



Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice

**Growing a Culture of Peace monthly bulletin for parishes and schools!**

**From the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice!**

**No 7, September 2012: "My heart and 'boat people'"**

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### **Growing a Culture of Peace Monthly Bulletin**

#### **#7 "My heart and boat people "**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>: 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time**

**Reflection: Mark 7:21** "It is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come".

Jesus teaches us that what we have deep within our hearts is what comes out in our words and behaviour. We can see goodness radiate from people. Yet in the social, political climate in Australia today, hardness of heart about people seeking asylum by boat seems to abound. Those who have feelings of compassion about "boat people" are labelled "bleeding hearts". Catholic social teaching is based on the dignity of each human person and of all life. The Gospel challenges me to reflect on what is in my heart about each 'boat person' as a dignified human being just like me. What and who am I afraid of and why?

**Fact File:** The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, an official body of the Australian Bishops Conference, is dedicated to the acceptance and settlement of refugees and migrants into Australia. They produced resources for schools and parishes for Refugee and Migrant Sunday held on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Learn More:**

Many Catholic agencies are supporting refugees and 'boat people' in their struggles. Find out what they are doing in your local area. [www.acmro.org.au](http://www.acmro.org.au)

**Take Action:** Start thinking of each of those people you see in the boats presented on media images as just like you. Support the organisations which are assisting them just as you would want to be helped in a time of need.



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