

SECONDARY REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

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Pope Francis has made numerous appeals to promote the culture of encounter in an effort to combat the culture of indifference in the world today. It means seeing through the eyes of others rather than turning a blind eye. “Not just to see but to look. Not just to hear but to listen. Not just to meet and pass by, but to stop. And don’t just say ‘what a shame, poor people,’ but allow ourselves to be moved by pity.” – Pope Francis.

This prayer pilgrimage encourages people to rethink their preconceptions, by bringing migrants, refugees and communities closer together to change hearts and minds.

Learning Intention:

Understand why people around the world have become refugees. Encourage action in solidarity with refugees. Themes explored are ‘Welcoming the Stranger’, ‘Who are Refugees’ and ‘Pilgrimage’.

Time: 60 minutes

Preparation for the Pilgrimage

Before the Pilgrimage:

- Ask participants to bring in a photograph of their family, this can be on a phone or tablet.
- Choose a space for the pilgrimage. The group should begin by gathering in a classroom or hall. They will then move to seven different spaces around a room, the school or an outdoor space. They should finish in a “final destination” space, like a hall or outdoor space, weather permitting.
- Choose students to read during the pilgrimage.
- Please be mindful of your audience when using this resource, as topics discussed in this pilgrimage may evoke painful memories and be upsetting to some students.

On the Day of the Pilgrimage:

Set up the seven focus areas, along the route of the pilgrimage. You require the following materials:

- A large world map and photo of [Lampedusa Cross](#)
- List of countries (included)
- A loaf of bread (or photo included)
- A passport (or photo included)
- A backpack
- Photo of Khawle’s family (included)
- Copies of refugee reflection sheet for each participant, and tools to write/draw their messages.
- Large copies of group prayers.

During and After the Pilgrimage:

Take photos of the pilgrimage and email them to education@caritas.org.au or upload them to social media using #caritasaustralia

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Follow up activities

Follow up activities can be found on our schools page: <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/>

Links to Catholic Social Teaching

Learn more about [Solidarity](#) and other [Catholic Social Teaching Principles](#).



Solidarity

We believe we are part of one human family and have a responsibility to help each person achieve their full potential.

Teacher Background Information

This Refugee Prayer Pilgrimage invites young people to follow a refugee family on their journey to safety. Pope Francis has made numerous appeals to promote the culture of encounter in an effort to combat the culture of indifference in the world today. It means seeing through the eyes of others rather than turning a blind eye. “Not just to see but to look. Not just to hear but to listen. Not just to meet and pass by, but to stop. And don’t just say ‘what a shame, poor people,’ but allow ourselves to be moved by pity.” – Pope Francis.

Why a pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is not an aimless wandering, rather it is a journey with a purpose, a devotional journey. The idea of pilgrimage has a long history in the Catholic Church, with importance being placed upon both the journey and the destination. Students participating in the pilgrimage, through traveling beyond their classroom, show support and solidarity for those who have been displaced.

Who is a refugee?

Refugees are people fleeing conflict or persecution. They are defined and protected in international law, (see [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#)) and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.

The protection of refugees has many aspects. These include: safety from being returned to danger; to fair and efficient asylum procedures; and measures to ensure that their basic human rights are respected while they secure a longer-term solution.

Source– UNHCR

Why the Lampedusa Cross?

Francesco Tuccio, a carpenter from the small Italian island of Lampedusa began making the crosses after hundreds of refugees fleeing Somalia and Eritrea drowned off the coast of Lampedusa. Using driftwood he collected from the wreckage the crosses are offered as a small but powerful symbol of hope and as a reminder of the refugee crisis the world is facing today.

Source: CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales)

