

REFUGEE WEEK

Welcoming the Stranger

This week is refugee week and our focus for prayer this week is for refugees and their experiences. It is a time to think and reflect on how we might be called to support and welcome those who are seeking safety and a new start in life.



WORD OF THE WEEK

Matthew 25: 42-45

For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'





PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, friend and brother,
You know what it is like
to be hungry and thirsty.
You know the plight of the
stranger who is made unwelcome.
You know the suffering of all
who have lost everything.
We pray that by welcoming refugees
we may show love for our neighbour
and draw closer to you.
Amen.

(Tony Singleton/CAFOD)



In this week's Word of the Week Jesus talks about how important it is to be kind and serve others. He emphasises that when we help those who are most in need, we are also serving Him. Jesus teaches us that our treatment of others reflects our relationship with Jesus. Jesus calls us to welcome and care for those who are strangers or in need. This is not just a suggestion but a command to show love and compassion, reflecting God's love for all people.



Refugees leave their homes due to conflict, persecution and other dangerous situations. They may arrive in a new place with few belongings and in need of support and kindness.



Take a few moments to reflect on the stories of 4 children who had to leave their homes and discuss the questions together.



The official refugee week organisation has partnered with the Moomin characters to celebrate 80 years of Moomin stories.

Take a moment to watch this short film.

[CLICK HERE](#)

What might this be teaching us about welcoming those in need?



Refugee Week

[For more resources and information about Refugee Week 2025](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

Meet
Halima

aged 8



Myanmar to Bangladesh

How would you feel
if you had only rice
and potatoes
to eat?

Halima and her family had to leave their country because of fighting.

They are now in a refugee camp in Bangladesh. They do not have a good diet. They have been surviving on just rice and potatoes.



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Meet
Mohammed

aged 6

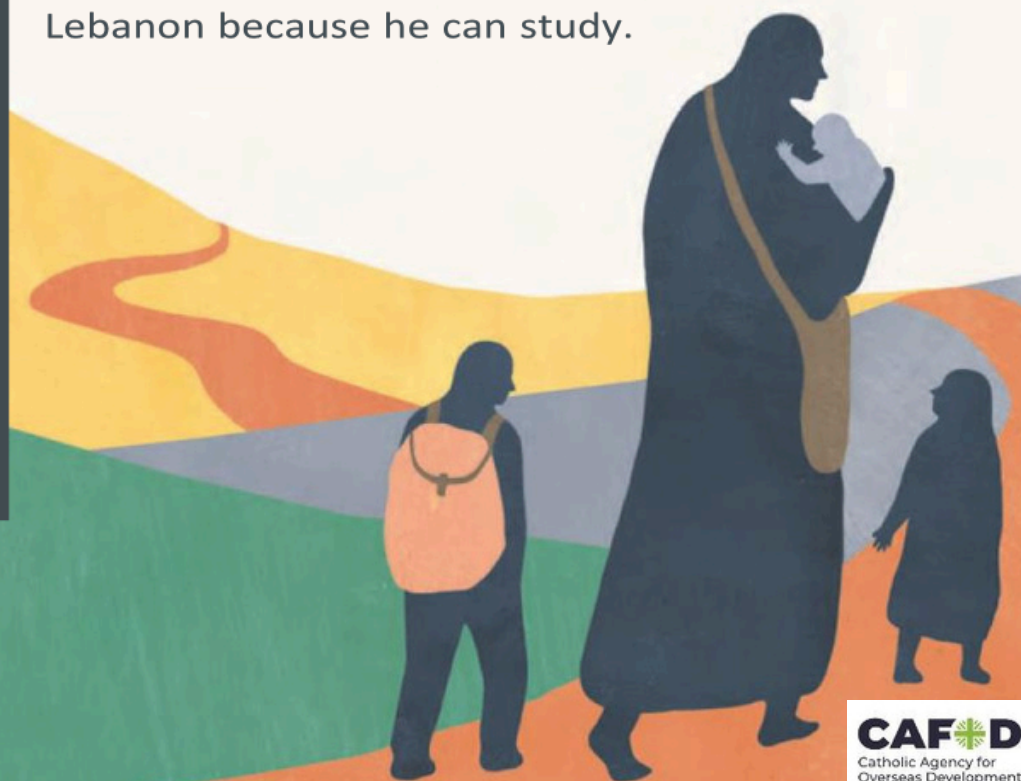


Syria to Lebanon

If you had to leave
home suddenly,
what would you
take with you?

Soldiers made Mohammed's family leave their home without anything. Mohammed had to leave his toys behind.

In Syria he could not go to school because lots of schools had been destroyed. Mohammed loves Lebanon because he can study.



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Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Meet
Ruth

aged 4



South Sudan to Uganda

How would you feel
if you had to leave
your home?

Drought and fighting have forced many people to leave South Sudan. Ruth's family now live in a refugee camp.

CAFOD's friends, Caritas, gave seeds and tools to Ruth's father. He grew vegetables and sold some to buy new sandals for his children and fish for a healthier diet.



Meet
Dainer

aged 6



Venezuela to Colombia

What would you
do if you could not
afford to buy food?

In Dainer's country, food costs a lot. Dainer's family, like many others, cannot afford it.

Dainer's dad gets up very early each day to cross the border into Colombia for food. Sometimes Dainer goes too.

