

## DAILY REFLECTION

Thursday 19 March

### ON DISPLACEMENT

From your emails and conversations, I recognize a feeling of dislocation that we are experiencing. Not only has our security been dislodged by nature, but we are unable not to feel that somehow the goalposts for living our faith have shifted.

Today, with a congregation of 22 persons, I celebrated the funeral rites for Lucy, a Christian of the Armenian Orthodox Church. Lucy knew displacement throughout her life.

Lucy was born in Jerusalem in 1928 of Christian parents from Armenia, ten years after her parents fled the genocidal treatment by enemies in their homeland.

In 1948, with the partition of Palestine, the family were displaced to Malta. Lucy met Thabet, her Muslim husband. The young couple emigrated to Libya to find employment with an oil exploration company.

Finally, in 1961 with her husband, parents and aunt and uncle and sister she emigrated to Australia where she lived many years in Mentone.

Late in 2019, her dear niece arranged for Lucy and Thabet to live in aged care in Highett. Soon Lucy began to speak of taking the train to Jerusalem, or invite visitors to enjoy the spacious home of many bedrooms owned by her family in Malta.

Displacement again.

Her niece chose as one reading at her funeral St Paul's second letter to Corinth: "We know that when the tent that we live in on earth is

folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home ... in the heavens.”

The last displacement.

Before dinner tonight, I will celebrate the Eucharist without the presence of any of the faithful of our parish who nourish my spiritual life. You are displaced from your treasured hour of worship, and I will share in your experience of displacement.

We await another homeland.