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Curriculum Links

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY
<p>Year 7: How is Australia a diverse society and what factors contribute to a cohesive society?</p> <p>How values, including freedom, respect, inclusion, civility, responsibility, compassion, equality and a 'fair go', can promote cohesion within Australian society (ACHCK052).</p>	<p>Year 7: What effect does the uneven distribution of resources and services have on the lives of people?</p> <p>The influence of social connectedness and community identity on the livability of place (ACHGK046).</p>	<p>Year 10: How was Australian society affected by other significant global events and changes in this period?</p> <p>The waves of post-World War II migration to Australia, including the influence of significant world events (ACDSEH144).</p>
<p>Year 8: What different perspectives are there about national identity?</p> <p>How national identity can shape a sense of belonging in Australia's multicultural society (ACHCK067).</p>	<p>Year 8: How do the interconnections between places, people and environments affect the lives of people?</p> <p>Reasons for, and effects of, international migration in Australia (ACHGK058).</p>	<p>Year 10: How was Australian society affected by other significant global events and changes in this period?</p> <p>The contribution of migration to Australia's changing identity as a nation and to its international relationships (ACDSEH147).</p>
<p>Year 9: How do citizens participate in an interconnected world?</p> <p>The influence of a range of media, including social media, in shaping identities and attitudes to diversity (ACHCK080).</p>	<p>Year 10: How do world views influence decisions on how to manage environmental and social change?</p> <p>The role of international and national government and non-government organisations' initiatives in improving human wellbeing in Australia and other countries (ACHGK081).</p>	
GENERAL CAPABILITIES		
LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	SENIOR SCHOOL
<p>ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING</p> <p><u>Understanding Ethical Concepts and Issues:</u></p> <p>Recognise ethical concepts</p> <p>Reason and make ethical decisions</p> <p>Consider consequences</p> <p><u>Reasoning in Decision Making and Actions:</u></p> <p>Reflect on ethical action</p> <p><u>Exploring Values, Rights and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>Consider points of view</p> <p>Explore rights and responsibilities</p> <p>INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING</p> <p><u>Recognising Culture and Developing Respect:</u></p> <p>Develop respect for cultural diversity</p> <p>Challenge stereotypes and prejudices</p>	<p>ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING</p> <p><u>Understanding Ethical Concepts and Issues:</u></p> <p>Explore ethical concepts in context</p> <p><u>Reasoning in Decision Making and Actions:</u></p> <p>Reason and make ethical decisions</p> <p>Reflect on ethical action</p> <p><u>Exploring Values, Rights and Responsibilities:</u></p> <p>Exploring values</p> <p>INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING</p> <p><u>Recognising Culture and Developing Respect:</u></p> <p>Develop respect for cultural diversity</p> <p>Challenge stereotypes and prejudices</p>	<p>MODERN HISTORY</p> <p><u>Unit Four: The Modern World Since 1945</u></p> <p>Movements of People</p> <p>The Struggle for Peace in the Middle East</p> <p>The Search for Peace and Security.</p>

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Classroom Introduction

Who is my neighbour?

There is a rich history of spiritual pilgrimage within the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

The idea of pilgrimage is especially powerful in light of the current migration crisis. More people than ever before are now on forced journeys far from home.

This pilgrimage is a way for us to show solidarity with all those fleeing war, poverty and persecution in our world. Along the way, we ask ourselves, "Who is my neighbour?"

[As you set off on your journey, you could choose a hymn for participants to sing as they move from one space to the next; otherwise, encourage everyone to be prayerful as they move. If students have a picture of their family they should bring it with them to use in the pilgrimage.]

Stage 1: Forced Out By War

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Leader:

We have come here to pray in solidarity with the 70.8 million people in our world who have been forced from their homes by war and persecution. We will go home after meeting here today; they may never see their homes again.

Reader 1:

The United Nations has referred to the Syrian situation as the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II. And the numbers show this.

Since the start of the conflict, 13.1 million of 22.8 million population are in need. At least 5.6 million people have fled the country and 6.6 million are internally displaced.

Caritas Australia has been deeply committed to supporting our sisters and brothers living in vulnerable circumstances in Syria, and in other countries to which they have been forced to escape, including Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, supporting the emergency response led by Caritas agencies in Middle East countries.

The living conditions of Syrians, in their own country or the places they have fled to, are as dire as the numbers.

Most now live in poverty, with limited access to the necessities of water, hygiene, food, income, and education.

[Silence]

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 1: Forced Out By War cont.

Leader: [*Hold up world map*]

Let's stop to think about where today's refugees are coming from. These are the top 10 nations ranked by number of people forced out of their countries by fighting, persecution and human rights violations:

Reader 2:

Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia

Reader 3:

South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo

Reader 4:

Central African Republic, Myanmar, Eritrea, Iraq

Leader:

Meanwhile, the number of refugees who can return home has dropped. This means that many will be stranded for years to come.

Reader 5:

Pope Francis tells us: "They are men and women like us ... seeking a better life, starving, persecuted, wounded, exploited, victims of war."

(19 April, 2015)

Leader:

We pray for all the places in the world where there is war, where people have to leave their homes because of violence.

