

Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants

forced like
JESUS CHRIST
to flee



Liturgy Suggestions

“The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger.”

Pope Francis, *Patris Corde*, 2020

Please feel free to adapt or use these resources as you see fit for your parish community.

Readings for the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants, 20 June 2021

Liturgical Year B: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (NRSV Catholic Edition)

First Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm (Hb 107) 106: 23-26, 28-31

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

After Jesus had been teaching near the Sea of Galilee, he and his disciples took a boat to journey to the other side. Shortly after leaving, a storm began but Jesus was peacefully asleep. Distressed, the disciples woke Jesus up and he commands the sea to be still. The sea and storm could be associated with chaos and destruction, and Jesus' composure and ability to calm the waves depict his authority but also displays his faith.

Much like Jesus in the boat, years earlier when Saint Joseph fled with Mary and the infant Jesus Joseph exemplified the virtues of courage and faith. Joseph carries the same message of Jesus following the storm, and that which was told to Joseph by an angel: *“Do not be afraid (Matthew 1:20)*. For those families forced to flee their homes due to chaos and destruction, we envisage God walking with them – guiding their journey and increasing their courage, faith and hope.

Prayer of the Faithful

Adapted from resources prepared by the Migrant and Refugee Section of the Holy See.

For Pope Francis and our bishops who are pastors of local churches, that the Spirit of Jesus, who emptied Himself to walk with humanity, might encourage them to be prophets of a Church that welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates all people, especially the most vulnerable.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all migrants and people on the move: may they feel the concern and aroha of the Church throughout the world.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For a deeper understanding of the situation of displaced persons throughout the world and in each of our nations. That the Lord may guide us to be attentive and open our eyes to the needs and



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sufferings of our brothers and sisters who are forced to move.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For reconciliation and solidarity between people and peoples, through the Spirit of peace-rangimarie, that peaceful solutions can be reached to the armed conflicts that cause the forced displacement of millions of people.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For the Church, God's people with so many faces, that together we may promote and build a just and supportive humanity in which migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons are actively empowered.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all Christian communities to be agents and promoters of justice-tika in situations of corruption, inequality, indifference and oppression.

E te Ariki. Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

Prayer by the example of St Joseph

As cited in the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands to set out as refugees for safer places.

Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials.

Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way.

May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will.

Amen.

La fuga in Egitto, Massimiliano Ungarelli 2019