



## Readings for the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants.

**First Reading:** Exodus 19:2-6  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 100: 1-2, 3,5  
**Second Reading:** Romans 5:6-11  
**Gospel:** Matthew 9:36-10:8

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were distressed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers for his harvest." ...**10** <sup>8[b]</sup> Freely you have received; freely give.

In his message for the 108<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis calls on us to be builders in the construction of God's city.

In the Gospel reading for today, Jesus calls on us to pray for and be labourers in God's harvest. Yet we know there are many who are "distressed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36).

Thousands of people flee their homes each year, seeking refuge and shelter. Many come to the places we live, seeking new opportunities for their families and hope for their futures. God has demonstrated his love for us in Christ. Will we do the same for those in need?

### Prayer from the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 108<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees

*Lord, make us bearers of hope, so that where there is darkness, your light may shine, and where there is discouragement, confidence in the future may be reborn.*

*Lord, make us instruments of your justice, so that where there is exclusion, fraternity may flourish, and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.*

*Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom, together with migrants and refugees and with all who dwell on the peripheries.*

*Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is to live together as brothers and sisters. Amen.*

### Prayer of the faithful

For the Rohingya people; those living in the camps in Cox's Bazar, those embarking on dangerous sea crossings, those still living in Rakhine State in Myanmar. Grant them safety, provisions, and freedom from persecution. Give them hope for the future. We pray together in hope:

**E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.**

For the staff of Caritas Bangladesh and Catholic Relief Services in Bangladesh. May you reignite their energy and bless them with a generous response enabling their good work to continue in the Rohingya communities living in Cox's Bazar. We pray together in hope:

**E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.**

Mindful that we are all builders of God's city, accompany each of us as we welcome new migrants and refugees to Aotearoa. May their new communities generously offer an open invitation to share in building a secure future for all. We pray together in hope:

**E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā kia mātou.**

