

Vigil

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre



Every first Sunday of the month at 3 pm

Opening Music:

Gathering Prayer:

We gather here as people of faith, and in love and compassion for the women/men who are detained here,

We gather together, assured that our God is here among us.

We come together in solidarity with those who are detained here, remembering members of their families from whom they are separated.

We gather knowing our need of God, asking for open hearts and minds.

In this time of Vigil, bless each one of us and all who are detained beyond this barrier.

Lord help us always "to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly" with you and with each other.

In God's name we gather

Amen

Readings (leader can choose 2 or 3 readings)

1. We Refugees

I come from a musical place
Where they shoot me for my song
And my brother has been tortured
By my brother in my land.

I come from a beautiful place
Where they hate my shade of skin
They don't like the way I pray
And they ban free poetry.

I come from a beautiful place
Where girls cannot go to school
There you are told what to believe
And even young boys must grow beards.

I come from a great old forest
I think it is now a field
And the people I once knew
Are not there now.

We can all be refugees
Nobody is safe,
All it takes is a mad leader
Or no rain to bring forth food,
We can all be refugees
We can all be told to go,
We can be hated by someone
For being someone.

I come from a beautiful place
Where the valley floods each year
And each year the hurricane tells us
That we must keep moving on.

I come from an ancient place
All my family were born there
And I would like to go there
But I really want to live.

I come from a sunny, sandy place
Where tourists go to darken skin
And dealers like to sell guns there
I just can't tell you what's the price.

I am told I have no country now
I am told I am a lie
I am told that modern history books
May forget my name.
We can all be refugees

Sometimes it only takes a day,
Sometimes it only takes a handshake
Or a paper that is signed.
We all came from refugees
Nobody simply just appeared,
Nobody's here without a struggle,
And why should we live in fear
Of the weather or the troubles?
We all came here from somewhere.
Benjamin Zephaniah

2. A Prayer for World Day of Migrants and Refugees

When Abraham welcomed the angels,
They, too, were on a journey,
And he begged them not to pass him by.
How is it that we miss the holy image of God
In our sisters and brothers,
Traveling perilous distances
In the baking sun, the drenching rain?
How is it that we do not run from our tents
To welcome and deeply embrace
All who flee from violence and poverty,
Seeking the ever-distant horizon of hope?
May we, like Abraham,
Run to gather the very best
Of what we have to offer
And lay it out lovingly
On the holy table of hospitality.
Amen.
Cameron Bellm

3. O God, open our eyes that we may see the needs of others;
Open our ears that we may hear their cries;
Open our hearts that we may feel their anguish and their joy.
Let us not be afraid to defend the oppressed, the poor, the powerless, because of the
anger and might of the powerful.
Show us where love and hope and faith are needed, and use us to bring them to those
places.
Open our ears and eyes, our hearts and lives, that we may in these coming days be able
to do some work of justice and peace for you. Amen.
The Sabeel Centre, Jerusalem

4. Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the
way things are and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are. *Saint Augustine*

5. For the gifts of home, of shelter, of places where we can freely pray and play, for the right to think and speak, We thank you, Lord.

For our brothers and sisters whose homes are torched, whose children are scattered, who must turn down their eyes and fence their mouths, Lord we pray.

For the hands that have touched us in love, the hearts that have wept and laughed with us, for the kindly word, the space given us to fall and rise again,
We thank you, Lord.

That our hearts may be open, our hands ready, and our words welcoming to those who have lost their home and need to start again,
Lord we pray.

Henry Nouwen Network

6. "If we lived in a just world, all nations would protect their citizens' human rights. But that's not our world. Refugees are just one result of injustice. Crucially, they didn't cause their plight; rather, they are victims of profound injustice. Because their home nation cannot or will not protect even their basic human rights, they must migrate in search of protection. They are entitled to this protection, as all of us are, simply by virtue of being human."

Patti Tamara Lenard

7. Liberating the oppressed, setting free those who are downtrodden, standing with them against oppressive systems, and radically changing our own conduct, our institutions and policies on behalf of justice-----that is what walking the road to Galilee is all about. That is what believing in the resurrection means.

Barbara Fiand--"Prayer and the Quest for Healing"

8. We remember the words of the prophet Micah: 'This is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.' (Micah 6:8) Leviticus 19:33-34 'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.'

Hebrews 13:16 "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Matthew 25:35-36 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Galatians 5:14 "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."

9. We pray for all those who are detained indefinitely in immigration removal centres. We ask that they might feel your presence close to them during the difficult moments of isolation. We ask that they may know they are not forgotten. We also pray for those who have been released, for those who have recently left detention and are still affected by their experience. May they be given your consolation as they return and readjust to life outside the centres.

