

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I wish to express my thanks to Sr Lyn, Fr Kevin, and the Social Justice Group who made the Majok family so welcome last Sunday. My special thanks also to Michelle, Bettina and Christa for those homely touches. Thank you to those who provided a plate of hospitality and came down to the hall to meet and share conversation with the family. My grateful thanks to Barbara and Bill Grieves who filled our boot with valuable electricals, care of their daughter, Trudie. There are many families requiring the basics and your generosity is always overwhelming. I received an email from Richard, who helped to drive the Majoks and he said, "Your spirit of welcome was fantastic and it truly reminds one there is a God."

I have inserted Joseph's story as I realise for many his accent proved difficult to interpret. Perhaps this only goes to illustrate for us how difficult people speaking English to them on their arrival must have felt. What an inspiration the family are to us all!

Sincere thanks, Monica Bright.

Joseph Majok Family Story

My family arrived in Australia on July 8, 2003. We had to flee our home country of the Sudan due to civil war. The Militia would come to our villages at night and would kill the villagers if they did not have money or something of value to give them. We lived in fear for our lives. I saw my mother and father beaten. There were other atrocities that are too painful to speak about. We fled to Kenya where we were in a Refugee Camp for five years. I had a friend who was assisted and escaped to America. I rang him and asked him if he could borrow enough money for me to get my family safely to Australia. I told him I would pay him back. This friend sent me the money and I applied to the Australian Government to come to this peaceful land. My friend has received his money back as I promised.

Father Kevin Dadswell of Blacktown South kindly gave me a house next to the Catholic school of St Michael's. His kindness and care of my family has been outstanding. Richard Stephenson, a parishioner, has been a good friend to help me get my licence and do all the practical things I had to learn. My English is not very good. But my children help me. I go to language school. My children are very happy at St Michael's. They are there because I want them to learn about God's love for them and to learn to speak good English and to read and write. Already, Monica has helped my children to speak English and to read. I thank her for this.

I am very proud of my wife, Arek. She got her driving licence on last Wednesday. We became Australian citizens in 2006. My message to you all is that we are all brothers. We must love and respect each other. Thank you Father Kevin and Sister Lyn for having me here today. God bless you all.

Christ Be Our Light

(Composer: Bernadette Farrell)
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Longing for light, we wait in darkness, Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.

**Christ be our light, Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, people are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others. Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Prayers are requested for **Jennifer Murdoch** who is seriously ill.

Catholic Outlook September issue

- * Bishop Manning celebrates 10 years in the Diocese
- * NSW & ACT Bishops release Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education
- * St Patrick's Cathedral organ scholarship
- * Westminster pilgrim partners visit Parramatta
- * Questions Bishops are asked: on the Latin Mass

Australian Ursuline Communities - Celebrating Milestones of Memory - Moments of Imagination. Armidale 14th, 15th & 16th September 2007. For brochure or further information contact: Sr Cath Duxbury 02 6772 3631 or email: c.duxbury@arm.catholic.edu.au (See brochure on noticeboard.)

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