



Prayer Resources for Refugee Week - 16-22 June 2025

Refugee Week is the world's largest festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Established in 1998 in the UK, this annual festival aligns with World Refugee Day, celebrated globally on 20 June. The theme for Refugee Week 2025 is "Community as a Superpower". Everyone is invited to spend time with friends and build new connections in and beyond our neighbourhoods, rediscovering our collective power to shape hopeful futures. This year Refugee Week runs from 16-22 June 2025. More information can be found at <https://refugeeweek.org.uk>. We hope you find these prayer resources helpful. The material has been drawn from a range of sources (acknowledgements are overleaf).

Loving God, you sustain us with mercy and grace and call us to share the compassion we receive.

Help us to love as you want us to love:
not to ask 'Who is my neighbour?'

But to see our neighbour in everyone we encounter and to offer help and hospitality when people are hurting.

In a world that can be rushed, give us patience and time to care. In a world that can be harsh, help us to be kind. In a world that can be fearful, make us bearers of hope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord, who came from heaven to earth, lived among us as a wanderer, and offers salvation to all. Amen

God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar,
God of travellers, migrants and refugees.

Thank you for the beauty and uniqueness of this land which we share.

Grant your protection and grace to all who shelter here.

Open our hearts to be caring neighbours to each other. Direct our lives to just and peaceful action.

We rejoice in you, God, in whose image we are brothers and sisters and by whose example in Jesus Christ we know the breadth and depth of your universal love. Amen

We pray for all those who have been forced to flee their homes: Lord, keep them safe. Give them courage, resilience, and tangible hope. Guide their feet to people and places who will honour them and uphold their dignity.

Work in and through all those with the power to address the situations from which people have fled, whether war, famine, persecution, or climate change. Help us to understand what part we can play in alleviating the suffering of our neighbours.

In the face of hostility towards refugees and people seeking asylum, help us to model kindness, listening and compassion towards all human beings, even those with whom we disagree.

Keep us strong in our resolve to resist policies and structures that work against your Kingdom of compassion. God, begin your work of restoration and hope in us. Amen

A Litany for Refugees

*(A leader reads the words in normal type and others respond with words in **bold**).*

Mighty Lord, as you guided the Israelites through the wilderness,
be a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day for refugees in search of new hope and new life.

As you brought the Israelites out of bondage to freedom,
bring refugees out of persecution to safety.

As you protected the Israelites through 40 years in the desert,
protect those who languish for years in refugee camps.

Wipe away their tears of sorrow,
that their mourning may give way to joyous hope.

Put an end to warfare and tyranny,
that some may return home without fear of violence.

Open the doors of safer nations,
that some may find new homes in new lands.

Rebuild their lives,
that they might enjoy the fruit of labours in peace.

Revive their hope,
that they might face a future with promise.

Shine your grace upon them,
that they might know your love.

Strengthen their bonds of friendship and family,
that they might serve one another with encouraging love.

And inspire your churches to welcome the stranger,
that together we might build communities of hope where strangers become friends.

God our refuge,
watch over all those
who have been forced from their homes
and who long one day
to return to a place of comfort.
Lead us to play our part
in welcoming those who seek refuge
and in building peace
so that all people may have
a safe place to call home.
Amen.

Merciful God,
whose Son became a refugee
and had no place to call his own,
look with mercy on all those
fleeing from danger;
bless those who work to bring them relief.
Inspire generosity in our hearts,
and guide all nations towards a world
where peace is built on justice
and justice is guided by love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

These resources have been compiled from materials published by the Jesuit Refugee Service, the National Council of Churches in Australia; Christian Concern for One World; the Lutheran Refugee Service; and Tear Fund.

Louth Churches for Refugees - registered charity number 1177536. <https://louthchurchesforrefugees.org>