



Vox Populi – The Voice of the People
11 May 2022

Sometimes it is the smallest acts of compassion and friendship that can have the biggest impact.

The students, staff and families saw that last week at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School, Waitara.

Kevin, (on the right in the photograph) recently arrived in Australia after a courageous journey, escaping the war in Ukraine to Poland and arriving in the diocese just a week before Easter.

He did not know any English and faced many new and challenging situations.

However the staff at OLOR Waitara, and the other students in Year 2 were really keen to help Kevin settle in to his new environment.

When the school had their Mother's Day stall last week all the students were excited and keen to buy something for their mums.

Not surprisingly Kevin wasn't sure what was happening.

The Principal, Mrs Jacinta Crowe knew how to help Kevin. She asked another student, Nicholas, also in Year 2, to help because he had "superpowers".

Nicholas speaks Kevin's language and was able to explain what was happening and went with him to the stall where Nicholas bought something for his mum.

With giftbag in hand Kevin returned to class feeling empowered and his fellow students witnessed how their school's core values – respect, hospitality, integrity, compassion and service – really can make a difference.

This Sunday's Gospel (John 13:35) speaks of Jesus' new commandment: "*Love one another as I have loved you*" Love is a very powerful word and so often trivialised. Love is also a sacrifice, it makes faith real and unifying, and as St Teresa of Calcutta so often said; "Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service."

Clearly our schools are encouraging their students to put words into actions.