

## Workshop agenda and long presentation script

This workshop is the main event for Plan 2 (see Introduction and Instructions for leaders) and can be used and adapted for Plan 3 (see Plan 3 agenda ideas). Allow an hour for this event. See instructions and notes for leaders for ideas how to run this presentation and workshop. The event includes five sections:

1. Introduction (with optional interactive activity)
2. Presentation with opportunities for discussion in small groups
3. Open floor discussion – what can we do?
4. Defining next steps
5. Closing prayer

After the meeting – or at a suitable point during the meeting, serve refreshments or a meal.

---

## Part 1 – Introduction

### Slide 1

#### Welcome

Introduce yourself and talk about why you have called this meeting (from a personal point of view). If others are going to input into the meeting introduce them too. Be aware of who is in the room in case there is anyone else who should be mentioned, if anyone has any expertise on this issue, through their lived experience or through their work or volunteering.



caritas archdiocese of southwark

Together with JRS UNITED KINGDOM

REFUGEE RESOURCE Parish Pack

## Love the Stranger

A short exploration of Catholic teaching on refugees and migrants, and how our parish can respond.

Created by Caritas Southwark in partnership with the Jesuit Refugee Service UK

---

### Slide 2

#### Introduction

Talk through the plan for the evening.

Ask people to introduce themselves to each other – in small groups if numbers are above a dozen or so.

#### This presentation will include

- Reflection and prayer
- Some ideas from Catholic Social Teaching and the Popes
- Facts about migration
- Love the Stranger - what the Catholic bishops' document covers.
- Discussion
- About JRS UK
- What refugees in the UK need, and what can we do? Discussion
- What are our next steps?
- Closing prayer

## Optional activity:

A. (if the community is ethnically diverse) invite people to mark on a map or a globe their country of origin, or that of their parents/grandparents in a reflective way, so that we see how wonderful it is that God's people are together here from all over the world. In small groups people can share a little of their stories.

OR

B. (if the community is less ethnically diverse – to show how migration has still played a part in most of our lives) invite everyone to stand up or to raise their hands. Ask the following questions and if the answer is yes, sit down/lower hands.

- Were you born in a country other than the United Kingdom?
- Have you lived in another country?
- Was one of your parents born in a country other than the UK?
- Are you married to someone who was born in another country?
- Were you born in another nation of the UK (Wales, Scotland, NI)?
- Was one of your parents born in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland?
- Was one of your grandparents born in a different country, or in another nation of the UK?
- Were you born outside of London/Kent?
- Were you born outside of [name of town/borough]?
- Do you have a sibling who lives abroad, a child, uncle or aunt, cousin? Or who has lived abroad for any time?

Most people would be sitting down now, but you can carry on making up questions if you like! There may be one or two who have always lived in your town, this is great too! Conclude with these words or similar:

This is to get us all thinking how we have all benefited in some way, or people in our family have, from our ability to migrate. People have always migrated, in fact, nation states with defined boundaries are relatively recent in the whole of human history. People migrate for a whole range of reasons, that push them or pull them to travel. Wherever they settle they enrich the culture, economy, and society around them.

Today we are exploring what the situation is like in the world for people who migrate, in particular those who are forced to migrate due to the situations in their home countries making life impossible there. We will look at what our faith has to say about all this, and what we as a community here in [name of parish] can do.

OR

C. On the idea of Home.

When you have been out for a day, what is the first thing that you normally do when you get home? Take 30 seconds to think about what you do and how this feels.

Then, they can either

tell the person next to you what you do – do they do the same thing or something different?

OR

mime what you do – everyone to act out silently what they do when they get home, and the leader guesses what each person is doing.

### Conclusion

Our homes are important – and are more than physical spaces. Your town, county or city, or country can all be called home too. Perhaps you still consider the place where you grew up to be home.

This evening we are thinking about why people leave home and what we can do to help those who arrive in our communities to feel at home again.

## PRAYER

Use your own words or:

We ask God to be with us this evening as we reflect on his love for all his people and ask how we can better show this love to our sisters and brothers.

We ask the intercessions of the patron saints of migrants and of victims of human trafficking. St Francis Xavier Cabrini, pray for us  
St Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.

