

**Welcoming,
Protecting,
Promoting and
Integrating
Migrants and
Refugees**



**WORLD DAY OF
MIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES**

Sunday,
29 September 2019

PARISH RESOURCE PACK

Contents

Foreword by Bishop Denis Brennan, Chair of the Council for Immigrants of the Irish Bishops' Conference.....	3
Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.....	4
Liturgy Guide for Use throughout the Year	7
Parish Bulletin Insert.....	8
Suggested Homily Notes	9
Prayer of the Faithful.....	11
An Immigrant Prayer.....	12
Solidarity with Our Migrants.....	13
Rosary for Migrants and Refugees.....	14
Irish Blessing for those Who are Forced to Leave Home	15



Foreword

As we celebrate the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on 29 September 2019, our first thoughts and prayers are with our migrant brothers and sisters who live here among us in Ireland, in our dioceses, our parishes and most especially those in direct provision centres in our country. In his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019, Pope Francis invites us to discern our outlook and actions with regard to this most important topic as:

... the presence of migrants and refugees – and of vulnerable people in general – is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why *it is not just about migrants*. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.

In a very simple phrase, a clarion call to us Christians who live in societies which ‘are witnessing a growing trend towards extreme individualism ... producing a “globalisation of indifference”’, the Holy Father again asks us to adopt a decided stance and course of action summed up in four simple verbs – ‘welcome, protect, promote and integrate.’

Please join with Pope Francis and the Council for Immigrants of the Irish Episcopal Conference in drawing attention to the call of Pope Francis to welcome migrants and refugees into our dioceses and parishes.

We hope this resource pack will assist you in raising awareness of the challenges facing our migrants and refugees in Ireland and throughout the world. We would encourage you to make use of these resources to reach out to the people of your diocese and parish.

If the Council for Immigrants can be of any assistance to you in your ministry, please contact our offices at the Columba Centre, Maynooth. We also encourage you to visit our website: www.catholicbishops.ie/immigrants.

+ Denis

Bishop Denis Brennan
Chair of the Council for Immigrants of the Irish Bishops’ Conference



Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

'It is not just about migrants'

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Faith assures us that in a mysterious way the Kingdom of God is already present here on earth.¹ Yet, in our own time, we are saddened to see the obstacles and opposition it encounters. Violent conflicts and all-out wars continue to tear humanity apart; injustices and discrimination follow one upon the other; economic and social imbalances on a local or global scale prove difficult to overcome. And, above all, it is the poorest of the poor and the most disadvantaged who pay the price.

The most economically advanced societies are witnessing a growing trend towards extreme individualism which, combined with a utilitarian mentality and reinforced by the media, is producing a 'globalisation of indifference'. In this scenario, migrants, refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking have become emblems of exclusion. In addition to the hardships that their condition entails, they are often looked down upon and considered the source of all society's ills. That attitude is an alarm bell warning of the moral decline we will face if we continue to give ground to the throw-away culture. In fact, if it continues, anyone who does not fall within the accepted norms of physical, mental and social well-being is at risk of marginalisation and exclusion.

For this reason, the presence of migrants and refugees – and of vulnerable people in general – is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why *it is not just about migrants*. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.

'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid!' (Mt 14:27). *It is not just about migrants: it is also about our fears*. The signs of meanness we see around us heighten 'our fear of "the other", the unknown, the marginalised, the foreigner ... We see this today in particular, faced with the arrival of migrants and refugees knocking on our door in search of protection, security and a better future. To some extent, the fear is legitimate, also because the preparation for this encounter is lacking.'² But the problem is not that we have doubts and fears. The problem is when they condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even – without realising it – racist. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other, the person different from myself; it deprives me of an opportunity to encounter the Lord.³

'For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same?' (Mt 5:46). *It is not just about migrants: it is about charity*. Through works of charity, we demonstrate our faith (cf. Jas 2:18). And the highest form of charity is that shown to those unable to reciprocate and perhaps even to thank us in return. 'It is also about the face we want to give to our

society and about the value of each human life ... The progress of our peoples ... depends above all on our openness to being touched and moved by those who knock at our door. Their faces shatter and debunk all those false idols that can take over and enslave our lives; idols that promise an illusory and momentary happiness blind to the lives and sufferings of others.’⁴

‘But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight’ (Lk 10:33). *It is not just about migrants: it is about our humanity.* Compassion motivated that Samaritan – for the Jews, a foreigner – not to pass by. Compassion is a feeling that cannot be explained on a purely rational level. Compassion strikes the most sensitive chords of our humanity, releasing a vibrant urge to ‘be a neighbour’ to all those whom we see in difficulty. As Jesus himself teaches us (cf. Mt 9:35-36; 14:13-14; 15:32-37), being compassionate means recognising the suffering of the other and taking immediate action to soothe, heal and save. To be compassionate means to make room for that tenderness which today’s society so often asks us to repress. ‘Opening ourselves to others does not lead to impoverishment, but rather enrichment, because it enables us to be more human: to recognise ourselves as participants in a greater collectivity and to understand our life as a gift for others; to see as the goal, not our own interests, but rather the good of humanity.’⁵

‘See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father’ (Mt 18:10). *It is not just about migrants: it is a question of seeing that no one is excluded.* Today’s world is increasingly becoming more elitist and cruel towards the excluded. Developing countries continue to be drained of their best natural and human resources for the benefit of a few privileged markets. Wars only affect some regions of the world, yet weapons of war are produced and sold in other regions which are then unwilling to take in the refugees produced by these conflicts. Those who pay the price are always the little ones, the poor, the most vulnerable, who are prevented from sitting at the table and are left with the ‘crumbs’ of the banquet (cf. Lk 16:19-21). ‘The Church which “goes forth” ... can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast.’⁶ A development that excludes makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. A real development, on the other hand, seeks to include all the world’s men and women, to promote their integral growth, and to show concern for coming generations.

‘Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all’ (Mk 10:43-44). *It is not just about migrants: it is about putting the last in first place.* Jesus Christ asks us not to yield to the logic of the world, which justifies injustice to others for my own gain or that of my group. ‘Me first, and then the others!’ Instead, the true motto of the Christian is, ‘The last shall be first!’ ‘An individualistic spirit is fertile soil for the growth of that kind of indifference towards our neighbours which leads to viewing them in purely economic terms, to a lack of concern for their humanity, and ultimately to feelings of fear and cynicism. Are these not the attitudes we often adopt towards the poor, the marginalised and the “least” of society? And how many of these “least” do we have in our societies! Among them I think primarily of migrants, with their burden of hardship and suffering, as they seek daily, often in desperation, a place to live in peace and dignity.’⁷ In the logic of the Gospel, the last come first, and we must put ourselves at their service.

‘I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly’ (Jn 10:10). *It is not just about migrants: it is about the whole person, about all people.* In Jesus’ words, we encounter the very heart of his mission: to see that all receive the gift of life in its fullness, according to the will of the Father.

In every political activity, in every programme, in every pastoral action we must always put the person at the centre, in his or her many aspects, including the spiritual dimension. And this applies to all people, whose fundamental equality must be recognised. Consequently, 'development cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well-rounded; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man.'⁸

'So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God' (Eph 2:19). *It is not just about migrants: it is about building the city of God and man.* In our time, which can also be called the era of migration, many innocent people fall victim to the 'great deception' of limitless technological and consumerist development.⁹ As a result, they undertake a journey towards a 'paradise' that inevitably betrays their expectations. Their presence, at times uncomfortable, helps to debunk the myth of a progress that benefits a few while built on the exploitation of many. 'We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community.'¹⁰

Dear brothers and sisters, our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. Yet these verbs do not apply only to migrants and refugees. They describe the Church's mission to all those living in the existential peripheries, who need to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated. If we put those four verbs into practice, we will help build the city of God and man. We will promote the integral human development of all people. We will also help the world community to come closer to the goals of sustainable development that it has set for itself and that, lacking such an approach, will prove difficult to achieve.

In a word, it is not only the cause of migrants that is at stake; it is not just about them, but about all of us, and about the present and future of the human family. Migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, help us to read the 'signs of the times'. Through them, the Lord is calling us to conversion, to be set free from exclusivity, indifference and the throw-away culture. Through them, the Lord invites us to embrace fully our Christian life and to contribute, each according to his or her proper vocation, to the building up of a world that is more and more in accord with God's plan. In expressing this prayerful hope, and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Way, I invoke God's abundant blessings upon all the world's migrants and refugees and upon all those who accompany them on their journey.

