

Review of Palm Sunday actions - National 2026

National media releases:

[National Council of Churches](#)

[Joint media release from St Vincent de Paul Society of Australia and Jesuit Refugee Service Australia](#)

[Common Grace](#)

PALM /SUNDAY in ARARAT (Vic)

Bonnie Carter - Secretary Grampians/Gariwerd RAR



The Palm Sunday gathering in Great Western (Vic) on Sunday 29 March was held near the Justice Sculpture. About 40 people attended and heard local people speak about how our community has extended a warm welcome to people from refugee backgrounds:

The first guest speaker was a representative from the Stawell Uniting Church who spoke of what Palm Sunday marches have come to mean across Australia, and the link of today's refugees to the story of Jesus being a refugee when Mary and Joseph had to flee from Bethlehem.

A local Karen woman who works and lives in our town gave us an insight into her childhood in a camp on the Thai/Burma border and how being accepted into Australia has changed her life. She now has hopes and dreams for her future - in the camp there were no dreams or possibilities.

From South Sudan to Australia is a big journey, especially when you don't even know where Australia is! This was the experience of our next speaker who has lived here for the past 29 years. She talked about the freedom and

prospects that Australia offers. She has raised her six children here and has become a valued and respected worker in the disability industry.

Our final speakers were the daughters of a couple who fled the horrors of South Sudan to seek a more peaceful and better life. They talked about the bravery of their parents and how their decision to come to Australia has meant they have so many opportunities to follow their dreams, pursue their sporting endeavours and make the most of their education.

After listening to the speakers, those present walked around the boundary of the park, following our RAR banner.

Coffee, cake, conversation and laughter at a cafe down the road was a lovely end to a very successful Palm Sunday gathering.



BENDIGO

Bendigo RAR, with support from Bendigo churches, and the Bendigo Amnesty and Grandmothers for refugee groups, gathered at Lake Weeroona on the Saturday evening ahead of Palm Sunday. It was a modest gathering, with participants appreciating the opportunity to gather to share their support for refugees. People walked in small groups around the lake, bearing signs that called for justice and welcome for refugees, and a brief vigil took place as the sun slowly disappeared.



BRISBANE

In Brisbane the Palm Sunday rally 2026. Called for: No war on Iran, Lebanon, Palestine and Cuba. No US alliance. Close US bases in Australia and close down the AUKUS military alliance. Close Nauru, no more deportations. End the racist visa restrictions on Iranian.



MELBOURNE



Around 500 people from many faith communities, unions and community groups attended. The Walk from Princes Bridge was led by drummers and dancers from the Congolese community and Cr Nick Reece, Lord Mayor of Melbourne who opened the program with a passionate endorsement of stronger together message and a celebration of Melbourne's diverse communities.

Other speakers included Alice Pung, writer and educator, Sr Brigid Arthur interviewed Gipson from West Papua, Rathy Barthole, a leader in the Tamil community, and Rasha Abbas spoke about the Palestinian refugees supported by PARA ([Palestine Australia Relief and Action](#)). Students from Xavier and Sacred Heart Girls' College performed a narrated movement piece calling us to show kindness and care for

others. Anglican Bishop Philip Huggins and Mohamed Mohideen, President of the Islamic Council of Victoria demonstrated the power of friendship and respect across different faith traditions. The lively music by Riff Raff Band, Ethiopian musician Eldakatur, Samer and Raed and the West Papuan Choir was enjoyed by all.

See photos and comments here: <https://www.facebook.com/palmsundaywalk/>

[SBS News clip](#) [Short clip created by one of the ANMF Union members](#) [Palm Sunday rally focuses on justice for refugees | Melbourne Catholic](#) [Lord Mayor Nick Reece at Palm Sunday in Melbourne 2026](#)



Lord Mayor of Melbourne Cr Nick Reece and others led the Walk at Birrarung Marr

CANBERRA PALM SUNDAY RALLY - REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS WELCOME HERE:

The Canberra community rallied on Palm Sunday, with up to 1000 people coming together in a stand against racism. Church groups, unions, peace and environmental activists, students and refugee rights supporters rallied in support of refugees and migrants. The rally theme was a direct counter to the anti-refugee and anti-migrant scapegoating being peddled by the Coalition, in a grotesque race with One Nation. And with the Albanese government unwilling to condemn this racism, and more concerned with blocking and stripping visas and deporting people to Nauru, it will continue to fall to ordinary Australians to stand up for a multicultural Australia.



SYDNEY



Marching for Peace, against war and the Trump agenda, for the people of Palestine, Lebanon and Iran, against AUKUS, and to welcome all migrants and refugees.



See photos here: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2407044466374190>

Palm Sunday's Sydney rally – a special afternoon for peace

By Ann-Maree McEwan: The Trades Hall choir welcomed. Dean King's Acknowledgement of Gadigal Country reminded us of the spirits of the old people & shared wise teachings. MC Grace from RAC brought it together. Each speaker inspired and taught us much.

Speakers included Rob Benson - NSW Ecumenical Council of Springwood; Liz Remnerswall Hughes - National Coordinator of World Beyond War; Bart Shteinman - Executive Officer Jewish Council of Australia; Angus McFarland - ASU NSW Secretary; Ian Rintoul – Refugee Action Coalition, Sydney



WOLLONGONG



A crowd of more than 200 people gathered at the Wollongong Town Hall on a Sunday in March to demand justice for those fleeing war and persecution.

At the Refugee Action Collective (RAC) Illawarra Palm Sunday rally, attendees called for an end to the cruel treatment and torture of asylum seekers.

Speakers included Greens NSW Senator David Shoebridge and Safaa Rayan, a Palestinian-Australian woman and member of Wollongong Friends of Palestine, and Dr Marg Perrot, a founding member of the Illawarra Refugee Action Collective.

See more detail here: [Report in the Illawarra Flame - Rally for refugees highlights plight of forgotten people](#)