---

## Part 2 - Presentation

### Slide 3

#### Story of a refugee friend

Hear the story of a Syrian refugee who worked hard to make life easier for other people in the detention camp he was placed in:

*(ask another reader – preferable male – to read this)*

"I didn't want to leave Syria, I didn't want to be a refugee. But there was no other way to survive. I claimed asylum on arrival in the UK and I found myself in detention in Penally\* Camp in Wales. It was a massive site with Nissan hut-style dormitories, where new arrivals struggled to find the showers or dining room, or even the office of the sub-contractors – as it carried no signage.

Seeing the confusion of the newly arrived, I had to help them, simple things like how to get Wi-Fi, how to replenish their medicines, and simply answering people's questions. There was so much need that it led me to think of devising a better system of communication, so I organised Whatsapp groups, each one of a certain number and each with leaders who would be responsible for their group and the groups in turn would help each other. We arranged these according to language groups and other criteria.

It soon became clear that people from the local community were interested in helping us, I found them on social media and joined various groups. So now we had a connection with the outside and they wanted to meet us. However, some far-right protesters were always at the gate, so we couldn't meet there, but we could meet elsewhere locally. The supporters asked to be added to our Whatsapp network so they joined different groups and offered a lot of help."

*(another reader could take over, or back to the leaders voice)*

This refugee went on to set up an association – Camp Residents of Penally or CROP, which organised many activities to make the residents lives easier, most notably English classes taught by other residents with English teaching skills, the materials being provided by volunteers and from the camp office. The group found voluntary work in the local area to give the men in the camp a sense of purpose and set up a buddy scheme, linking camp residents with a friend outside the camp.

Our friend went on to say:

*(back to first reader)*

"Compared to others I received settled status very quickly and was able to work and get a job immediately. But I couldn't forget my brothers who were held in detention. We retained CROP in action with other responsible people inside the camp in charge of it.

Penally camp closed in March 2021. We decided to continue the work of CROP and became a registered charity "Life Seekers Aid" We run community hubs and have been active in Napier Barracks and other centres since."

*(the full story can be found here: [www.jrsuk.net/blog/it-is-better-to-light-a-candle-than-to-curse-the-darkness/](http://www.jrsuk.net/blog/it-is-better-to-light-a-candle-than-to-curse-the-darkness/))*

*\*you can check the pronunciation of this Welsh town here: [www.howtopronounce.com/welsh/penally](http://www.howtopronounce.com/welsh/penally)*



## Slide 4

### Catholic teaching

Our faith has a long history – older than the church itself, going back through the old testament – of teaching on loving and welcoming strangers.

It was part of the Jewish laws : “And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.” Deuteronomy chapter 10.

It has been part of Catholic Social teaching and included in the writings of many Popes.

The Catholic Catechism says this:

### Catechism of the Catholic Church 2241

*The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.*

It goes on to say

*Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption. Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens.*

The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2241

## Slide 5

### Facts about refugees

As I present a few numbers to you please keep in mind that these represent so many people, individuals and families, who just want to live peaceful lives in places where they can be safe, to contribute to society, and thrive.

- **122.6 million forcibly displaced people worldwide**

- This includes 68.3 million who are internally displaced – haven't crossed an international border.
- Of those who have left their home country, 69% are hosted in neighbouring countries.
- 71% are hosted in low- and middle-income countries.
- 65% originate from just 4 countries - Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine and Afghanistan. Note that these are people who were living as refugees in 2023-24 – not people who were displaced in that time.
- The countries who have taken in the most displaced people are: Iran, Turkey, Colombia, Germany and Uganda.

### How many refugees are there in the world?

**122.6 million forcibly displaced people worldwide**

#### Coming from

Syria 6.3 million

Venezuela 6.2 million

Ukraine 6.1 million

Afghanistan 6.1 million

#### Hosted by

Iran 3.8 million

Türkiye 3.1 million

Colombia 2.8 million

Germany 2.7 million

Uganda 1.7 million

Statistics up to the middle of 2024. please update from:  
[www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics](http://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics)

## Slide 6

### In the UK

In the twelve months ending September 2024, nearly 100,000 people claimed asylum in the UK.

The top five countries of origin of people seeking asylum were Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

57% of people claiming asylum were recognised as refugees or in need of international protection. Many people who are initially refused are eventually recognised as refugees, after going through appeals and submitting fresh claims. Some live through years of uncertainty and hardship waiting for a decision.

Meanwhile, 89,250 people were granted permission to come to the UK through schemes such as the Ukraine and Hong Kong schemes. When you hear that we need to set up more "safe routes" these are the types of programmes that are meant, as well as refugee resettlement schemes and family reunion, which are currently very limited.

