

19 July 2018

Vigil for people seeking asylum and refugees

St Mark's Anglican Church, Buderim

– *Five years, twelve lives too many*

More than 75 people gathered in Buderim on Thursday night for a Vigil of Prayer and Protest in solidarity with 1600 men, women and children imprisoned in Manus Island and Nauru detention centres.

The Vigil was part of an Australia-wide movement www.refugeecouncil.org.au www.ruralaustraliansforrefugees.org.au to advocate for an end to the unjust, inhumane and unfair treatment of asylum seekers that has resulted in 12 deaths and unmeasurable harm to already vulnerable and traumatized people who have sought the protection of our nation .

The policy of indefinite detention for boat arriving people is also of detriment to a national culture that prides itself as fair, just, compassionate towards people who are vulnerable and in need of protection and compromises the Australian voice for human rights on the global stage.

The Vigil was jointly organized by St Mark's Anglican Church and Buddies Refugee Support Group, Buderim. The Reverend Chris Bedding of Western Australia and Love Makes a Way led the vigil that included the voice of an asylum seeker who has successfully resettled in the USA, stirring songs beautifully performed by Beulah Music and a prayer for each of the 12 people who lost their lives as a result of their detention on Manus and Nauru.

