Prayers for secondary schools

A Litany for refugees

1. Jesus you and your family knew what it was like to live in a country where people where it was not safe. May those who flee their own country find a new home that is safe.
2. Jesus, you and your family knew the terror and sorrow of leaving your home and country. May the refugees today find safety and ways to heal in a new place.
3. Jesus you and your family returned home when it was safe. May countries become more safe so refugees can go home if they wish to.
4. Jesus you stood up for those who were being badly treated. Help us to find ways to speak up for the sake of those seeking asylum in our country.
5. Jesus you welcomed the stranger. Help us to welcome all those refugees who seek a safe home in Australia.
6. Jesus you gave us the example of caring for everyone. May we follow you and have love and compassion for refugees.

Prayer of the Faithful

We now present our petitions to the Father of all in the name of Jesus.
Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For Pope Francis, for continued strength and wisdom in listening to the Holy Spirit. May we, by his guidance, be renewed to strengthen our work with the voiceless and marginalised.

2. For the leaders of our nations, that they may actively promote justice and peace among all nations, in particular for those least among us, especially people seeking asylum.

3. For child migrants and unaccompanied refugee children who are forced to leave their homes. May they find a new safe home and a brighter future. May we continue to become aware of their situation and bring about positive change in their lives.

4. For migrants who call Australia home. May Australia, which is continually blessed and enriched with the diversity which migrants bring, become a home for migrants and their families.

5. For those providing safety and support to people seeking asylum, that they be supported in their work raising awareness in our communities.

Jesus, you call us to welcome your children who come to our land to better their lives and to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Grant that we may be guided by your Word to abolish the barriers in our hearts and in our minds.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Based on Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office Migrant Kit 2017

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info@capsa.org.au
www.capsa.org.au

facebook.com/joincapsa
twitter.com/CAPSA_wecan

Ph: (03) 9421 7679
ABN: 72 005 269 554

Prayer of the Faithful

1. For Pope Francis, our Bishops, and all those who minister in the Church, that they may guide the Church with wisdom and holiness

2. For all the Church, that in our attitudes and actions, we may imitate the compassionate love of Jesus.

3. For our political leaders and those in public office, that they enact laws that welcome and protect people seeking asylum.

4. For those who minister to people seeking asylum that they may find strength and courage in the words of Jesus, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me".

5. For those who have tried to seek asylum in Australia but are not yet safe, that they may have a safe place to live.

6. For those who have died in their attempts to seek asylum and their loved ones left behind.

Based on Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office Migrant Kit 2018

Prayer for people seeking asylum

- Jesus help us to open our minds to learn about people seeking asylum, the difficulties they face and the treatment they are receiving when they come to Australia.
- Jesus help us to open our hearts to share our love with people seeking asylum all over the world and especially in Australia.
- Jesus help us to open our hands to give real help to those who are seeking asylum in whatever way we can.
- Jesus help us to open our whole selves to receive the gifts that people seeking asylum in Australia bring to us.

Based on See the Real Me Not Just the Refugee 2010 from the Simply Sharing program no longer on line

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Outcast God

Born into poverty in an occupied land,
Living alongside the marginalised and the oppressed.
Dying between criminals to the jeers of the crowd,
Open our eyes,
that we who seek to follow you may recognise your face in the faces of those who are reviled.
Open our ears,
that we who seek to hear your word, may recognise your love in the stories which are often drowned out.
Open our hearts,
that we who seek your way of life may be bold in witnessing to your longing for justice and peace.

Our World is Large

O Creator,
Our world is large, and yet the global community is so fragile.
We glimpse the needs of our sisters and brothers,
And those needs are great.
We want to turn away, but you call us back.
We want simple solutions,
But you want us to help solve the complex problems.
Through the gospels, you call us to listen, to learn, to reflect and to act.
Give us a deep sense of our place in this web of Creation.
Give us the wisdom of mind and generosity of heart
To seek your will in the world today.
Inspire us to respond to the call of Pope Francis
As he calls us to solidarity with impoverished countries of the world,
So that all children of God might live in dignity and peace

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A prayer for the mothers of people in detention centres

Creator God,
Who was with the Mother of Moses as she suffered the loss of her missing child,
Who was with the Mother of Jesus as they fled together through the desert,
And who loves the mothers of the young men who have been treated so cruelly on Manus,
See the fears they carry in their bodies,
See them tossing in their sleep.

Creator of Justice and Mercy,
Who inspires in the heart of every person a desire to be good,
Who weeps about the violence of our collective sins,
And who loves our politicians who are responsible for those young men.
See the fears they carry in their bodies,
See them tossing in their sleep.

Creator of Community,
Who is the embodiment of perfect community,
Who challenges everyone to love their neighbour and their enemy.
And who invites everyone to eat together at the table,
Grant us the vision to see all those mothers who are not in front of us today,
Grant us with courage to welcome the stranger.

Source - Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce

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