From the Vatican, 27 May 2019

Franciscus

1. cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 39.
2. *Homily in Sacrofano*, 15 February 2019.
3. cf. *Homily at Mass for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees*, 14 January 2018.
4. *Address at the Diocesan Caritas of Rabat*, 30 March 2019.
5. *Address at the Heydar Aliyev Mosque in Baku*, 2 October 2016.
6. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 24.
7. *Address to the Diplomatic Corps*, 11 January 2016.
8. SAINT PAUL VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 14.
9. cf. *Laudato Si'*, 34.
10. *Message for the 2014 World Day of Migrants and Refugees*.



Liturgy Guide for Use throughout the Year

The following guide offers some suggestions for dioceses and parishes who wish to celebrate their diversity and think creatively about diversity and inclusion in the liturgy:

When preparing the liturgy:

- Promote the active participation of all people in your parish community;
- Invite leaders of community ethnic groups into your liturgy planning process;
- Know and understand the cultural backgrounds of your parishioners and include appropriate cultural influences.

Ways to include a variety of languages in your worship celebration:

- Music
- Responses to General Intercessions
- Lord's Prayer
- Sign of the Peace



Parish Bulletin Insert

Throughout history, humans have migrated across the globe, making their homes in new places. Yet, at this moment, we are experiencing the largest migrant and refugee crisis in modern history. Conflict, poverty and violence have forced tens of millions of people away from their homelands into unknown futures because the insecurity of the journey is preferable to the unsafe conditions in their own homes and countries.

We know God is with our sisters and brothers seeking refuge. Will we answer the call to stand with them and recognise that we share their journey?

From Deuteronomy 10:17-19:

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Long have we known that your heart is with the migrant and refugee: that you were born into time in a family of refugees fleeing violence in their homeland, who then gathered up their hungry child and fled into an alien country. Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: 'Will you let me in?' Give us hearts that break open when our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry. Then surely all these things will follow: Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices. Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat. Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate. And hands will reach out – working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven. Lord, protect all migrants and refugees in their travels. May they find a friend in me and so make me worthy of the refuge I have found in you. Amen.

This prayer is excerpted from the [Solidarity Vigil for Refugees](#).



Suggested Homily Notes

Migrants and refugees who come to Ireland, particularly the undocumented, are among the voiceless who need someone to speak on behalf of their human rights and dignity. When scriptural or liturgical texts address this point, whether on World Migrant and Refugee Sunday, special occasions or regular Sundays, the homily can be an effective moment to highlight the tradition of welcome, outreach and service, and to invite others to participate in this calling.

‘It is not just about migrants’

Our first reading and Gospel try to teach us to care about what happens to others. We all need to hear this teaching from time to time. We want to follow Jesus Christ and we want to learn to live as he lived. Jesus himself teaches us that the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

In our first reading, the Prophet Amos tells us about our Hebrew ancestors in Zion who did not care that their people had been destroyed and taken away. All of us suffer from this same tendency: if a catastrophe does not affect us personally and directly, then we can easily forget about it. Even today, with television and social media, when we can see the awful things that happen in our world, we often find ourselves not caring much about what happens to others.

On the other hand, if we know that something is going to affect us, then we begin to care passionately about it.

The Gospel about a rich man and a poor man show how easy it is to have poor people living right on our doorstep in our parishes and communities and yet pay no attention to them. They are simply inconveniences to us and we can learn how not to see them and how not to let them bother us.

The question is, have we lost our souls? What is our response to this story of Jesus? How do I love my neighbour, the refugee, the migrant? We can ask the Lord today to pray within us and to show us a way to love more completely our migrant brothers and sisters.

For this year’s World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis has insisted that, ‘It is not just about migrants’. How we welcome migrants and refugees affects all of us and helps to shape the sort of society we want to be, and the sort of people we want to be. We cannot establish God’s kingdom here and now, but we can do more to make our homes, our local community, and our country more welcoming to those who come to our dioceses and parishes.

It is often the simplest of things that can make the biggest of differences for migrants and refugees in our community: instead of turning our face away, a simple smile to mean that I welcome you and

I respect you; instead of avoiding them, a short conversation, asking how are you and if everything is okay, to mean that I am concerned about you. In other words, doing something little but beautiful which will have a tremendous effect on the needy and the lonely. This is the beginning of encounter and it is from here we move forward together in solidarity, exchanging stories of each other's cultures, giving to and receiving from the other and contributing together to the welfare of the diocese, parish and community. We need to experience multiculturalism not as a threat but as an opportunity. I think this should be the end result of our Migrant and Refugee Sunday celebration this year.