Lord, give us courage to accompany others, for in walking at their side, we find You here present with us. Give us joy that we might serve others, for in showing our compassion to those who suffer, we sense your healing grace at work in us. Give us wisdom as we advocate for others, for in defending the downtrodden, we hear your voice speak up for us. Grant that in all we do, we may give you glory Lord; we return all we have in love to you, for you have given everything to us. Amen. *Jesuit Refugee Service*

10. Our Father who art in heaven
 Creator of all the races in your world
 Hallowed be thy name
 Praised and beloved by all your people of whatever colour and race.
 Thy kingdom come
 Where racial justice prevails and all are welcome without favour or discrimination.
 Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
 Where we will strive to live as sisters and brothers bound together as your children.
 Give us this day
 A day of enlightenment when we recognise all peoples as equal in your sight,
 Our daily bread
 To share with our neighbours of whatever colour, race or creed.
 Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
 Forgive the wrongs of the colonial past, the oppression of slavery, the assumption of white privilege and the ongoing racism hidden in ourselves and our communities.
 Lead us not into temptation
 Of pride and the denial of truth
 But deliver us from the evil
 Of racism which divides communities and destroys lives.
 We pledge our active commitment to seek racial justice and equity for everyone both individually and institutionally,
 For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory
 which will transform us all
 for ever and ever.
 Amen.

National Board of Catholic Women

11. For what shall we pray, O God? where there is death, let us offer life, where there is brokenness, let us be healers, where there is loneliness, let us offer a welcome.
 for what shall we pray, O God? where there is cruelty, let us seek justice, where there is bitterness, let us sow kindness, where there is hatred, let us offer hands of love.
 for what shall we pray O God? where there is anger, let us be the breath of hope, where there is violence, let us be peacemakers, where neighbourhoods are in ruins, let us rebuild communities.
 For what shall we pray? for more tenderness than tensions, for more listening than lecturing,
 For more forgiving than pointing fingers, for more concern for the forgotten than the favoured, for more humanity than hatred. hear our prayers, God in Community, Holy in One, hear our prayers, Amen. *Thom M. Shuman*

12. Who are those people?
 Who are these clamouring to enter our land, our homes, our hearts? Why are they here disturbing our peace?
 What do they want from us who have more than enough for ourselves?
 Where do they come from, speaking such foreign words we do not understand?
 We suspect they come to steal, harm or kill, to spoil our culture taking advantage of our good will.
 We fear most what they themselves flee: hunger, poverty, disease, violence, war, oppression.
 Most of all we dislike the truth they reveal about ourselves, who put conditions on God's unconditional love for all.

God, it's your face we try not to see, your voice we strive not to hear, your word we'd rather not obey.

Help us to recognise they are you and they are us. - *Joseph Veneroso, MM*

13. For the Return of Peace

O Peace, you fleeting dream,
O Justice, you fickle hope,
Today we do not pray in your name.
Today we pray in the name of the children
Who have never met you,
Who have not been blessed
With your love or your truth.
Surely, their cries must someday
Drive you out of hiding,
Summoning you to cast your healing
Upon all the earth.
One God,
Ancient and merciful,
Justice and Peace are Yours.
Halt their retreat from the world
And send them to us for good.
Do it for the sake of Your name,
Do it for the sake of Your right hand,
Do it for the sake of holiness,
Do it for the sake of Your children,
So that all may live in the fullness of Your gifts,
As one family on earth,
Under Your canopy of love.

Alden Solovy, Israeli-American writer and teacher

14. God of Humanity,

Source of Peace,
Watch over the residents of Israel and Palestine.
Grant wisdom and discernment to the leaders,
courage and hope to the powerless.
Guide them on the path to justice.
Inspire them to turn their swords into plowshares,
to turn their callousness into empathy.

May all the inhabitants of the land
remember the teaching from our prophets:
we should conduct ourselves "not with might, nor with power, but with spirit"
so that all may live in peace and dignity.

And let us say Amen. *Rabbi Amy Bardack*

Introduction to the 15 minutes of silence.

In silence we hear God's whisper,
Moving like a feather through our being.

Stroking and transforming timid souls,
Into fiery passion for justice.
Edwina Gateley—"A Mystical Heart"

Silence

Psalm 13[a]

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to me.

Psalm 142[a]

A maskil of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.

I cry aloud to the Lord;
I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.
I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.
When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.
In the path where I walk
people have hidden a snare for me.
Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.
I have no refuge;
no one cares for my life.
I cry to you, Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me.

Intercessions

Response: Oh Lord hear my prayer (2x)
When I call, answer me
Oh Lord hear my prayer (2x)
Come and listen to me.

Closing Prayer

May we journey through our days with a lifting heart, gifted and blessed
May we work in a spirit of collaboration, support and compassion.
And may God,
Be in our beginnings and endings,
And on the journey in between. AMEN

Sign of Peace

Let us stretch both our hands towards the detention centre and send a sign of peace to people detained there and people working there. Then let us offer peace to one another and the world we live in.