Because safe routes are so limited, most refugees have no choice but to travel independently or pay traffickers to help them cross borders. The Refugee Council report that 69 people died trying to cross the channel to reach the UK in 2024.

May they rest in peace...

*These are figures up to September 2024. Updated figures can be found at these links:*

- <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/refugee-asylum-facts/top-10-facts-about-refugees-and-people-seeking-asylum/>
- [https://www.gov.uk/entering-staying-uk/border-control#research\\_and\\_statistics](https://www.gov.uk/entering-staying-uk/border-control#research_and_statistics)

### In the UK

- Nearly 100,000 people claimed asylum in the year ending September 2024
- The top five countries of origin were Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Vietnam and Bangladesh.
- 57% of initial decisions were grants of protection. Many other people receive refugee status after appeal.
- 89,250 people came through schemes such as the Ukraine and Hong Kong schemes



## Slide 7

### Government support for Asylum seekers

People seeking asylum are banned from working and are provided with a £7 per day from the Government to cover the costs of their basic necessities.

### Could you live on just £7 per day?

*pause for effect*

Once given status as refugees they lose their accommodation almost immediately, but they can then claim the same benefits as UK citizens, subject to the same limits. Someone whose claim for asylum is refused may get nothing.

£7





## Slide 8

### Story of a refugee friend

Food insecurity is one of the biggest challenges facing refugees who are forced into destitution by the asylum system. This is what Nayla said, talking to JRS uk about her struggle to buy decent food:

"It's hard to live a healthy lifestyle, and practice clean eating, with a restricted budget. I feel like some illnesses could have been avoided – I think illnesses can be picked up from what you're consuming too much of. I've heard of people struggling with diabetes, or things like hypertension. What you consume matters – what you consume on the inside, reflects on the outside. It shouldn't be this hard to access food. Besides nourishing you, food acts as a comfort. It is a reminder of your culture and reconnects you to your identity. Having a restricted access to your comfort foods due to financial constraints can feel disheartening. Sometimes I do feel distressed and would like to eat something that reminds me of happier times, but I can't."

*Nayla\*, JRS UK refugee friend*

## A word on terminology

There is some confusion about the words, "refugee" "migrant" and "asylum seeker"  
In fact giving people labels at all can be a way of dividing "them" from "us" and treating "them" as less deserving than "us".

The Jesuit refugee service simply calls people they serve "refugee friends", others use the term "people seeking sanctuary". They are ordinary people living in extraordinary circumstances.

Under international law, a **refugee** is "a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country".

An **asylum seeker** is someone seeking refugee status or humanitarian protection; i.e. it is likely that they are a refugee, but this needs to be proved for them to receive Refugee Status in the UK.

The UK government, along with most other governments in the world, treats people differently depending on whether they have proven that they are refugees, or are still waiting for this judgement. There may be good reasons for this.

We do not have to do the same.

All are people with the same dignity and worth, created and loved by God.

## Slide 9

The Bishop's document, *Love the Stranger*, says this:

"Immigration Systems divide people into categories and assign differing rights according to their legal statuses. Catholic Social Teaching on the other hand, places an emphasis on the equal human dignity of all citizens, migrants and refugees."

**"Immigration Systems divide people into categories and assign differing rights according to their legal statuses. Catholic Social Teaching on the other hand, places an emphasis on the equal human dignity of all citizens, migrants and refugees."**

*Love the Stranger chapter 5*

## Slide 10

### About Love the Stranger

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales published a teaching document in February 2023, called Love the Stranger. It is a summary of Church teaching on migrants and refugees, particularly for the current UK and global context.

It is a teaching document and a call to action and asks us what we, as Catholics can do to respond to the church's teaching.



## Slide 11

### The sections of Love the Stranger

Love the Stranger is not a long document and you can find it online to read at the CBCEW website.

It is useful because it takes a broad approach to looking at the issue of migration. Too often we just see specific problems, like how to save people from risking their lives crossing the channel, and miss the bigger picture. So I will quickly summarise Love the Stranger's main points now, but encourage you to read it yourself.