Group:

God of mercy,

Send your peace among us,

so that nation will no longer lift sword against nation, nor learn to make war. Amen

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 2: Forced Out By Poverty

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Leader:

[Hold up loaf of bread]

One in nine people in the world are undernourished. Dire conditions for the world's poorest people are being made worse by climate change, which is hitting them first and hardest. Like Abraham, who was forced on a long journey by famine, people must sometimes move to look for ways to make a living. But others question the right of migrants to seek better lives for themselves and their families.

Reader 1:

Caritas Australia is raising awareness of environmental justice and climate change issues through advocacy and education work. Modesta Hasiaiu from Guadalcanal in the South Pacific, knows people depend on taro planted in swampy areas for food security. After seeing many of their coconut trees fall into the sea over the last six years, people are not sure how long the swamp taro will last as coastal erosion gets worse.

"It is sickening to watch our shores slowly eaten away by the sea....what will happen in the next decade? Will the place we call home still be the same or will it perish due to sea-level rise?" she says.

Reader 2:

"The world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others ... Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today's poor, whose life on this Earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting."

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', #159, 162)

Leader:

We pray for a more equitable distribution of the goods of creation. We pray for a sense of sacred responsibility "to hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor."

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', #49)

Group:

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world
and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Amen

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Stage 3: Forced Out By Persecution

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Leader: *[Hold up passport]*

Groups that seem different because of colour, religion or ethnic background are too often pushed aside, or even persecuted and tortured. Persecution is a major cause of migration. Refugees' official identity is robbed from them as they lose their homes and countries. Yet in God's eyes we all share one true identity as his children.

Reader 1:

Over 134, 000 Bhutanese citizens became refugees in the 1980s-1990s due to Bhutan's 'ethnic cleansing' policies. Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon says, "From the depths of my heart ... I cry out two words to my sisters and brothers from all communities ... peace and love." While many refugees have been resettled, thousands are still without homes. Caritas Australia works with their partner Caritas Nepal to provide educational and vocational skills to Bhutanese students living in refugee camps in Nepal.

Reader 2:

We think of all the different faiths and minority groups that are being unjustly persecuted around the world.
[Silence]

Leader:

During his ministry, Jesus is persecuted in his home country. People are out to kill him, and they deny that he is the Son of God.

Reader 3:

They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away. (Luke 4:29-30)

Leader:

God of love, we pray to you, for tolerance, and the grace to see that we are all his children. In the words of Pope Francis: "No more death! No more exploitation! There is always time to change .."
(Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, February 2016)

Group:

God of all humanity,
In a world full of fear, open our hearts to your love.
Though we walk in desolate valleys,
Open our minds to your hope.
We turn from hatred toward love.
We turn from intolerance toward understanding.
We commit ourselves to compassion.
Together, not alone, we pray for peace.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen
(Linda Jones, CAFOD)

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 4: The Journey

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Leader:

Look down at what you are wearing. If you have a bag, think about what's in it. Now close your eyes. Imagine you are being forced to leave your home by the sounds of fighting. You can't pack; you just leave as you are. These clothes and the few things in your bag are all you will have for many weeks. You don't know if you will ever come home.

Reader 1:

Deng grew up in a small village in South Sudan. When civil war broke out in his country everything changed. Frightened and taken by surprise, Deng, his family and other villagers fled for the bush, leaving behind their homes, crops and livestock. "We were unable to be in our village, life was unbearable and all the time we kept hiding from the militia in the bush," he says. "We separated from our friends and other members of the family." Their new life, without food, shelter or security became a daily fight for survival, but the hardest part was not knowing whether they could ever return home. In 2005, the civil war ended and they were able to move back home. To assist with resettling, Caritas Australia's partner, Hope Agency for Relief and Development established a food security and rehabilitation program. *[Silence]*

Reader 2:

"When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him. Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt."

(Matthew 2:13-14)

Leader:

The journeys made by migrants and refugees are long and dangerous. Traveling in locked shipping containers or flimsy dinghies, they risk their lives in the hope of finding a safe place.

Reader 3:

People who come to Australia claiming protection are not aliens, but our brothers and sisters. If they cannot find protection in their own countries, they are entitled to claim it from other nations, including ours.

(Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, 'For Those Who've Come Across the Seas' 2015-2016 Social Justice Statement.)

Leader:

For refugees on long journeys, we pray for safe passage, hearts filled with courage, strength to support children and the weak, and at the journey's end, a true welcome.

