

# Refugee fights for two sisters

WHEN Mayom Mading Agau fled his home in Sudan he left behind more than memories.

He left behind family, friends and a war-torn village he once called home.

Mayom (37) first fled the Sudan in 1989 to find refuge in Ethiopia.

In 1991 another political crisis forced him out of Ethiopia and back to Sudan where he fought his way to safety in neighbouring Kenya in 1992.

Mayom and his family lived in refugee camps for years before being granted Humanitarian Refugee visas and flown to their new home in WA in March last year.

Mayom now lives with his nephew Abraham (18) in Hamilton Hill.

Both men have a strong Christian faith and have joined the St Paul's Anglican Church community in Beaconsfield.

St Paul's has supported the men wherever possible since their first visit.

Recently Mayom discovered his two teenage sisters were alive in a Ugandan refugee camp and, with the help of the St Paul's community, he is actively trying to get them to Perth.

Mayom and Abraham are both studying English at Canning College and both have jobs.

"To begin a new life in a new country is like creating history," Mayom said.

"You pass through many difficulties before settling into a new environment.

"We are thankful to those who welcomed us with open arms. Had it not been for them, everything would have turned out differently."

St Paul's will launch a new charity at its church hall on Wednesday, June 27 at 5pm.

Called Just Manna, it will



**Mayom Agau (right) with his nephew Abraham in St Paul's Anglican Church in Beaconsfield.**

help the needy, particularly refugees, living in the area.

The St Paul's community has been actively supporting refugees for several years.

Families have received furniture, clothing, bedding, lessons in English and practical financial education.

Just Manna is currently negotiating with officials to help Mayom get reunited with his two sisters.

The parish has lodged a visa application with the government and will help raise funds for airfares and accommodation.

Spokeswoman Joan Jessop said the local community would offer assistance financially and practically.

For more information visit [www.stpaulsbeaconsfield.org.au](http://www.stpaulsbeaconsfield.org.au) or contact Ms Jessop on 0411695430.