### Love the Stranger – key principles 1

- Our response to migrants and refugees is rooted in the **innate worth** of each human person
- We must not exclude others from having the means to flourish simply because of **where they were born**
- Every nation has a duty to uphold **the right for people to flourish in their homeland**, by working for peace, promoting good governance and tackling the causes of poverty.
- We affirm... the work of organisations including CAFOD, Missio, Pax Christi and Aid to the Church in Need.
- We must not allow the concerns that some communities might have about migration to be exploited for political purposes or allow such concerns to develop into a xenophobic attitude. Christian communities must play their part in providing a **genuine welcome** to migrants and refugees.

It contains 24 principle divided into 8 themes:

1. **Introduction.** Our concern for people on the move is rooted in our calling to uphold the sanctity of life and human dignity

Principle: **Our response to migrants and refugees is rooted in the innate worth of each human person**

2. **Taking the global perspective:** John Paul II said "God gave the earth to the whole human race for the sustenance of all its members without excluding or favouring anyone" Love the Stranger points out that the root causes of migration are the injustices we see in our world, especially the injustices between the richer and poorer nations. This includes the injustice of climate change which is resulting in people around the world losing their livelihoods.

Principle: **We must not exclude others from having the means to flourish simply because of where they were born**

3. **The right to flourish in ones homeland** – continuing on the global theme, the document states that, ideally, nobody would be forced to migrate. Pope Leo XIII in 1891 said: No one would exchange his country for a foreign land if his own afforded him the means of living a decent and happy life" We must remember that those seeking sanctuary do not just appear from nowhere on the beaches of France – There is a reason why they have left their homelands. International Development and justice, and care for people seeking sanctuary, are two sides of the same coin.

Principles: **Every nation has a duty to uphold the right for people to flourish in their homeland, by working for peace, promoting good governance and tackling the causes of poverty.**

**We affirm... the work of organisations including CAFOD, Missio, Pax Christi and Aid to the Church in Need.**

4. **The right to migrate.** Until everyone can flourish in their homeland, Pope Francis says, “we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs and those of their families and where they can find personal fulfilment”. This means that wealthier countries have a duty to accept people who are seeking sanctuary and provide them with their basic needs. It doesn’t mean that countries can’t control their borders, but the rules they put in place to do so can’t be simply to protect their own prosperity and must be based on the common good and on protecting human rights.

Principle: **We must not allow the concerns that some communities might have about migration to be exploited for political purposes or allow such concerns to develop into a xenophobic attitude. Christian communities must play their part in providing a genuine welcome to migrants and refugees.**

---

## Slide 12

### More on love the stranger

5. **Equality and Human Dignity.** The church is unequivocal that all people are equal and made in the image of God. But immigration and asylum systems divide people up and assign them different statuses with different rights. The UN Refugee Convention is very clear that the way a person arrives in a country to seek asylum makes no difference, yet it is now part of the law of our country that people arriving by so-called illegal routes are to be afforded fewer rights than others. Children are being denied their rights to a family life as there is no provision for refugee children to bring their parents here.

#### Love the Stranger – key principles 2

- We defend the fundamental **human dignity** of all migrants and refugees, regardless of their legal status, ... providing access to decent accommodation, healthcare, and childhood education, as well as facilitating family reunification.
- We support the work of Catholic Organisations working to eliminate **slavery** such as the Santa Marta Group. We recognise that trafficking and slavery are exacerbated by a lack of safe routes for refugees
- We recognise the **gifts** that migrants and refugees bring which can enrich our society in so many ways, including economically. We support a change in government policy to give asylum seekers the right to work, so that they can contribute to the common good of our society.

Principle: **We defend the fundamental human dignity of all migrants and refugees, regardless of their legal status, ... providing access to decent accommodation, healthcare, and childhood education, as well as facilitating family reunification.**

6. **Human trafficking and slavery.** There is a short section on human trafficking and modern slavery. 50 million people around the world are held in slavery and migrants and refugees are particularly vulnerable to such exploitation. We all need to be aware of the existence of slavery in our own localities. You can find information about how to spot the signs of slavery online.

Principle: **We support the work of Catholic Organisations working to eliminate slavery such as the Santa Marta Group. We recognise that trafficking and slavery are exacerbated by a lack of safe routes for refugees**

7. **The gift of migration.** In this section we are asked to consider not only the duty on all Christians to welcome those seeking sanctuary and to help provide for their needs, but also to see them as gifts to our communities. As Pope John Paul II put it, the integration of migrants and refugees makes our communities “more and more a reflection of the multi-faceted gifts of God to human beings”. As we consider in a moment, what we can do as a community, I’d ask you to bear in mind, that this is not so much an act of charity, but an act of encounter – to see it as a joyful opportunity to welcome newcomers and be enriched by their presence in our country and in our community.



