

To honour and acknowledge the feast of St Joseph, the Sisters of St Joseph supported by a coalition, including the Loreto Sister, have come together to initiate 150 days of action across Australia, to engage with people of good will, and advocate to change our country's attitude and policies towards those seeking protection in Australia. This action will begin on the feast of Joseph the Worker on the 1st of May and conclude with a Day of Lamentation and Call on Refugee Sunday on the 27th of September.

The following letter from the Sydney Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Office explains the origin of the initiative.

"The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has declared that this year is the year of Joseph, who was himself a refugee. The timing of such a declaration is critical because, after two decades, it is clear that Australia's treatment of those who come to us seeking protection needs to change. We need to re-imagine what it would be like to come to a place like Australia and find the way to safety barred - to find a toxic political atmosphere that describes our children, our mums and dads as "illegals" and "queue-jumpers" as those trying to manipulate the charity of Australia.

Australia needs a new heart, a new way to re-lent and show mercy. We think there is an opportunity to engage across all our communities, religious, schools, parishes and workplaces to become active in a new way to advocate with those who come seeking our protection."

We hope that you will be part of these 150 days of action as they develop in coming months.