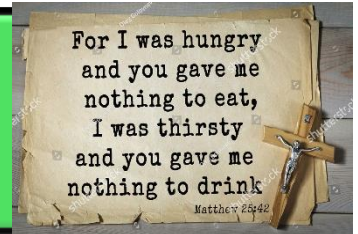


Refugee Week: Welcome the Stranger



Word of the Week: Matthew 25:42-46

Jesus said, 'For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me'. The people asked him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Jesus answered them, 'Truly I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Reflection

This week is Refugee Week and our focus for is on refugees and their experiences. It is a time to think about, and reflect on, how we might be called to support and welcome those who are seeking safety and a new start in life. We have heard the words of Jesus as he tells us about how important it is to be kind and serve others. He emphasises that when we help those who are in need, we are also serving Him. Jesus teaches us that our treatment of others reflects our relationship with Him. Jesus teaches us that every person is made in the image of God. To welcome the stranger is to welcome Jesus himself.

Refugees often 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. 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. It is a duty that we as followers of Christ have – to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, help the poor, seek righteousness, protect the vulnerable. The list goes on, but as we are the hands and voice of Jesus on earth now, we have to make sure we are acting and speaking like him in our world today.



Refugee Week in the UK runs from Monday 15th June until Sunday 21st June. The nationwide festival takes place every year to celebrate the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees. The theme this year is courage.

[Refugee Week 2026 - Refugee Council](#) Click me for website



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrD3w90Qmqg>

[2026 World Refugee Day](#)

[To Welcome Strangers In His Name - YouTube](#)

*The stranger who dwells among you
shall be to you as one born among you,
And
you shall love him as yourself;
For
you were strangers in the land of Egypt:
I am the LORD your God.*

Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)

Prayers for the Week

Lord Jesus,

You were once a refugee, carried to safety by Mary and Joseph. Open our hearts to those who are forced to leave their homes today. Help us to see Your face in every stranger, to listen with compassion, and to act with courage. May our school be a place of welcome, where every person feels seen, valued, and safe.

Amen.

Dear Lord,

We pray for families who have been forced to flee their homes. Protect them on their journeys, comfort them in their fear, and strengthen them with hope. Bless those who work to support refugees—charities, volunteers, and communities of welcome. Guide us to be people who build bridges, not walls.

Amen.

Loving Father,

Make our school a place where no one feels alone. Help us to notice those who are new, those who are struggling, and those who feel different. Give us the courage to reach out, to offer friendship, and to create a community where everyone belongs.

Amen.

God of Love,

Teach us to build a world where everyone belongs. May our words bring comfort, our actions bring hope, and our hearts reflect Your compassion. Help us to welcome the stranger, to stand with the vulnerable, and to be instruments of Your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Actions for the week

- Sit with someone who is alone at break or lunch.
- Learn how to say 'hello' in a language spoken by refugees in the UK.
- Write a message of hope to be displayed in your form room.
- Donate an item to a local refugee support group.
- Pray daily for refugees and those who support them.
- Challenge stereotypes by learning one true fact about refugees and sharing it with others.



Pope Francis teaches that:

- Refugees have the same dignity as every child of God.
- Welcoming the stranger is a direct command from Jesus.
- The Church must be a place of open doors.
- We must welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants.
- Jesus Himself was a refugee.
- Solidarity means standing with those who suffer.
- Fear must never stop us from loving others.

