

World Day of Migrants and Refugees
September 29th, 2024

God walks with His people



***SUGGESTIONS FOR THE
EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION***



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

WELCOMES TO THE COMMUNITY

Brothers and sisters, we gather today to celebrate the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, under the theme "God walks with His people." On this day, we are called to reflect on the reality of migrants and refugees in our world and in our country, and to recognize God's presence in their journeys.

Many men, women, and children are forced to leave their homes because of war, persecution, poverty, or climate change. They embark on arduous and dangerous journeys in search of safety and a better life. In their quest, they often face discrimination, xenophobia, and violence.

However, God does not abandon them because He walks with them in their trials, offering them hope and strength. He is present in those who welcome and support them, and in those who work to build a more just and fraternal world.

Today, let us pray for the most vulnerable migrants and refugees and for all those who live in our Parish and communities, so that they may feel welcomed, loved, and integrated into our society.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Celebrant's greeting: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

1. Forgive us, Lord, for not always welcoming migrants and refugees with love and fraternity. **Lord, have mercy.**
2. Christ, forgive us for the times we discriminated, treated others with indifference, or failed to do enough to combat the causes of racism, xenophobia, and forced migration, such as war, poverty, and persecution. **Christ, have mercy.**

3. Lord, forgive us for the times we neglected to help and did not share our resources in the face of the suffering of the most needy and marginalized. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: God of mercy, we ask forgiveness for our sins and omissions. Grant us the grace to convert our hearts and open our doors to migrants and refugees. Give us the strength to build a more just and fraternal world, where everyone can live in peace and dignity. Through Christ, our Lord.

COLLECT PRAYER

God of mercy and compassion, we celebrate Your loving presence that accompanies migrant and refugee people in their journeys. We acknowledge that we are all migrants on this earth, on our way to our true homeland, the Kingdom of Heaven. Pour out Your grace upon all migrants and refugees and grant them strength and hope in their difficult crossings. Protect them from dangers and violence. Welcome them into our communities with love and fraternity. May Your mighty hand guide and protect them. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Numbers 11: 25-29

And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spoke to him, taking away of the spirit that was in Moses, and giving to the seventy men. And when the spirit had rested on them, they prophesied, nor did they cease afterwards. Now there remained in the camp two of the men, of whom one was called Eldad, and the other Medad, upon whom the spirit rested; for they also had been enrolled but were had not gone forth to the tabernacle. And when they prophesied in the camp, there ran a young man, and told Moses, saying: Eldad and Medad prophesy in the camp. Forthwith Josue the son of Nun, the minister of Moses, and chosen out of many, said: My lord Moses forbid them. But he said: Why hast thou emulation for me? O that all the people might prophesy, and that the Lord would give them his spirit! The Word of the Lord! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 19: 8, 10, 12-13, 14

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The law of the Lord is unspotted, converting souls: the testimony of the Lord is faithful, giving wisdom to little ones.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

The fear of the Lord is holy, enduring for ever and ever: the judgments of the Lord are true, justified in themselves.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

For thy servant keepeth them, and in keeping them there is a great reward. Who can understand sins? from my secret ones cleanse me, O Lord:

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

And from those of others spare thy servant. If they shall have no dominion over me, then shall I be without spot: and I shall be cleansed from the greatest sin.

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second Reading: James 5: 1-6

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl in your miseries, which shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted: and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered: and the rust of them shall be for a testimony against you, and shall eat your flesh like fire. You have stored up to yourselves wrath against the last days. Behold the hire of the labourers, who have reaped down your fields, which by fraud has been kept back by you, crieth: and the cry of them hath entered the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have feasted upon earth: and in righteousness you have nourished your hearts, in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and put to death the Just One, and he resisted you not. The Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

John answered him, saying: Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, who followeth not us, and we forbade him. But Jesus said: Do not forbid him. For there is no man that doth a miracle in my name and can soon speak ill of me. For he that is not against you, is for you. For whosoever shall give you to drink a cup of water in my name, because you belong to Christ: Amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward. And whosoever shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me; it were better for him that a millstone were hanged around his neck, and he were cast into the sea. And if thy hand scandalize thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life, maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into unquenchable fire: And if thy foot scandalize thee, cut it off. It is better for thee to enter lame into life everlasting, than having two feet, to be cast into the hell of unquenchable fire: And if thy eye scandalize thee, pluck it out. It is better for thee with one eye to enter into the kingdom of God, than having two eyes to be cast into the hell of fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not extinguished. The Gospel of the Lord!

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILIA

(Reflection on the theme of migration and refuge, in light of the biblical readings)

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for the entire Church, especially for Pope Francis, Bishops, Pastors, leaders, and all members of religious communities, that they may continue to welcome migrants and refugees, defending their rights and building a more humane and supportive world. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

2. Let us pray for humanity, which is in constant mobility, that they may find in God the strength of faith, hope, and protection in all difficult moments and always be guided on their paths towards a more dignified and secure life. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

3. Let us pray for all Parishes, communities, and organizations that welcome migrants and refugees and help them rebuild their lives. May they always have open hearts, welcoming them with love and respect, and promoting their social and cultural integration. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

4. Let us pray for political leaders and governments, that they may have wisdom and discernment and work with justice and responsibility in favor of migrants and refugees. May they implement fair and welcoming public policies that promote peace, human rights, and the integral development of all peoples. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

5. Let us pray that God may open our hearts to compassion and solidarity so that we may recognize in every migrant and refugee a brother or sister in Christ. May we be instruments of peace and builders of bridges instead of walls, so that together we may build a more just and fraternal world for all. Lord, hear us.

Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Prayer: God of peace and unity, pour out your Holy Spirit upon all humanity. May it inspire in every heart the desire for peace,

fraternity, and harmonious coexistence. May wars, persecutions, and violence cease, and may all the peoples of the earth live in peace and security. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARISTIC

OFFERTORY

The gifts symbolizing the different cultures and origins of migrants and refugees in the community can be brought forward (such as sandals, flags of countries, passport, traditional clothing, backpack, Bible, candle, globe, and other symbols).

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God of infinite kindness, as we offer these gifts on the altar, we ask that you bless and protect all migrants and refugees around the world. May our hearts be touched by your compassion, so that we may welcome them with love and solidarity, recognizing in them the face of your Son. May this offering symbolize our commitment to work for justice and peace, providing hope and security to those in search of a new home. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All: Amen

THE EUCARISTIC PRAYER

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: And also with your

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

All: It is right and just

SANCTUS

MYSTERY OF FAITH: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death o Lord until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father...

Celebrant: Deliver us, Lord, we pray from every evil, graciously grant us peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

All: For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

RITE OF PEACE

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles: "Peace I leave you, my peace I gave you," look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, graciously and grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign forever and ever.

All: Amen

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit

BREAKING OF THE BREAD (Prayer or Choir Sung)

All: Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: This is the Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to His supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

COMMUNION HYMNS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: O Lord, who have renewed us with the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant that in sincerity of heart we may show true compassion towards strangers and the abandoned and that all of us may deserve to be gathered at last in the land of the living. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2024

God, Almighty Father,
we are your pilgrim Church
journeying towards the Kingdom of heaven.
We live in our homeland,
but as if we were foreigners.
Every foreign place is our home,
yet every native land is foreign to us.
Though we live on earth,
our true citizenship is in heaven.
Do not let us become possessive
of the portion of the world
you have given us as a temporary home.
Help us to keep walking,
together with our migrant brothers and sisters,
toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us.
Open our eyes and our hearts
so that every encounter with those in need
becomes an encounter with Jesus, your Son and our Lord.
Amen.

Pope Francis

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE & SOLEMN BLESSING

Celebrant: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

All: Amen

Celebrant: May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy.

All: Amen

Celebrant: May he turn his countenance toward you and give you his peace.

All: Amen

Celebrant: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

FINAL HYMN



“Many migrants experience God as their traveling companion, guide and anchor of salvation. They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement. Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him. How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany migrants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent!”

Pope Francis

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