Principle: **We recognise the gifts that migrants and refugees bring which can enrich our society in so many ways, including economically. We support a change in government policy to give asylum seekers the right to work, so that they can contribute to the common good of our society.**

8. **Concluding Reflections:** A call to action. Though we might not hear about it much, the Catholic Church in England and Wales is fully engaged with public policy relating to migration and the asylum system. Imagine if all Catholics were more committed to speaking out on this issue and living out our faith which instructs us to love the stranger.

**Migrants and refugees are not a problem to be solved, but sisters and brothers to be welcomed respected and loved.**

## Slide 13 & 14

### Pause for discussion

*Discussion in small groups (3 or 4). These questions are prompts for discussion. 5 minutes, no feedback required. Allow a comfort break also if necessary. You can serve food or refreshments at this point.*

- What has struck you about what you have heard so far?
- How would **you** summarise the teaching of our Catholic faith about migrants?
- What might be easy or challenging in following this teaching?
- What do you hear other people saying and do you challenge them?

*\*\*\* if you intend on holding additional meetings before making any decisions you could stop here and go to the closing prayer on slide 20 \*\*\**



### Discussion in small groups of 3 or 4

- What has struck you about what you have heard so far?
- How would you summarise the teaching of our Catholic faith about migrants?
- What might be easy or challenging in following this teaching?
- What do you hear other people saying and do you challenge them?

## Slide 15

### Information about Jesuit Refugee Service UK

#### Mission

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation, at work in over 50 countries around the world with a mission to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

UNITED KINGDOM

### JRS UK: Mission and Values

Shared global mission of JRS is to **accompany, serve as companions and advocate** with and for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people.

Accompany

Advocate

Serve

Dignity

Hope

Solidarity

Compassion

Participation

Hospitality

In the UK, JRS works with people seeking safety who find themselves destitute as a consequence of government policies, and people held in immigration detention.

“St Ignatius called us to go anywhere we are most needed for the greater service of God. The spiritual as well as material need of nearly 16 million refugees throughout the world today could scarcely be greater.” – Pedro Arrupe SJ, 14th November 1980

## Slide 16

### What do they do

JRS UK is the largest dedicated Catholic refugee charity in the UK. Every year, they work with over 300 refugee friends from more than 80 different countries.

Their work includes:

- Hardship and practical support, providing free food and toiletries, hardship grants, and mobile phone top-ups
- Advice and casework for those experiencing destitution, connecting refugee friends to immigration advice and other specialist services
- Creative and therapeutic activities such as music & drama sessions, prayer groups, and our social drop-in, a safe space where refugee friends can come for a hot meal
- Accommodation for refugees who face homelessness. This includes our At Home hosting scheme, which matches refugee friends with individuals, families, and parishes, as well as two houses for longer-term accommodation
- A legal advice service, helping people progress their asylum case and find a long term resolution to their situation
- Detention outreach, assisting people in detention and post-detention with access to support services
- Research and advocacy, raising awareness of policy issues that shape refugees' lives and experiences.

Learn more about their work at [www.jrsuk.net](http://www.jrsuk.net)



## Slide 17

### JRS case study

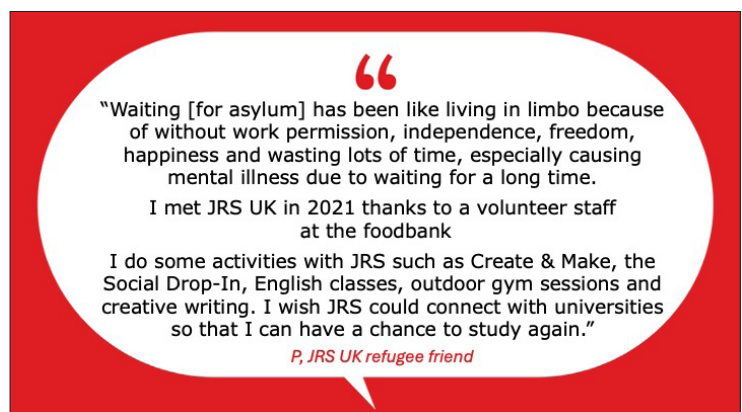
One person who has been supported by JRS UK – a “refugee friend” as they call them, said:

#### *Chosen reader*

“Waiting [for asylum] has been like living in limbo because of [being] without work permission, independence, freedom, happiness and wasting lots of time, especially causing mental illness due to waiting for a long time.

