



Prayers for refugees

Our intercessions and prayers for refugees fleeing conflict and seeking safety

Feel free to use and adapt these intercessions and prayers for individual or corporate use. You and your church can join us and thousands of other people across the country in praying for young people each week by signing up to our [monthly Prayer email](#).

On the journey

Ever-present God,

most of us will never have to decide whether or not we should flee our home.

For this we are truly thankful.

Whether it is war, oppression, religious persecution or other fears,

we commit those children and families who have chosen the journey of a refugee into your hands.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Their journey is dangerous,

the road they walk is treacherous

and their destination is not guaranteed.

At the end of their journey,

we pray 'they' become one of 'us'.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Seeking a new life

Giver of new life,

thank you that we are a new creation

and that your graces are new every morning.

We lift up children who are setting foot in our country for the first time today.

May they experience warmth, welcome and love.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Anything new is full of opportunities and uncertainties,

Loving God, we pray child refugees' uncertainties be stilled and the opportunities our nation can offer become apparent.

In this, we are particularly mindful of children arriving on their own.

Lord, for those arriving in our community, let us play our part in answering our prayer.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

For us and our nation

Lord of all,

Understanding all the complexities and intricacies of this world is beyond us.

Reconciling the evils we see children fleeing alongside your love is deeply challenging.

Help our faith to grow and our trust in you to flourish, so that we do not just lean on our own understanding;

but trust your will and wisdom with *all* our heart.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

Whenever we see refugees as simply statistics or a problem, rather than people made in God's image;

forgive our lack of perspective.

Why, O Lord, did it take the image of a washed up child to rouse our nation's conscience?

Forgive our nation's lack of compassion.

Thank you that you freely invite everyone to be part of your kingdom.

Forgive us when we allow self-interested nationalism to overrule our heavenly citizenship and God-given common humanity.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

Guide our Government, Lord,

particularly the Home Office, making decisions about asylum applications.

Give them wisdom and discernment that transcends targets.

For the role our local government plays, we see the pressure housing and caring for refugees can bring.

Thank you for those who work tirelessly to welcome vulnerable young people into our community.

Give us the patience, love and energy to be part of this provision for child refugees.

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

Under all these pressures on government budgets, we thank you for organisations, like The Children's Society, who are unceasing in fighting for the rights of refugee children.

We praise you because we know that every gift, action and prayer we take for The Children's Society is transformed into something truly meaningful.

In supporting the marginalised and voiceless we see your will being done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hallelujah!

Your kingdom come

your will be done.

A prayer for children seeking refuge and asylum

God of compassion,
we have seen the harrowing images,
of children fleeing danger and desperately seeking safety;
of families risking everything without the assurance of anything in return;
of young people whose only hope depends on finding refuge in an unknown country.
Lord, may we offer a welcome as warm as the one we would offer the Child who once fled to Egypt.

God of hospitality,
we are thankful that this crisis isn't going unreported,
and for the immediate sanctuary provided by our nation.
But when the cameras stop rolling,
may our welcome be ever-flowing and our compassion unceasing.
Lord, may our love for those seeking refuge be steadfast, no matter the political climate.

We make this our prayer, in the name of your Son,
who offers hope to the weary, respite to the traveller and peace to all your children.
Amen.

A prayer of Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
where there is injury, pardon,
where there is doubt, faith,
where there is despair, hope,
where there is darkness, light,
where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen