

Slide 1: Welcoming the stranger.

Today we are thinking about people who have become refugees and how we can show that we care about them and share their hopes and dreams. CAFOD uses a special word for this, SOLIDARITY. We sometimes say that “we walk alongside” people. We don’t mean we actually walk with them but we do things which show them we care and want to help.



Pope Francis has made this a special year, a Holy Year of Mercy, and has asked all of us to experience God’s mercy in different ways, including by “welcoming the outsider.” Thinking of ways that we can support the refugees to build better lives is one way that we can welcome the outside

Slide 2: Who are refugees?

Refugees are people who have to move in order to stay safe and live in freedom. Why might refugees flee or leave their own country? Refugees leave their countries because of war, poverty and climate change, or being persecuted because they have a different religion or views to others in their country.

Slide 3: Hopes for the Future.

Refugees often take very dangerous journeys to find safety in another country. They hope for a better future where they will be safe. What are your hopes for your own future? What sort of life would you like?

Slide 4: Pilgrimage.

Pope Francis has asked us to go on pilgrimage if we can during the Year of Mercy. A pilgrimage is a special journey which people make to a special place, sometimes a special church. By making our little pilgrimage journey today, we are showing that we are “walking alongside” all the refugees who are forced to make very dangerous journeys to find safety and a better life.

RE Subject Leaders' Day

Welcome the Stranger



Closing Prayer

11th November, 2016

The Sign of the Cross

Space One:

The world map.

60 million people in our world have been forced from their homes by war and persecution. We will go home after school today; they may never see their homes again.

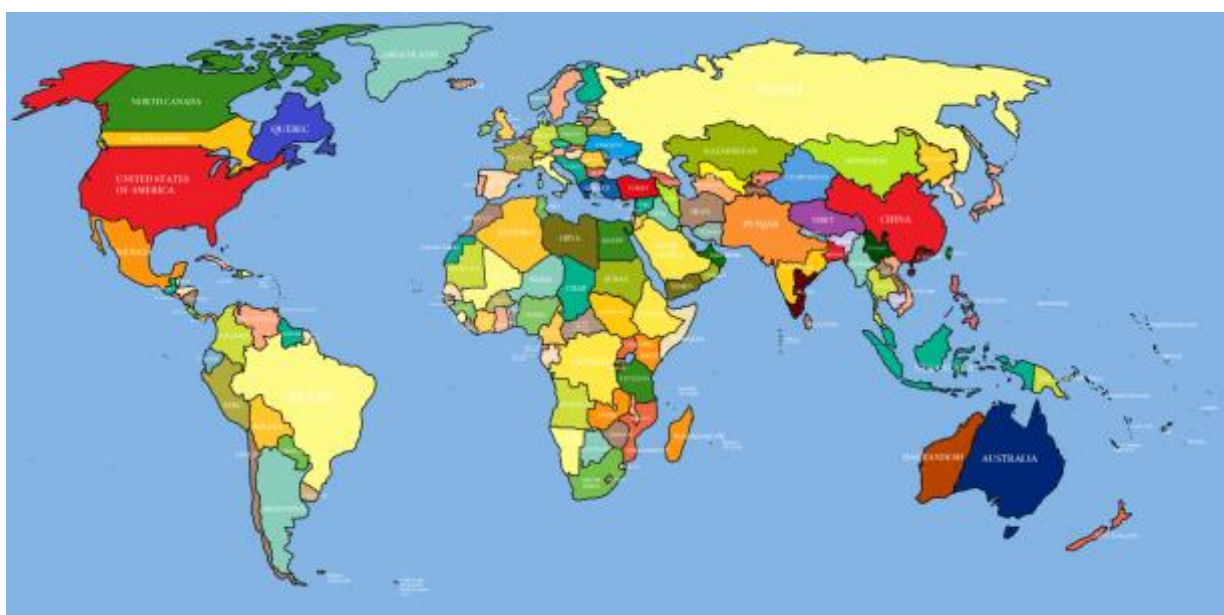
Let's stop to think about where today's refugees are coming from. These are the top ten countries ranked by number of people forced out by fighting: Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Myanmar, Eritrea, Iraq.

We pray for all the places in the world where there is war, where people have to leave their homes because of violence.

[Pause for a few moments of silent prayer]

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer



Space Two:

A loaf of bread.

One in nine people will go to bed hungry tonight. Dire conditions for the world's poorest people are being made worse by climate change, which is hitting them first, and hardest.

People must sometimes move to look for ways to make a living. Yet some people question their right to seek better lives for their families.

We pray for everyone who is hungry around the world and for people who have had to leave their homes because of climate change.

[Pause for a few moments of silent prayer]

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer



Space Three:

A passport.

Too often, people with certain religious beliefs, viewpoints or ethnic backgrounds are persecuted by others who see them as different. This is a major cause of people leaving their homes and countries. Away from their homes, refugees often no longer have their nationality or identity. Yet in God's eyes we all share one true identity-as his children.

We pray for places where people are attacked for their beliefs or their colour or their nationality that everyone will live in harmony with each other and realise that they are all God's children.

[Pause for a few moments of silent prayer]

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer



Space Four:

A rucksack

Look down at what you are wearing. If you have a bag with you, think about what's in it. Now close your eyes. Imagine you are being forced to leave your home by the sounds of fighting. You can't pack, you just leave as you are. These clothes and the few things in your bag are all you will have for many weeks. You don't know if you will ever come home.

We pray for refugees on long journeys, we pray for safe passage, hearts filled with courage, strength to support children and the weak, and at the journey's end, a true welcome.

[Pause for a few moments of silent prayer]

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer



Space Five:

Khawle's family portrait.

Forced migration rips apart families and communities. Some are left behind because they are too weak, or there is not enough money to pay for their passage; some get lost or die on the way. Imagine being forced to choose between members of your family – who to take, who to leave. This picture is of a refugee family, the empty chair symbolises someone who the family has been lost on the journey.

We pray for families and friends separated by conflict and migration, that they may soon be reunited.

[Pause for a few moments of silent prayer]

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer



Space Six/Final destination:

The Lampedusa cross

On the 3rd October 2013, a boat carrying 500 refugees from Eritrea and Somalia, sank off the little island of Lampedusa between Sicily and mainland Italy. Only 151 people survived. The local carpenter on Lampedusa met some of the survivors and then went and collected some of the wreckage of the boat. He made crosses for the survivors as a symbol of hope for the future.

Let us pray:

Jesus friend and brother
you know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.

You know what it feels like to be a stranger
who is made to feel unwelcome.

You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.

We pray that by showing our care for refugees

we may show love for our neighbour and come closer to you.

Amen



You are invited now to write a message of hope to the refugees and to place it on the prayer focus.

Then to take a book mark 'I will never forget you' as a reminder that no one is forgotten by God.

We pray together in the words that Jesus taught us: Our Father

Closing Hymn

God's spirit is in my heart
He has called me and set me apart
This is what I have to do
What I have to do

He sent me to give the good news to the poor
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more
Tell blind people that they can see
And set the downtrodden free
And go tell everyone,
the news that the Kingdom of God has come
And go tell everyone
the news that God's Kingdom has come!

Just as the Father sent me
So I'm sending you out to be
My witnesses throughout the world
The whole of the world

He sent me to give the good news to the poor
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more
Tell blind people that they can see
And set the downtrodden free
And go tell everyone,
the news that the Kingdom of God has come
And go tell everyone
the news that God's Kingdom has come!