

**World Day of Migrants and Refugees  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**“Whoever receives one such child in my name  
receives me;  
and whoever receives me,  
receives not me but him who sent me.”**  
MARK 9:37



*... loving proximity to the smallest and the weakest*  
**Pope Francis**

## Sacred Song:

Circle me, Lord,  
keep protection near  
and danger far.

Circle me, Lord,  
keep hope within,  
keep doubt without.

Circle me, Lord,  
keep light near,  
and darkness afar.

Circle me, Lord,  
keep peace within,  
keep evil out.  
Circle me, Lord...

Sacred Weave  
Celtic Songs from Lindisfarne

This could equally be a shared  
Prayer for every child in our world!

*'... I ask everyone to take care of the young...  
I ask everyone to help those who, for various reasons,  
are forced to live far from their homeland  
and are separated from their families.'*

Pope Francis

Quiet music... A time to reflect

There are people all around, all walking, on and on.  
You walk for days. There is very little, if anything, to eat.  
You are getting so thin you hardly recognise yourself and  
your body is exhausted. You run out of land - there is  
water ahead, fear and turmoil behind...

What are your feelings?

Everyone is shoving and clambering for a place on the boat.  
You don't want to go, but you know you cannot stay...

What is your deepest feeling?

For you this was a short time of reflective imagining...  
But for many women, men *and children*  
this is reality.

Every minute eight people leave everything behind  
to flee war, persecution or terror

We pray, on this Day of Migrants and Refugees,  
for the many children living these experiences today.  
We pray, also, for the many mothers and fathers who are  
desperately seeking a better and safer life for their  
children.

*"... take care of the young  
they are children,  
they are foreigners  
and they have no means to protect themselves..*

Pope Francis

### The Lord's Prayer (Alternative version)

Our father who is in heaven, between gulls and warplanes,  
we want you to return before you forget how to get to this  
earth, so you can dance in a ring, not play hide-and-seek.  
Our mother, who is in the fields, help us when we carry  
water and we can't go on. Mother of so many orphans, of  
beggars for food and shelter, of us who work when we  
should be playing and coming home from school as so many  
others do. Our father who watches street children grow by  
the thousands in my city, see how we hang about street  
corners and ask for money so our 'protectors' won't beat  
us. Our mother, who is in the cold night, it seems you  
hardly ever remember us kids, hear our prayer mixed with  
crying. May your kingdom simply come, your kingdom where  
I dream freely and receive love, where I have friends and  
we learn to live this Kingdom you said was for little ones,  
the humble, the boys and girls. Amen

(Hugo Venegas, Ecuador)

*'I entrust all child migrants, their families, their communities, and you who are  
close to them, to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth,  
May they watch over and accompany each one on their journey.'*

Pope Francis



1. .. the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt... Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him. **Slowly and reflectively pray two Hail Mary's**
2. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt.  
**Slowly and reflectively pray two Hail Mary's**
3. When Herod realised that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the male children who were two years old or under.  
**Slowly and reflectively pray two Hail Mary's**
4. He stayed there (in Egypt) until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: *Out of Egypt I called my son.*  
**Slowly and reflectively pray two Hail Mary's**
5. After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel.

## Slowly and reflectively pray two Hail Mary's

As we pray the Glory be to the Father we remember the many countries around the world struggling to host refugees and migrants... and we pray for God's peace, justice, grace and forgiveness to reign, leading to a future where people no longer need to flee their homes, lives and families.

**Glory be to the Father...**

For children caught in the midst of war

**R/ we pray for peace**

For children held captive

**R/ we pray for freedom**

For children facing intolerance and hatred

**R/ we pray for acceptance and love**

For children fleeing for their lives

**R/ we pray for protection**

For children who see no future

**R/ we pray for hope**

For children alone in a strange land

**R/ We pray for friendship and support**

*'Childhood, given its fragile nature, has unique and inalienable needs... The right to a healthy and secure family environment, where the child can grow under the guidance and example of a father and a mother... the right and duty to receive adequate education... where children can grow as persons and agents of their own future and the future of their respective countries... All children, furthermore, have the right to recreation; in a word, they have the right to be children.'* Pope Francis

## Concluding Prayer:

God of life and death and resurrection,  
walk with us,  
weep with us,  
love us,  
wipe away our tears.  
Through light and through darkness  
bring all your children safely home.  
Amen



*Our prayer today is inspired by the Message of Pope Francis  
for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. It is a prayer for  
'Child Migrants, the Vulnerable and the Voiceless'  
Every child has his or her own story... and there are no easy solutions.*

*So today, in prayer,  
we place every child under the protection and care of the Lord,  
who crossed every border and passed through each locked door,  
that our world might respond to these children  
with his understanding, compassion and love.*

## **Other Possible English Resources:**

### Music -

Kathy Sherman: Faces of the Children

Liam Lawton or John Michael Talbot:

St Teresa's Prayer

Marc Anderson and Marty Haugen:

World Peace Prayer

### Videos -

Prayer of the Children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lUNRsvQ8SGs>

[http://play.smilebox.com/SpreadMoreHappy/  
4e4451324e546b794f446c384f5445304e4451314e7a4d3d0d0a](http://play.smilebox.com/SpreadMoreHappy/4e4451324e546b794f446c384f5445304e4451314e7a4d3d0d0a)