

Liturgy - WORLD REFUGEE DAY

25th September, 2021

L. Tomorrow 26th Sept. will be celebrated as world Refugee day. The various conflicts, and ecological crisis across the world have created refugees both internal and external all over the world. On Sept. 10th a puppet of a little Syrian girl “Amal” arrived in



Rome, as part of a more than 8,000 kilometers ‘walk’ from Gaziantep, near the Turkish-Syrian border, to Manchester, England to highlight the plight of millions of refugees and migrants around the world. How does the issue of migrants and refugees concern us Catholics?

At the recently concluded Bristol Synod, a question was asked, “Why is the Church more concerned about the reproductive rights of women which it never fails to condemn, rather than condemn the manufacture and sale of arms that fuel conflicts across the world displacing millions of people. Nor do the hierarchy condemn the arms race, or the exploitative business strategies of the powerful that impoverishes the poor, instead?” Most of the people are economic, political or environmental migrants while the refugees are fleeing conflict in their own countries.

During this liturgy let us reflect on our role in changing the situation that brings so much instability and disruption to millions around the world. What does Jesus have to say?

Opening song: The world stands in need of liberation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOzgDibTy4g>

READER:

Prayer: (Vol - 1) Creator God, all humans are created in your image. Your son Jesus taught us that we image you when we love one another. We gather as a community across borders and cultures, as a demonstration of our desire to reach out to each other as members of one family of faith. Help us to grow more and more in our understanding of peoples who are different from us, so that we are able to obey your command to welcome the stranger in our midst. We make our prayer through Jesus our Saviour Amen.

L: The readings at this liturgy remind us of the various problems and fears or even dreams of the human being who risk migrating or taking refuge in a foreign land.

READER:

1st Reading: Gen 12: 9-13. (Vol- 2)⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

READER:

2nd Reading: Fratelli/Sorrelli Tutti 37 - 41 (Vol-3) Many migrants have fled from war, persecution and natural catastrophes. Others, rightly, “are seeking opportunities for themselves and their families. They dream of a better future and they want to create the conditions for achieving it”. 38. Sadly, some “are attracted by Western culture, sometimes with unrealistic expectations that expose them to grave disappointments. Unscrupulous traffickers, frequently linked to drug cartels or arms cartels, exploit the weakness of migrants, who too often experience violence, trafficking, psychological and physical abuse and untold sufferings on their journey”. Those who emigrate “experience separation from their place of origin, and often a cultural and religious uprooting as well. Fragmentation is also felt by the communities they leave behind, which lose their most vigorous and enterprising elements, and by families, especially when one or both of the parents migrate, leaving the children in the country of origin”. For this reason, “there is also a need to reaffirm the right not to emigrate, that is, to remain in one’s homeland”.

“In some host countries, migration causes fear and alarm, often formented and exploited for political purposes. This can lead to a xenophobic mentality, as people close in on themselves, and it needs to be addressed decisively”. [40] Migrants are not seen as entitled like others to participate in the life of society,

“Migrations, more than ever before, will play a pivotal role in the future of our world”. At present, however, migration is affected by the “loss of that sense of responsibility for our brothers and sisters on which every civil society is based”

I realize that some people are hesitant and fearful with regard to migrants. I consider this part of our natural instinct of self-defence. Yet it is also true that an individual and a people are only fruitful and productive if they are able to develop a creative openness to others. I ask everyone to move beyond those primal reactions because “there is a problem when doubts and fears condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even – without realizing it – racist. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other”.

READER:

3rd Reading: Gospel:Lk 10 vs 25-37 (Vol-4) On one occasion a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’^[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b]”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

Sharing reflections on the readings.

Spontaneous Prayers of the Faithful:

Response to the Prayers: Loving God hear our prayer.

Prayers over the bread & wine: (Vol-5) *(All hold up your bread & wine)*. God of love, we bring to you the gift of ourselves, our service, our work for justice, truth and peace bringing hope to those who need it. Bless this bread and wine which we share in community, symbolizing our unity with your holy sacrifice of love.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Vol 6: God dwells in all people

A: We are all members of God's family.

V-6): Let us gather around the table as a family.

A: Let us open our hearts to God and one another with thanksgiving and caring love.

V-6. God we thank you for the blessing of peace and security in our lives. We thank you for the gifts you have blessed us with that have enabled us to come together to celebrate this Eucharist as a faith community.

A: God help us to understand the plight of refugees and migrants.

V-6. God we thank you for the freedom of choice and movement we enjoy in our homeland or beyond.

A: God help us to understand the plight of refugees and migrants.

V-6. Jesus you reached out beyond boundaries of race and gender to touch the life of the Samaritan woman bringing her abundance of life.

A: God help us to understand the plight of refugees and migrants.

V-6. Jesus, may this bread and wine we bless be a reminder to us of your life lived for others, welcoming, transforming and making new the lives of people you encountered.

A: God help us to understand the plight of refugees and migrants.

L. (Place your hand over the bread and wine) Jesus, The bread and wine you shared with all those at table with you, was a gesture of the ultimate sacrifice you made and call us to remember, so that we can also do the same in memory of you, thus making the reign of God's love a reality in our midst.

A: God help us to understand the plight of refugees and migrants.

(Vol-7) Loving God, in memory of Jesus our saviour, we commit ourselves to be servants of your reign of love and caring among people. In memory of the numerous saints and our loved ones gone before us still united with us in the bonds of faith and love, we confidently celebrate our unity as a prophetic community of faith. A community that shines the light of hope and love to draw humanity together in love. peace and care for each other and all creation. Amen.

The Lords Prayer said together:

Loving and Caring God, we celebrate your love that binds us as a human family. Your care that satisfies our every need, and motivates us to love and care for those in need around us. To Live as a family may we be aware of the need to constantly understand and forgive each other to preserve our bonds of unity.

Partaking of bread.

L: As a community of faith and love let us now celebrate this unity by partaking in our bread and drinking the cup together.

Song: When I needed a neighbour https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quBKGeg8_hw

READER:

Concluding Prayer.

Vol-8: Loving God, we thank you for this gathering of our faith community from across time zones, cultures and regions, united by our mission as disciples to spread your reign of love, justice and truth to bring healing to our world. Strengthen our faith commitment to be good news to people in our world especially those who are “outsiders”, those who have come to our land forced by circumstances beyond their control. May the Spirit guide us to be like you in reaching out to heal, and give hope. Help us to stand firm with trust and assurance that as long as we do God’s will you are with us. Amen.

L: We call down God’s blessings on each one present here as we bless ourselves in the name of God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier. Amen.

Closing Song: Whatsoever you do to the least -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxmTPnLOw4E>