May God enlighten our minds and our hearts so that we may live his love more fully.

Fr Willie Purcell

Council for Immigrants of the Irish Bishops' Conference.

Prayer of the Faithful

We pray that we may accept the gifts of our migrants and refugees with open hands and hearts showing them that we are brothers and sisters. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may live our baptismal commitment by helping refugees and migrants in our dioceses and parishes. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may listen to the Word of God and live it out fully by our hospitality to all in our parish. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may hear and answer 'here I am' to the Gospel values of being welcoming to one another, especially our immigrant brothers and sisters. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may reach out to touch others as Jesus did. Lord hear us.

We pray that we are willing to help others who are in need of basic necessities, such as food, and are also able to listen to those in need. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may find ways of following Jesus by seeking ways to help refugees, migrants and their families. Lord hear us.

God of Unity and Hope, we pray that our country may be transformed with love. May we hear the cries of migrant and refugee families and be ready to help them in any ways we can. Lord hear us.

All immigrants are our brothers and sisters and all children are gifts of God to us. May we grow in caring for others and be sensitive to their needs. May we welcome those who come to our diocese and parish.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.





An Immigrant Prayer

Dear Jesus, our journey through life is long and hard. We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey. You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit. Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us. In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence, let us see your Spirit. In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables, let us see your Spirit. In the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for himself and his family, let us see your Spirit. In the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world, let us see your Spirit. Teach us to recognise that as we walk with each other, you are present. Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst but the gifts they bring as well: the invitation to conversion, communion, and solidarity. This is the help you have sent: we are not alone. We are together on the journey, and for this we give you thanks. Amen.

Solidarity with Our Migrants

Pray for one migrant and refugee whom you have met.

Learn about refugee and migrant services in your community.

Celebrate the bonds across cultures and religions that make us stronger and more resilient.

Read Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, on care for our common home.

It is not just about migrants ...

It is not just about migrants:
it is also about our fears and hurts.

It is not just about migrants:
it is about charity and compassion.

It is not just about migrants:
it is about our humanity.

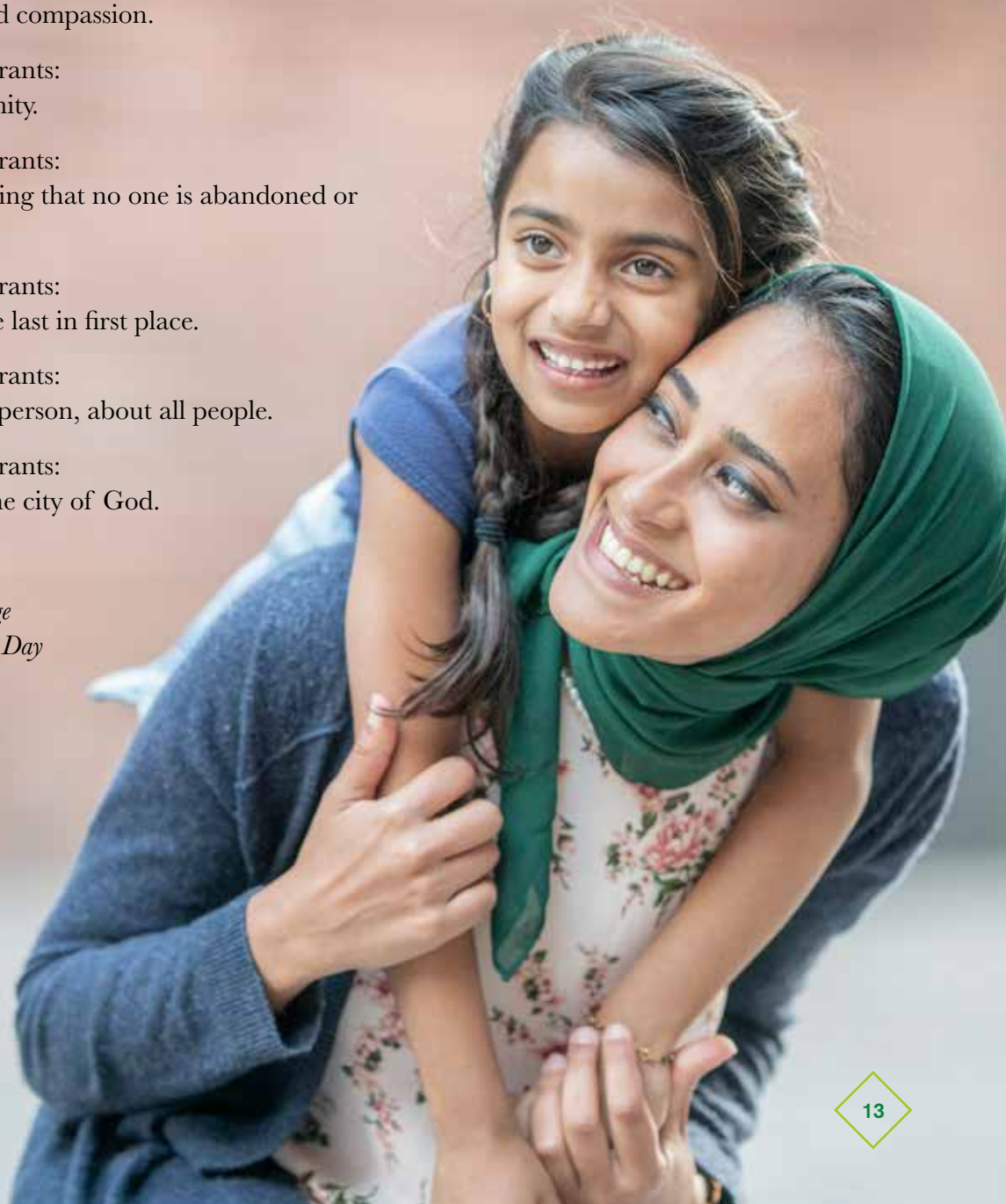
It is not just about migrants:
it is a question of seeing that no one is abandoned or excluded.

