

An IRRESISTIBLE FORCE!

Sir Henry Parkes (1815-1896) was the editor of the Sydney broadsheet/newspaper - *The Empire*. On August 15, 1859, he published these words; *"If Captain James Cook discovered Australia, if John Macarthur planted the first seeds of our extraordinary prosperity and if Ludwig Leichardt explored the unknown interior, it was Caroline Chisholm (1808-1877) who did much more, she was the one who truly colonized Australia."* What an extraordinary tribute for anyone to be given!

Sarah Goldman is a well-regarded ABC and BBC journalist, and she has written a biography on Caroline Chisholm it's called *An Irresistible Force*, during the lockdown I have read it and been so inspired by this woman.

There are 2 insights that I would like to share from this book;

- Caroline came to Australia for 6 years as a migrant and during that time she saw terrible poverty in Sydney and Melbourne, so she immediately went about assisting up to 11, 000 fellow migrants to find employment and adequate shelter. She was also happily married and in time gave birth to 8 children.
- The 1850's was a time of bitter Christian sectarianism; Caroline was a devout Roman Catholic yet somehow she still convinced the fiery Presbyterian leader John Dunmore Lang and the Anglican bishop William Broughton to support her work.

Jesus of Nazareth spoke about people like Caroline Chisholm in these words; *"others gave what they had to spare but she gave all she had."* (Mark Chapter 12 verse 2) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*