

## Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants

forced like  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
to flee



### Action Guide

*“When we talk about migrants and displaced persons, all too often we stop at statistics. But it is not about statistics, it is about real people! If we encounter them, we will get to know more about them.”*

Pope Francis, Message for the 106<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2020

We invite you to think about what you can do to welcome refugees and migrants for the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants (DOPFRM). We offer you some practical ideas that you and your community can do towards raising awareness and celebrating St Joseph as the patron for those forced to flee.

- Caritas has prepared a **poster for the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants** which focuses on the theme this year. We would appreciate it if you display a poster in each mass centre. More posters are available upon request to [caritas@caritas.org.nz](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz).
- **Share stories.** Perhaps you or people from your parish have been involved in supporting new migrants and refugees. Invite them to share their stories of encounter to the rest of the parish.
- **Pray for peace and protection** for all those fleeing war, hatred, persecution and poverty.
- **Support services to refugees and migrants.** Find out what is happening in your diocese to support refugees and migrants and get involved.
- **Retiring collection** – Many parishes undertake a retiring collection or small fundraising activity towards the work of supporting refugees in New Zealand or overseas. You may wish to use the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants to raise funds for:
  - Diocesan initiatives to resettle former refugees in New Zealand
  - Refugee Family Reunification Trust (in Wellington, Hamilton and Christchurch)
  - Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand’s Peace in the Middle East Appeal or Rohingya Refugee Crisis Appeal
- **Educate and raise awareness** on relevant refugee and migrant issues such as:
  - Modern day slavery and trafficking (you can use Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand’s template and write a letter to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety: <https://caritas.org.nz/modern-slavery-and-trafficking>)
  - Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship
  - Migrant worker exploitation
- **Kanohi ki te kanohi – face to face.** Perhaps invite recent migrants or former refugees for a cup of tea. Sometimes small gestures of friendship are all it takes to help them integrate into a new culture.