



## Assembly Liturgy Notes for Leaders for both Primary and Secondary

### Primary Schools Assembly Liturgy

### Welcoming migrants and refugees in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

#### Leaders Notes:

*This liturgy is designed for use in a school assembly during Social Justice Week.*

*There are parts for five leaders and a number of 'readers'.*

*You may wish to begin and end with songs. Suggested hymns are 'Gather us in' (Marty Haugen) for the beginning of the liturgy and 'Be not afraid' (Bob Dufford) after the final prayer.*

#### Slide Two:

**Leader 1:** As we begin our time of prayer for refugees and migrants, we think of the words of Pope Francis...

***Just as God is merciful to us, so we are called to be merciful to each other.***

*Misericordiae Vultus; #1*

**Leader 1:** Let us begin our prayer...  
Ki te ingoa o te Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu  
Amene.

#### Slide Three

**Leader 1:** For those who have left their homes because of war or violence.

#### Slide Four

Millions of people from Syria have left their homes to escape from the bombing and fighting.  
Many families are living in camps in Lebanon and Turkey.

### **Slide Five**

**Leader 1:** We pray for all the places in the world where there is war, where people have to leave their homes because of violence.

**Leader:** E te Wairua Tapu  
**All:** We ask for your Spirit of love  
so that all countries can live in peace.

### **Slide Six**

**Leader 2:** For those who have left their homes because the sea is rising.

**Leader 2:**  
For many of the world's poorest people, life is being made harder because of climate change.

### **Slide Seven**

**Reader:** The people of the Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea are being forced to move from their islands because sea levels are rising and their soil and water are becoming salty. At the end of 2015, more than 140 families were ready to move from the islands to the mainland.

### **Slide Eight**

One of the leaders of this community is Ursula Rakova. She says, ...  
*'My vision is that Carteret Islanders... are safe and secure wherever they are – that they have enough land space to grow food and cash crops to sustain their family incomes.'*

### **Slide Nine**

**Reader:** "The world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others... (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, #159)

### **Slide Ten**

**Leader 2:** E te Atua

**All:** We pray that we will be generous and share all the things You have made with others.

### **Slide Eleven**

**Leader 3:** For people who leave their homes because they are treated unfairly.

### Slide Twelve

**Leader 3:** In some countries groups of people who seem different because of colour, religion or ethnic background are treated unfairly.

**Reader:** In Myanmar, Muslim and Christian groups are sometimes told they cannot follow God the way they want to. Many people have left Myanmar and moved to countries where they are allowed to practise their religion.

The local Catholic Cardinal says, "It breaks my heart to see the rising hatred and religious intolerance in Myanmar."

### Slide Thirteen

**Leader 3:** We pray to the God of mercy that all people will be treated fairly.

**All: E te Atua, help us to remember that all the people on this earth are your children.**

### Slide Fourteen

**Leader 4: For those who travel long distances to find a safe place to live.**

### Slide Fifteen

**Leader 4:** Like the journey of Joseph, Mary and Jesus to Egypt, the journeys made by migrants and refugees are often long and dangerous. Many refugees make dangerous boat journeys in flimsy dinghies in order to get to Europe.

### Slide Sixteen

**Reader:** Yusra and her sister were travelling in a small boat to Lesbos in Greece when the motor cut out. They got into the water and pushed the boat for three and a half hours until they arrived safely in Lesbos.

### Slide Seventeen

**Leader 4:** For people on long journeys...

**All: We pray for safe travel, hearts filled with courage, and a warm welcome at the end of the journey.**

### Slide Eighteen

**Leader 5: For those who arrive in new places.**

### Slide Nineteen

**Leader 5:** Many migrants wait in camps or detention centres, waiting to hear if they will be allowed to stay, hoping to be joined by their families.

Some people in the Darfur region of Sudan have lived in camps for ten years.

### Slide Twenty

**Reader:** We think of the words of St Paul: "Remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (*Hebrews 13:2*)

### Slide Twenty One

**Leader 5:** In this Jubilee Year of Mercy let us think of all our brothers and sisters around the world.

**All: May we welcome new people with open arms and hearts.**

### Slide Twenty Two

**Leader 6:** As we finish this time of prayer, let us remember to show mercy and love to those who need our help.

**Leader 6:** Jesus, bringer of mercy and justice...

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, protector of migrants and refugees...

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, courage for those who are afraid...

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, closest to the poor...

**All: Have mercy on us.**

### Slide Twenty Three

**Leader 6:** Ki te ingoa o te Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu.

**All: Amene.**

### Slide Twenty Four

"We have seen the face of Jesus in the face of every refugee."

*Archbishop Nikolaos Printezis, Lesbos, Greece*



### Secondary Schools Assembly Liturgy

## Welcoming Migrants and Refugees in the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

### Leaders Notes:

*This liturgy is designed for use in a school assembly during Social Justice Week.*

*There are parts for five leaders and a number of 'readers'.*

*You may wish to begin and end with songs. Suggested hymns are 'Gather us in' (Marty Haugen) for the beginning of the liturgy and 'Be not afraid' (Bob Dufford) after the final prayer.*

### Slide Two:

**Leader 1:** As we begin our time of prayer for refugees and migrants, we think of the words of Pope Francis...

***This is the opportune moment to change our lives!...***

***It is the time to listen to the cry of the innocent people who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings, and even their lives.***

**Leader 1:** Let us begin our prayer...  
Ki te ingoa o te Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu  
Amene.