I met JRS UK in 2021 thanks to a volunteer staff at the foodbank who introduced me to JRS UK because that foodbank only allows me maximum 12 visits. Therefore, I’m not allowed to get any food there anymore, and she recommended me to [go to] JRS UK.

I do some activities with JRS such as Create & Make, the Social Drop-In, English classes, outdoor gym sessions and creative writing” – **P, JRS UK refugee friend**



## Slide 18 & 19

### The main issues and needs in the UK now

These are some of the issues affecting people seeking sanctuary in the UK today:

- The rhetoric used in parts of the media, by some politicians and the rise of far right groups
- The lack of safe routes, forcing people to make dangerous journeys by land and sea, and to be exploited by people smugglers.
- Most asylum seekers are not allowed to work, resulting in poverty and lack of integration.
- People ending up homeless after being granted refugee status, due to very short notice of being evicted from Home Office accommodation.
- The use of asylum hotels and of immigration detention centres.
- Asylum seekers having long waits for decisions, and longer waits for the results of appeals.
- A culture of disbelief in the asylum system.
- Child refugees not being allowed to bring immediate family over to join them.

### The main issues and needs in the UK now

#### Issues

- Hostile rhetoric leading to violence and fear.
- Lack of safe routes
- Asylum seekers are not allowed to work
- Homelessness among refugees
- Asylum hotels
- Immigration detention centres.
- Long waits for decisions
- Asylum seekers being re-traumatised
- Child refugees

#### Needs

- Accommodation and security
- Other essentials such as food, clothes, transport, phone top-ups.
- English Language lessons
- Expert advice
- Access to education and training
- To be welcomed!

### Needs of asylum seekers and refugees for practical support

- Accommodation and security
- Other essentials such as food and clothes, oyster cards and money for transport, mobile phone top-ups.
- English Language lessons
- Support from legal experts to help with their asylum cases and advice on accessing healthcare etc.
- Access to education and training
- To be welcomed and supported to integrate

*Leave this slide up during the discussion that follows*

## Part 3 - Discussion - what can we do?

Open question discussion starting in small groups, for 5-10 minutes, then opening out to the whole group for 10-15 minutes, with someone taking notes on a flip chart or white board.

### Ideas for parish action

- Hosting refugees in your home (with JRS UK)
- Celebrate diversity with parish events
- Fundraise for a refugee charity (local or national)
- Support local refugees by donating essential items, or through befriending
- Community sponsorship – to bring a refugee family to the country through the UNHCR/Home Office scheme
- Mark the World Day of Migrants and Refugees or Refugee Week
- Explore issues relating to racism – be more vocally anti-racist
- Take action on trafficking and slavery
- Petition signings, letters to your MP, and other campaigning activities
- Find out more about climate change and its impact on the poorest countries, and what the parish can do
- Fundraise for CAFOD or other overseas charities
- Set up or join a Justice and Peace group
- Set up or join a St Vincent de Paul group
- Connect with other denominations and faith groups locally
- Talk to your local MP, or local council about what the parish can do
- Contact JRS UK for more resources and support, and join Caritas Southwark's network.

*Show the slide with suggestions, (slide 19) at some point to prompt ideas if needed.*

*You could also serve refreshments at this point.*

## Part 4 - Next steps

- Agree and write down a small number of actions that the group will take after the meeting. These could be “find out more about...” or something more definite.
- Assign a person to lead each action and a time scale.
- Decide on the best way to continue as a group (for those who wish) e.g. communicating by email or WhatsApp, or holding more meetings (which could be online). Set meeting dates. Others unable to attend this meeting to be invited to join the group by some means e.g. parish newsletter.
- Decisions taken should be written up and sent to participants.

## Part 5 - Closing Prayer

### Slide 20

The JRS prayer

Lord Jesus

Give us courage to accompany others,  
for in walking at their side

we find you there present with us.

Give us joy that we might serve others, for  
in tending wounds of 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

Lord Jesus

Give us courage to accompany others,  
for in walking at their side

we find you there present with us.

Give us joy that we might serve others,  
for in tending wounds of 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

