

St. Paul's Cathedral was the focus for two important events in the past week. Last Friday, 16th June, about 600 people attended an interfaith service for the victims of the Orlando shootings in the US, many of whom came directly from a gathering across Flinders Street in Federation Square to express solidarity with LGBTI communities here and in Florida.

"Lights of Hope in Darkness – Remembering the Victims of Orlando", led by Melbourne Assistant Bishop Philip Huggins and the Dean of Melbourne, the Very Revd Dr Andreas Loewe, featured the lighting of candles from the "Orlando Candle" lit at St Paul's Cathedral after news of the shootings on 12 June at the Pulse nightclub.

Imam Nur Warsame from the Marhaba Melbourne Muslim LGBTI Support Group participated at both the Federation Square and Cathedral events and was joined at St Paul's by representatives of the Uniting Church, the Hindu Council of Victoria, the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria, the Melbourne Inclusive Church and the Acting Consul General of the United States – all of whom, along with Bishop Huggins and members of the congregation, lit candles drawn from the flame of the Orlando Candle.

The rainbow, US and Australian flags were part of the backdrop of the service. It was noted, sadly, however, that an explicit welcome to the LGBTI community was lacking from both the printed order of service and the official welcome given by the Dean. We in the church still have a long way to go...

Then, on Sunday 19th June, the Cathedral was again the site for the launch of the "100,000 for Refugees" initiative as Refugee Week began. The service was led by Bishop Genevieve and Rev. Heather Patacca (the Precentor), and featured stories from two parishes about their current ministry to refugees in their community, and a focus of Scripture and prayer around our call as Christians to care for the vulnerable in our community. The Venerable Jan Crombie (Archdeacon for Parish Partnerships) also launched the Diocesan "toolkit for parishes", which includes resources for parishes on the key areas of:

- Discerning parish capacity
- Volunteering
- Providing hospitality, and
- Providing financial & material aid

Here is the happy Hawksburn contingent following the refugee service.



May Cyril, Irenaeus, Peter & Paul, and all the Saints walk with you this week... *Sam*