### Slide Three

**Leader 1:** For those forced from their homes because of war or violence.

### Slide Four

4 million Syrians have left their country since 2011, looking for a safe place to live away from bombing and fighting.  
More than 6 million Syrians are internally displaced.

### Slide Five

**Leader 1: We pray for all the places in the world where there is war, where people have to leave their homes because of violence.**

All: God of mercy,  
pour out your peace upon us,  
so that nation will no longer lift  
sword against nation,  
nor learn to make war.

### Slide Six

**Leader 2: For those who are forced from their homes because of poverty and climate change.**

**Leader 2:**

For many of the world's poorest people, life is being made harder because of climate change.

Like Abraham who was forced on a long journey by famine, people must sometimes move to look for ways to make a living.

### Slide Seven

**Reader:** The people of the Carteret Islands in Papua New Guinea are being forced to move from their islands because sea levels are rising and their soil and water are becoming salty. At the end of 2015, more than 140 families were ready to move from the islands to the mainland.

### Slide Eight

One of the leaders of this community is Ursula Rakova. She says,...

*'My vision is that Carteret Islanders... are safe and secure wherever they are – that they have enough land space to grow food and cash crops to sustain their family incomes.'*

### Slide Nine

**Reader:** "The world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others... Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today's poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting." (*Pope Francis, Laudato Si, #159, 162*)

### Slide Ten

**Leader 2:** We pray for a more equal distribution of the goods of creation. We pray for a sense of responsibility for those in need.

**All: O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Amen.**

*(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', A prayer for our earth)*

### Slide Eleven

**Leader 3: For refugees and migrants who leave their homes because they are persecuted or discriminated against.**

### **Slide Twelve**

**Leader 3:** In some countries groups of people who seem different because of colour, religion or ethnic background are sometimes treated unfairly.

**Reader: In Myanmar, Muslim and Christian minority groups face discrimination. Some are not even recognised as citizens.**

Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon says, "It breaks my heart to see the rising hatred and religious intolerance in Myanmar. From the depths of my heart... I cry out two words to my brothers and sisters from all communities in my beloved country: 'peace' and 'love'."

### **Slide Thirteen**

**Leader 3:** We pray to the God of mercy for tolerance, and the grace to see that we are all his children. In the words of Pope Francis: "No more death! No more exploitation! There is always time to change... there is always the time to implore the mercy of God." (*Ciudad Juarez, Feb 2016*)

**All: God of all humanity,  
In a world full of fear, open our hearts to your love.  
Though we walk in desolate valleys,  
Open our minds to your hope.  
We turn from hatred, towards love.  
We turn from intolerance,  
Towards understanding.  
We commit ourselves to compassion.  
Together, not alone, we pray for peace.**

*(Linda Jones, CAFOD)*

### **Slide Fourteen**

**Leader 4: For those who travel long distances to find a safe place to live.**

### **Slide Fifteen**

**Leader 4:** The journeys made by migrants and refugees are often long and dangerous. Travelling in locked shipping containers or tiny dinghies, they risk their lives in the hope of finding a place of safety.

### **Slide Sixteen**

**Leader 4:** In 2014, more than 3,500 asylum seekers drowned in attempts to reach Europe.

### **Slide Seventeen**

**Leader 4:** For refugees on long journeys...

**All: We pray for safe passage, hearts filled with courage, and a warm welcome at the end of the journey.**

### **Slide Eighteen**

**Leader 5: For those who arrive in new places.**

### Slide Nineteen

**Leader 5:** Many migrants wait in camps or detention centres, waiting to hear if they will be allowed to stay, hoping to be joined by their families. Internally displaced people in the Darfur region of Sudan have lived in camps for up to ten years.

### Slide Twenty

**Reader:** We think of the words of St Paul: "Remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (*Hebrews 13:2*)

### Slide Twenty One

**Leader 5: In this Jubilee Year of Mercy let us be mindful of all our migrant brothers and sisters.**

All: May their lives be transformed by the dignity, support and practical action that we offer them.

### Slide Twenty Two

**Leader 6:** As we finish this time of prayer, let us commit to do all that we can to be merciful as our Father is merciful, and to reach out a hand of welcome and compassion to our neighbours who are in need.

**Leader 6:** For the grace to care for the suffering...

**All: Grant us your mercy.**

For the grace to feed the hungry...

**All: Grant us your mercy.**

For the grace to welcome the stranger...

**All: Grant us your mercy.**

For the grace to stand in solidarity...

**All: Grant us your mercy.**

For the grace to reject injustice...

**All: Grant us your mercy.**

### Slide Twenty Three

**Leader 6:** Ki te ingoa o te Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu.

**All: Amene.**

### Slide Twenty Four

**"From the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends."**

*(Misericordiae Vultus, Pope Francis)*