.

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For those individuals and organizations who provide services to those who have arrived in Australia. ... May your Holy Spirit's gift of love and generosity grow in them daily.

For ourselves. ... May your Holy Spirit open our hearts, minds and hands so that many refugees and asylum seekers may make their homes in Australia.

Gracious God you have made all in your image.

You invite us to be at home with you

Give to those who are without home a place of safety and security.

Give to those who have a home a generous and open heart and willing hands to share with those in need of shelter.

We ask this in Jesus Christ's name

Amen