

Prayers for Refugees



This week is Refugee Week and this year's theme is 'Healing'.

We pray this week for all people who have been forced to leave their homes and make long journeys to find safety. We pray for all people who spend all they have and risk their lives in the hands of people traffickers. May we listen to their stories and respond with love and kindness.

Week commencing 20th June

Monday 20th June

Sunday Gospel: Luke 9:18-24

One day when Jesus was praying alone in the presence of his disciples he put this question to them, 'Who do the crowds say I am?' And they answered, 'John the Baptist; others Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' It was Peter who spoke up. 'The Christ of God' he said. But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone anything about this.

'The Son of Man' he said 'is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day.'

Then to all he said:

'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, that man will save it.'

WHO DO
YOU SAY
I AM?

Pause for thought:

If you were asked this question, what would you say?

Monday 20th June



The words of Pope Francis

I ask God to rouse us from our disregard for those who are suffering, to shake us from an individualism that excludes others, to awaken hearts that are deaf to the needs of our neighbours. I ask every man and woman, all of us, to overcome the paralysis of fear, the indifference that kills, the cynical disregard that nonchalantly condemns to death those on the fringes!

Address to Refugees in Mytilene, Apostolic Journey to Greece and Cyprus, December 2021



Father,

As we celebrate World Refugee Day we gather here, free to study, to believe, to live, and to love in peace. We remember all those who are denied these rights, who live in fear of being persecuted just for being who they are. Help us to remember that we are all made in your image, and to see it each day in all those around us.

Amen.



Tuesday 21st June



The theme for Refugee Week is '**Healing**'.

Healing means recovering from a painful experience or situation, so that we can continue to live. No-one understands this better than those who have lost their homes and had to build new lives from scratch. We have much to learn from refugees about holding onto hope when going on seems impossible – as well as about how art, creativity and community can help us to heal.

Loving and tender God,
This day, we hold before you all those who are found longing for a place to call home.
We pray for peace in the homeland of refugees fleeing conflict and that all involved might find boldness and humility to build societies where all feel safe.
At this time, we remember Christ the bringer of peace;
Come shine your light to shine upon the refugee and those suffering this day.
Bring peace, healing, and above all, a sense of belonging for all. Amen.

