



Prayers for Migrants

Father God,

You so loved the world you sent Jesus to share our lives and bring healing to broken humanity – Jesus, the outsider, born in a stable because there was no room at the inn; Jesus, the outsider, whose family became refugees to escape the killing rage of Herod; Jesus, the outsider, who broke down all human barriers when he touched the leper, invited the woman at the well to give him a drink, shared his love with all those who were vulnerable; Jesus on the cross, dying outside the city walls for the sins of all of us... Thank you for the gift of your amazing grace in Jesus. Thank you that each one of us is unique and precious to you. Thank you for loving us.

We beseech you now to hear our cry as we lift to your throne of grace the families fleeing violence and persecution who seek refuge in Calais. Lord, we pray that your love surrounds them, that you give them strength and hope for the future as they worship together in the church they have created to bring you glory. We pray that, here in Kent, the body of Christ shines the light of your compassionate love in sacrificial giving for those a few miles across the water. Guide us through the discernment of your Holy Spirit to show your love in action; to speak out for those who have no voice; to challenge the human barriers built by fear and prejudice. Help us to worship you not only with our lips but in the way we live our lives and show us how to be salt and yeast in a world grown fearful of welcoming the stranger. In the name of Jesus, servant King, Amen (Helen Longley)



Lord of compassion and love,

May our eyes see those who are suffering on our shores as Christ sees them,

May our ears hear their stories, their grief, their desperation and their hope.

May what we see and hear reach our hearts so that we respond to their human need before any other consideration.

Free us from preconceived ideas about migrants and from the prejudices that build borders, walls and fences, around hearts and between countries.

Give us the grace to love those who have fled from war and persecution and all who have lost homes and loved ones before making the hazardous journey to our shores.

May we obey Christ's commandment to love them as we love ourselves and so accept them as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

(Eileen Routh)

Lord, make us instruments of your Peace.



*Lord, where there is hatred, fear and lack of peace
Make us instruments of your peace
Where there is sorrow and sadness
Make us.....
Where there is persecution and oppression.
Make us
Where people are made to suffer for what they
believe.
Make us
Where people are imprisoned because they are
different.
Make us.....
Where there is torture and pain.
Make us.....
Where there is death for those who do no wrong.
Make us....
Where there is war, terrorism, sexual exploitation
and violence.
Make us....
Where there are tears, loneliness, and
hopelessness.
Make us....*

[Michael Evans]

Flight into
Egypt – the
Holy Family
(ca. 1649) –
Carlo Dolci..





'O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the need of others,

Open my ears that I may hear their cries, open my heart so that they need not be without succour.

Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to these places.

Open my eyes and ears that I may this coming day do some work of peace for thee'. Amen

[Alan Paton]



*God of compassion
whose own son experienced life as a refugee
we remember those fleeing from danger,
hungry and afraid, with nowhere to call home.
God, we ask for them warmth, security, food and peace.*

*God of hope,
we thank you for those who are working to bring relief and
comfort to those displaced,
showing glimpses of grace in the darkness of despair.
God, give them strength.*

*God of justice,
guide the nations and the leaders of the world towards peace
stir hearts to be generous and compassionate.
God, help us to play our part in bringing about the change
that we want to see.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Church of England]

*Dear migrants and refugees! You have a special place in the heart of the Church, and you help her to enlarge her heart and to manifest her motherhood towards the entire human family. Do not lose your faith and hope! Let us think of the Holy Family during the flight in Egypt: Just as the maternal heart of the Blessed Virgin and the kind heart of Saint Joseph kept alive the confidence that God would never abandon them, so in you may the same hope in the Lord never be wanting. I entrust you to their protection and I cordially impart to all of you my Apostolic Blessing.
(Pope Francis)*



For Peace and Healing in Our World.

***Wilderness God: whose Son was a displaced person in Bethlehem, a refugee in Egypt, and had nowhere to lay his head in Galilee.
Bless all who have nowhere to lay their head today, who find themselves strangers on earth, pilgrims to they know not where, facing rejection, closed doors, suspicion and fear.
Give them companions in their distress, hope in their wandering, and safe lodging at their journey's end.
And make us a people of grace, wisdom and hospitality, who know that our true identity is to be lost, until we find our eternal home in you.
Through Christ, our rejected yet risen Lord. Amen.***

(From St Martin in the Fields - commended for use by Archbishop Justin Welby)

Prayer for Migrants

God, our Father, no one is a stranger to you. You watch over each of us with your loving gaze.

May those people fleeing from their homes in search of refuge be reminded that your own Son, and Mary our Mother, also experienced life as refugees and be renewed in their faith and hope.

Guide political leaders to act generously and work towards lasting and meaningful peace in those areas affected by violence and conflict.

May we, through Christ's example, open our arms and hearts in welcome to those most in need of safety, shelter and compassion.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Cardinal Vincent Nichols)

A prayer for peace - By Pope St John Paul II.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace.

Amen.

(This can be used to pray for an end to the war in Syria and for peace for the Syrian refugees fleeing violence.)

This Prayer and Worship Resource is for use in private prayer, services and other occasions when remembering the plight of migrants in Calais and beyond in the rest of the world. It includes suggestions for prayers from existing resources as well as new prayers written in response to the challenge of the presence of migrants in squalid conditions in Calais and beyond. This website is linked with

www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

If you would like to contribute a prayer or make a comment, please email

migrantsupport@aol.com