

World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees

27·IX·2026



"Even just one of these children"

"Whoever welcomes
one such child in my name
welcomes me"
(Mt 18:5)

EVEN JUST ONE OF THESE CHILDREN

112TH

WORLD DAY
OF MIGRANTS
AND REFUGEES

27TH SEPTEMBER 2026





GUIDE FOR THE HOLY MASS

Greeting and Introduction

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are gathered here and in all the other churches throughout the world to celebrate the World Day of Migrants and Refugees together. As a Church, we wish to show our closeness, faithfully responding to the urgent appeal of Jesus himself in Matthew 18:5: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

The Church, responding to the Lord's call, the Church keeps its compassionate gaze upon the suffering members of her Body, especially those who have left their homelands, their family, and their friends... This year, that gaze is turned toward children - the little ones - who live in degrading conditions due to their status as migrants or refugees. This is the message of the Gospel passage.

During this Eucharistic celebration, let us unite our hearts to bring migrants and refugees - those forced to leave their lands due to war, violence, poverty, and persecution - into the heart of Jesus. Let us especially entrust the little children and other vulnerable people to Him, that God may grant each of them the grace of a hope that does not disappoint.

Let us pray for those who dedicate themselves to serving migrants and refugees, welcoming and protecting them, upholding their dignity, and fostering their integration. Let us ask forgiveness for all the ways we have failed migrants and refugees. Let us pray for those who cause such suffering, that God's forgiveness, in His mercy, may set us all free.

Kyrie





Lord Jesus, You who identify with the little ones, the poor, and the stranger: forgive us when we fail to recognize Your face in our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters, especially in the youngest among them. Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, you who welcome each of us without distinction and desire to make us one people belonging to you in love, forgive us for our divisions, our prejudices, and our failures in hospitality and communion, especially when we close our doors to the little ones and the vulnerable. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you who call us to welcome the least of our brothers and sisters in your name, forgive us when we remain indifferent to the suffering of those seeking protection, peace, and hope. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, by dying for us on the Cross, you opened your heart to all, and now no one is a stranger to you. You desire to gather us together as brothers and sisters, and no one is so far away that you cannot hear their cry.

Come to the aid of refugees, exiles, and children separated from their families, so that their suffering may end. Grant us a new heart to welcome with love and respect those with whom you identify, especially the little ones.

You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING: Deut. 10:17-19

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites, accepts no bribes; ¹⁸ who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and befriends the alien, feeding and clothing him. ¹⁹ So you too must befriend the alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.





Ps. 107

**R/ Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his mercy endures forever!**

² Let that be the prayer of the Lord's redeemed,

those redeemed from the hand of the foe,

³ those gathered from foreign lands,

from east and west, from north and south.

⁴ Some had lost their way in a barren desert;

found no path toward a city to live in.

⁵ They were hungry and thirsty;

their life was ebbing away.

⁶ In their distress they cried to the Lord,

who rescued them in their peril,

⁷ Guided them by a direct path

so they reached a city to live in.

⁸ Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,

such wondrous deeds for the children of Adam.

⁹ For he satisfied the thirsty,

filled the hungry with good things.

SECOND READING: Rm 12:9-16

⁹ Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;

¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.





¹⁴ Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

¹⁶ Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL: Mt 18:1-5

¹ At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?". ² He called a child over, placed it in their midst, ³ and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

The Word of the Lord

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

R/ Lord, hear us; Lord, hear our plea.

Let us pray for Pope Leo XIV, that he may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel that liberates humanity - especially children, who are victims of migration. Lord, hear us.

For the Church and her shepherds: may they be enlightened by the Word of God and always make the liberation of the human person - especially the most vulnerable - their priority. Lord, hear us.

Let us pray for nations and their leaders: that they may open themselves to the words of Jesus, which guide us toward justice, charity, the sharing of the gifts we have received, and the welcoming of the little ones. Lord, hear us.





For the victims of war and conflict, especially those who have left their loved ones behind to find refuge elsewhere: may the Lord open a path for them so that one day they may find rest in their own land. Lord, hear us.

Let us pray for migrant children, for vulnerable people left without aid, and for the little ones who reach out their hands but find no help: Lord our God, reach out to each of them and wipe the tears from their eyes. Touch hearts, that all may be moved to compassion. Lord, hear us.

OFFERTORY

Suggestions: Organize a procession with the gifts:

Introduction

As we present the bread and wine, we also bring the joys, sufferings, hopes, and commitments of the entire human family. The gestures we perform today express our desire to build a welcoming Church, where everyone finds their place as a child of God.

1. The bread and wine, presented by a family in procession



Through this gesture, we entrust all families to the Lord - especially those of migrants and refugees - so that they may find open doors to welcome them wherever they go. May this offering remind us that the Church is one family gathered around the Lord's table,

where everyone is welcomed as a brother or sister.





2. A globe, carried by a political representative



This gesture reminds us that all people - regardless of nation, language, or culture - belong to a single family: the Church. May our world become a land of welcome, peace, and protection for migrants and refugees.

3. Bouquet of flowers, carried by a child



We offer this bouquet, composed of flowers of various colors gathered in a single vase: an invitation to live in communion despite the diversity of cultures and languages... May our world be a well-watered garden where every person finds their place and can flourish fully

in Christ.

4. Basket of the fruits of the earth, carried by a migrant child



We present this basket containing the fruits of the earth - a sign of the gifts the Lord entrusts to all humanity and of our willingness to share with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

Holy Mass continues as usual.





Suggestions for Mass Hymns

Entrance: Christ, Be Our Light

Offertory: In Bread We Bring You, Lord

Communion: One Bread, one Body

Thanksgiving: Bless the Lord (Taizé)

Dismissal: As I Kneel Before You