Tuesday 21st June

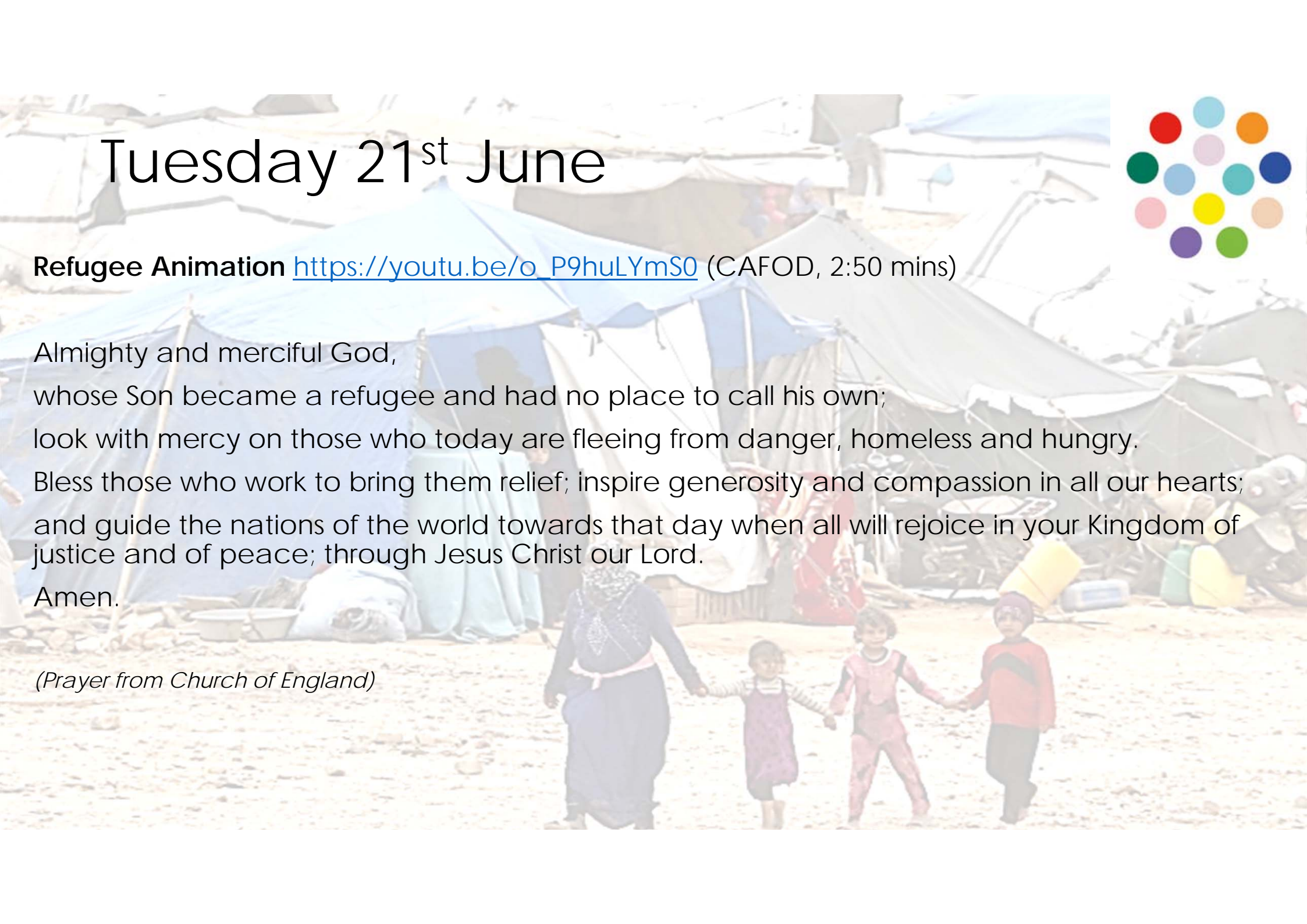


Refugee Animation https://youtu.be/o_P9huLYmS0 (CAFOD, 2:50 mins)

Almighty and merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.
Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of
justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Prayer from Church of England)



Wednesday 23rd June



Words of Pope Francis

Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all. (*Fratelli tutti*)

Loving God, help us to remember those who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign lands, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes. We lift up to you those who are escaping persecution and conflict, having fled death, torture or ruthless exploitation.

Give us more of your compassion for their plight, soften our hearts to their situation, and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy.

We pray for an end to the wars, poverty and human rights abuses that drive desperate people to become refugees in the first place.

We give thanks for people working in troubled countries and ask for more of your blessing so we can bring life, dignity and hope to those that remain.

Amen.



Wednesday 22nd June



God our refuge,
you share the journey
with migrants and refugees,
lightening their footsteps with hope.
For you, Lord, are close to the broken-
hearted.
Pour out your Spirit upon world leaders.
May they see the tragedies of our
human family, and be moved to
respond with wisdom, compassion and
courage.
Open our eyes and hearts to the God-
given dignity of all your people.
Move us to welcome our neighbours,
and so bear witness to your love.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thursday 23rd June

Loving God,

People of every sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender identity have the right to live with dignity and without persecution or discrimination, we pray for LGBTQ+ people of Uganda, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and elsewhere who have been murdered, tortured, assaulted or imprisoned because of who they are. We pray for them and those who love them. We pray for LGBTQ+ refugees from around the world seeking safety and sanctuary remember them and the people who welcome them.

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy, go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners, go with us as we try to be good neighbours in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community, go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all. Amen.





Thursday 23rd June

The FCJ sisters work with refugees across the world. Locally The Birkenhead community has been a collection point for donations for refugees and the Liverpool community regularly hosts refugees.

In the most recent FCJ Chapter calls document 'Widening our circle of Love' the sisters are called to compassionate action caring for the vulnerable including migrants and refugees.

How can you work in solidarity with the FCJ's mission to offer compassionate action to refugees and asylum seekers?

Loving God,

We ask you to bless the work of the FCJ Sisters as they reach out to the most vulnerable in society. May we join their mission and widen our circle of love, showing compassion to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. Give us the courage to take action and make a difference. Amen.



Friday 24th June

Feast of the Sacred Heart

Today's feast is celebration of the love of God, the God who loves us forever. It is a sign of the open heartedness of Jesus.

On the Feast of the Sacred Heart 1816, Marie Madeleine (FCJ Foundress) was praying before the crucifix when she heard the words of Jesus on the cross as though spoken directly to her. 'I Thirst'. She understood that Jesus' thirst and love for all people was to become her own.



"I was deeply moved by these words. I knelt in adoration and offered myself to God with my whole heart for all that he asked of me."

(Marie Madeleine)

Loving God, In our own time it is not difficult to recognise some of the ways in which Jesus is thirsting in our world. There are countless news items that draw our hearts and lead us to compassion. Help us to listen and to respond to what God is asking of each of us. Amen.



Friday 24th June

Examen

Be silent and place yourself in God's loving presence.

Look back over the week. What memories stand out?

Think about the good things that have happened and give thanks.

What has been challenging for you?

In the quiet of your heart, tell God about your experiences.

As you look ahead, with what spirit will you start the holiday?

Ask God to help you.