Group:

Lord, you walked alongside those who suffer. Give us mercy in our hearts, to pour balm on the injured feet of those who walk.

(From Pope Francis' address to the bishops of Mexico, 2016)

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 5: Lost Family

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Leader:

Please hold up your photo of family and friends. It can be on your phone.

[Pause]

Forced migration rips apart families and communities. Some are left behind because they are too weak, or there is not enough money to pay for their passage; some get lost or die on the way. Imagine being forced to choose between members of your family—who to take, who to leave.

[Silence]

Reader 1:

Nirangini, grew up in Veravil, a small fishing village in Sri Lanka. Due to a civil war that ran from 1983-2009, Nirangini was forced to leave. Nirangini, her 67-year-old mother and her son, who was seven, were constantly on the move with no permanent home. “We were displaced 11 times before we came back to Veravil in the Kilinochchi district,” says Nirangini.

In December 2009, in the hope that a familiar environment would offer a safe setting for her son, Nirangini and her family moved back to her childhood village. In Veravil, a Caritas Sri Lanka program, supported by Caritas Australia, was assisting families to resettle. “My mother and son were with me, but the other members of my family were separated as the war escalated. One of our brothers went missing.”

[Silence]

Leader:

Our Church teaches how important it is for families to be able to stay together and the Australian Bishops Conference calls for a change. ‘As a global citizen, Australia has the opportunity to lead a regional response that respects the right of each nation to protect its borders while ensuring protection for asylum seekers and the establishment of prompt refugee status determination and resettlement options.’

(Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, ‘For Those Who’ve Come Across the Seas’ 2015-2016 Social Justice Statement.)

Reader 2:

“Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life ... Don’t we all want a better, more decent and prosperous life to share with our loved ones?”

(Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees, January 17, 2016)

Leader:

Please take the hand of the person next to you and form a circle.

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Stage 5: Lost Family cont.

Reader 3:

“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ ... If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy.”

(1 Corinthians 12:12,26)

Leader:

We pray for families and friends separated by conflict and forced migration, that they may soon be reunited.

Group:

We are one body, different parts,
One family, spread throughout the world.
We feel one hurt
as war and injustice force loved ones apart.
Living Christ, work through us,
as we open our hearts to all those in need
So that there may be
one hope, one joy, one welcome in you.
Amen

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 6: Welcome or Rejection

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Leader:

What will happen to migrants at their journey's end? Most refugees — nearly 9 out of 10 — are taken in by poor countries, not by wealthy nations like ours. We think of them in camps, in detention centres, waiting to hear if they will be allowed to stay, hoping to be joined by their families. Those who make it here, after unimaginable difficulties, may face hostility and long periods in detention or destitution, rather than finding the security they so badly need.

Leader:

As people of faith, we believe the Earth was given by God equally to all, so we can speak with loving hearts, with welcome, without fear.

Reader 2:

Pope Francis asks us to examine our hearts. "A merciful heart is able to be a place of refuge for those who are without a home or have lost their home; it is able to build a home and a family for those forced to emigrate; it knows the meaning of tenderness and compassion. A merciful heart can share its bread with the hungry and welcome refugees and migrants."

[Silence]

Leader:

Our Church believes the decision to welcome refugees must be based on justice, mercy and the common good, not on self-interest.

Reader 1:

Khin, 10, her mother and younger brother live together in a rented room in Ranong, Thailand. Her family is one of an estimated two million people who have fled poverty, violence and instability in Burma. But despite their hopes of a better life in Thailand, Khin's family are amongst the poorest in their community. Along the Thai-Burma border, Caritas Australia supports a range of programs for people living in communities made vulnerable by displacement, violent clashes and inadequate social services. Khin has embraced the opportunity to learn, especially Thai and English. "I like to read in school. I like everything about the school," Khin told us. "I like English the best, because English can be used everywhere."

Reader 2:

We think of the words of St. Paul: "Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels."

(Hebrew s 13:2)

[Silence]

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Stage 6: Welcome or Rejection cont.

Leader:

Let us say together, in response to the suffering of so many:

Group:

In your compassion and love, Lord, have pity on us. Cleanse us from our sins and create in us a pure heart, a new spirit. May we be the beating heart and the accompanying feet of the Church that opens her arms and sustains.

(Pope Francis' homily, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, February 17, 2016)

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 6: Cross of Compassion, Prayers for Mercy

Leader:

He led his people through the desert.