It is not just about migrants:
it is about putting the last in first place.

It is not just about migrants:
it is about the whole person, about all people.

It is not just about migrants:
it is about building the city of God.

*Litany based on the message
of Pope Francis for World Day
of Migrants and Refugees.*





Rosary for Migrants and Refugees

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation – Luke 1:29-32

‘Do not be afraid,’ the Angel Gabriel said to Mary. When we are confronted with change in our lives, it is hard not to be afraid. For the migrant and refugee, change may require leaving behind family, friends, and home. When we make room in our lives to welcome newcomers, we change as well. We pray for the grace of love, which casts out all fear.

The Visitation – Luke 1:39-45

During her pregnancy, Mary was a woman on the move, going to visit her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country. Today, millions of women – often pregnant or with young children – are forced to flee their homelands. We pray for the grace of hospitality, to welcome them into our country and our homes as Elizabeth welcomed Mary.

The Nativity – Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:13-15

Jesus was born a migrant. Bethlehem had no room, no welcome for the outsiders, so Jesus was born in a stable. The wrath of King Herod turned Jesus and his family into refugees. Today,

migrants and refugees are still forced from their homes by poverty, war, disaster, or oppression. We pray for the grace of charity, to offer them comfort and consolation.

The Presentation – Luke 2:22-38

Simeon and Anna created a welcoming community when the Holy Family came to the temple. They were rewarded with the recognition that they had seen God’s Holy One. We are challenged to create welcoming communities in our own dioceses and parishes. We pray for the grace to recognise Jesus present in each migrant and refugee.

The Finding in the Temple – Luke 2:41-50

How frantic Mary and Joseph must have been to discover that the child Jesus was missing, and how relieved they were to find him. Many thousands of migrants and refugees today are ‘unaccompanied minors’ – lost children with no parents to seek and reclaim them. We pray for the grace to find loving homes and families for them, as we would for Jesus himself.

Irish Blessing for those Who are Forced to Leave Home

The love and affection of the angels be to you,
The love and affection of the saints be to you,
The love and affection of heaven be to you,
To guard and to cherish you.
May God shield you on every step,
May he aid you on every path,
And may he hold you safe on every slope,
On every hill and on every plain;
On earth and on sea until it is safe to go home again



Acknowledgements

- *Unity in Diversity: A Scriptural Rosary*, Copyright © United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC, 2008. All rights reserved.
- www.crs.org



Council for Immigrants of the Irish Episcopal Conference
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 P6D3
T: +353 1 5053009 – W: www.catholicbishops.ie/immigrants – E: immigrants@iecon.ie