Group:

For his love and compassion endures forever.

Reader 1:

Pope Francis commissioned a cross made of driftwood in 2013. It was created by Sicilian carpenter Francesco Tuccio, who made the first such cross from the wreckage of a boat that sank off the island of Lampedusa.

Reader 2:

The boat was carrying 500 refugees from Eritrea and Somalia when it capsized and 349 people died. The local carpenter carved and offered crosses to survivors as a symbol of their rescue and a sign of hope. This cross serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggles and sacrifices made by refugees in our world.

Leader: [*Hold up a picture of the cross.*]

Reader 3:

“How much these people have suffered!” declared the pope while in Lampedusa. “And their cry rises up to God! ... Has any one of us wept because of this situation and others like it?”

(Pope Francis' homily, Lampedusa, July 8, 2013)

Reader 4:

St. Paul himself was a shipwreck survivor who experienced the kindness of strangers. Chapters 27 and 28 of Acts describe his journey. Following is an excerpt of that story: “Neither the sun nor the stars were visible for many days, and no small storm raged. Finally, all hope of our surviving was taken away ... In all, there were 276 of us on the ship ... Once we had reached safety we learned that the island was called Malta. The natives showed us extraordinary hospitality; they lit a fire and welcomed all of us because it had begun to rain and was cold.”

Leader:

We ask our heavenly Father to make us merciful as he is merciful:

Lord have Mercy. [The group repeats]

Christ have Mercy. [The group repeats]

Lord have Mercy. [The group repeats]

Please respond with ‘Have mercy on us.’

[*After each call from the leader, the group repeats Have mercy on us.*]

Jesus, bringer of mercy and justice ... Have mercy on us.

Jesus, protector of the migrant ... Have mercy on us.

Jesus, voice against violence ... Have mercy on us.

Jesus, courage for the lowly ... Have mercy on us.

Jesus, closest to the poor ... Have mercy on us.

Jesus, source of light and hope ... Have mercy on us.

REFUGEE PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

Stage 6: Cross of Compassion, Prayers for Mercy cont.

Leader:

In the hope of God's mercy, we now come together in prayer. *[Pause]*

Leader:

Please respond with 'Grant us your mercy.'

For the grace to care for the suffering ... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to feed the hungry ... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to welcome the stranger ... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to stand in solidarity ... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to reject injustice ... Grant us your mercy.

For the grace to love ... Grant us your mercy.

Leader:

We remember those who lost their lives on their journey and we thank God for those who survived. Let us reflect and pray silently about all we have heard, and write our prayers or messages of hope for refugees and migrants.

[Gather the group back together after they have had time to write their messages, and ask them to place the message with the other symbols — map, bread, passport, photos.]

Leader:

"He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak ... They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint

(Isaiah 40: 29, 31)

Group:

"From the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends."

(Misericordiae Vultus, Pope Francis)

Leader:

As we prepare to leave this place and to go back out into the world, let us commit to do all that we can to be merciful, as our Father is merciful, and to reach out a hand of welcome and compassion to our neighbours in need. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all on our journey through life and forever.

Group:

Amen

Syria

Afghanistan

Somalia

Iraq

Myanmar

Eritrea

**Central
African
Republic**

**Democratic
Republic of
Congo**

**South
Sudan**

Sudan



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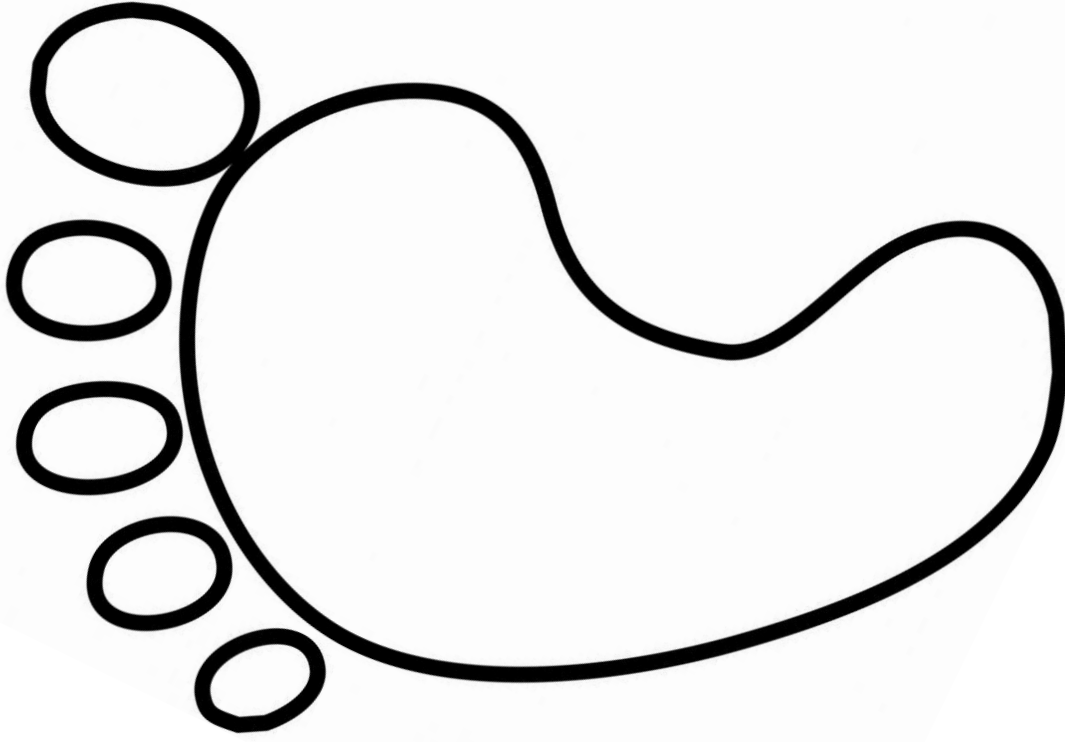
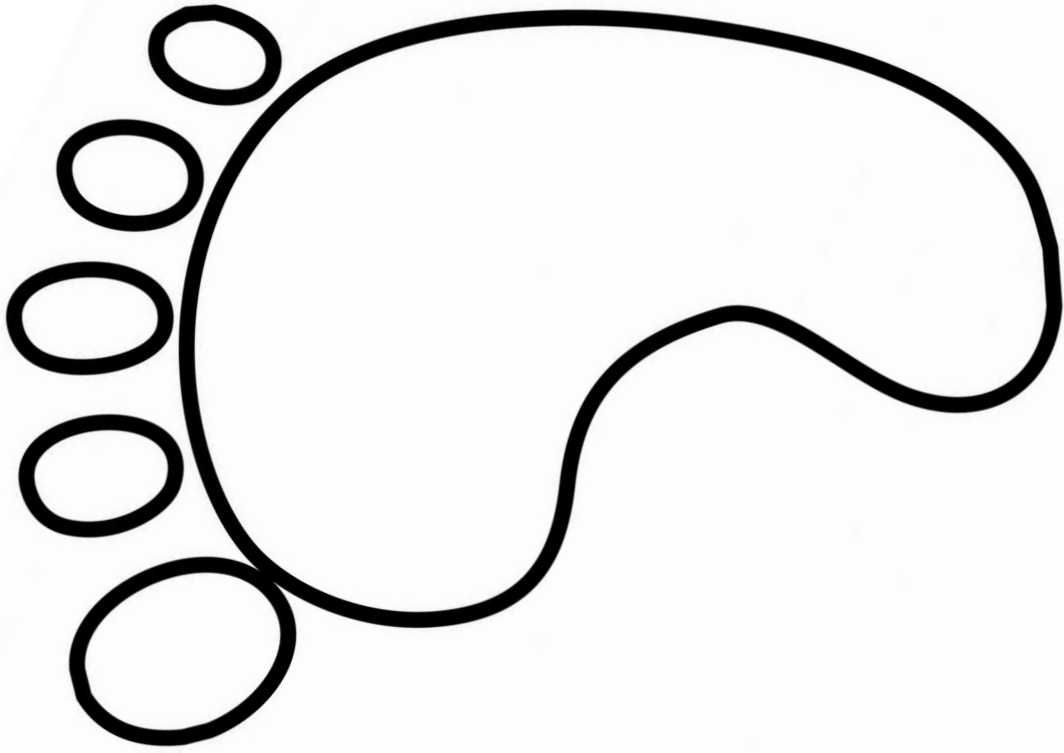
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My message of hope for refugees...



*"We ourselves need to see, and then enable others to see, that migrants and refugees are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved."
Pope Francis, 2014.*

My message of hope for refugees...



*"We ourselves need to see, and then enable others to see, that migrants and refugees are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved."
Pope Francis, 2014.*

+ Thank you



www.caritas.org.au