

Zambia Yei
 Province of Alexandria
 North Africa
 Madi West Nile Derry and Raphoe
 Tuam, Limerick and Killajoe
 Gikungu Ethiopia
 Burundi Gitega Bujumbura Makamba
 Egypt Matara
 Nepal SD Church CCD Cairo
 Lake Tanganyika Save Life Ministries
 Kyangwali Refugee Settlement
 Revival Centre Matugga Shyogwe
 Kibungo Kajo Keji
 Kilmore, Elphine and Ardagh Rhino Camp Ibbu
 Down and Dromore Koboko Ezo
 Dublin and Glendalough
 Clogher Tentmakers Tanzania Maridi
 Bukavu Kenya
 DR Congo Chili Children Kiwoko
 North Kivu South Sudan
 Gambia
 Goma Kajiado Olo Luweero Connor
 Kathmandu Rwanda HDCS
 Gashel, Cloyne and Ross
 All Nations Ministries
 Tuam, Limerick and Killajoe
 Tujisaidie VTCs

Sanctuary Sunday

Liturgy Materials

If you are planning a service for Sanctuary Sunday, we hope these materials will be a useful guide.

Many of the parishes that use the CMSI Children's Resource hold a special All-Age Worship Service as part of their programme. This gives the whole congregation a chance to find out what the young people have been, or will be, learning about and it provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

The following suggestions might be helpful as you put together your service. Even if you aren't able to dedicate a whole morning service to the **Hands Out** Children's Resource, perhaps you could incorporate one or two of the ideas in the morning services on each of the four weeks.

(Note: The text is available as a Word Doc to enable easy incorporation into your service materials, whether digital or printable)



All-age service material

Introductions

It's worth including a few brief sentences of background and introduction to this year's resource which looks at **2 Corinthians 1:4** – "[God] helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God." With the focus of the resource being on the refugee church and how we can learn to adopt a posture of 'hands out' to receive from and give to our refugee church family, Sanctuary Sunday and an all-age service will allow for the adults in the congregation to learn from and listen to their children and young people.

As a church family, both globally and locally, this demonstration of learning together should help all of us take more seriously our role in its wider sense. We would encourage you to work with some of the older children to write a few sentences of introduction that they can then read out.

Film Clips

If you're able to show videos in your church, why not use one or more of the films from the **Hands Out** series, to introduce folk to the theme and hear directly from our partners in the refugee church. The films are short and can easily be included at any point of the service.

Opening/Bidding

A few sentences to introduce the service:

In our worship today we will hear stories from our brothers and sisters seeking refuge, allowing us to see God on the ground in a new way. When people struggle, God is right there. God understands the outsider because he was an outsider. God helps by guiding, comforting and sheltering through his word and through us. We can be part of this kingdom work. Today, we imagine a beautiful future where integration is pursued in the wake of fragmentation. As we sing God's praises, hear from God's word and pray for our world, may we have our hands out to give and receive as part of a global family, united together by our Father's love.

Prayers and Acclamations

One or more of the following could be included:

Lament

(A Call to the Shoreline from Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees: The God who sees me Worship resource for Sanctuary Sunday. This opening prayer can be used in conjunction with 'Lament at the Shoreline' prayer craft activity from Hands Out session 1, purple teens materials. If a shoreline has been created, the adults can add their rock

prayers to the young people's prayers as an interactive part of the service; the young people can exhibit the display before or during the prayer; or the prayer can be used independently.)

We come from scattered lives, to gather at the shoreline
Where the water laps gently
Where it crashes onto rocks
In the stillness of the lakeside
In the tumult of the storm
In a gentle breeze
In a howling gale
Under a shady parasol
Under a searing sun
Where we rest and play,
Where we scramble to safety.
Where sand and water meet;
A place of arrival
A place of departure
A place of comfort
A place of desolation
We join our voices with Hagar, who honestly wept,
with Mary, who boldly said, "Yes."

We come into the presence of the God who sees us

We join with the silent strength of Stephen,
with the raw honesty of the Psalmist, who asked, "How long, Oh Lord?"

We come into the presence of the God who hears us

We join with the lament of the Israelites in exile, hoping for the Promised Land,
with the anxious and unsettled Disciples, bereft and searching for meaning.

We gather in the presence of the God who has called us here today

God who sees us,
In our coming and going
In our placing and displacing
We bring to you our lament

Lord have mercy

When others will not

Confession

(from The Methodist Church Liturgy for Migrants and Refugees)

Dear God, source of life, we gather together in the name of Jesus who had nowhere to lay his head, no safe place, no secure home, no passport or visa, no certified citizenship. We gather around him in our safety, security, and we are afraid of the 'illegal immigrants'. We are closing our borders, thinking that they are a threat to our life, that they will take our jobs. We are also glad for cheap seasonal workers who take care of our tomatoes and fruit. But we also know very well that you are the

God who welcomes strangers, that you do not withhold good from those in need. We feel this deep tension between your truth and the way we live. We do not ask for an easy way out, but for courage and honesty and faithfulness to face this. That we may meet them not with our prejudices, but with open eyes and open arms fed by your word of mercy and love, the only nourishment that makes us human. Forgive our trespasses, so that we may change our habits and inclinations. And conform to your vision of a new world where everybody can live in dignity. You are the God of all forgiveness.

We pray in the name of your holy Son Jesus.
Amen.

Collect

Living God, you call us to welcome one another in your name. Forgive us when we are more concerned with ourselves, looking inward rather than out. Empower us, through your Spirit, to open our hearts and homes to people around us who need refuge and comfort so that the church family can provide sanctuary to those who need it most. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

(adaptation from a prayer of Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) and German Ecumenical Committee on Church Asylum. You could put a long black or purple cloth on the communion table and each of the readers take the opportunity to light a candle and to place it on the cloth after saying one of the phrases of the intercessory prayer)

Reader 1: Lord, we bring to you the weeping and wailing of the mothers of this world, waiting for their children who have disappeared in the sea, in the desert, in uncertainty:

Congregation: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

R2: Refugees, men, women and children, from the war zones of this world, who are fleeing hunger and poverty, in the hope of a better, more secure life.

C: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me"

R3: We bring to you our lament for those who have died stranded at our borders, those who have died fleeing through deserts, mountains and seas. We call upon you and we join in the cry of those who have died seeking justice and a better world.

C: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

R1: Lord, we bring to you our shame for turning away and remaining silent. We have enough to eat – and do not see that we also create the causes of hunger. We are insatiable and do not realise that is the cause of many wars. We're silent, when we should speak and act.

C: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

R2: Lord, we bring before you our political leaders, who are not making decisions about mere numbers, but about the destiny of many human beings. Sharpen their awareness of how things are interrelated. Keep their consciences alert. Let them develop rules that are guided by humanity and a vision of peace.

C: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

R3: Lord, give us the strength to bear witness to the suffering of your children on the run, on their way to us, at our borders, in refugee camps and among us, in detention, waiting to be deported, in fear of the dangers that lie ahead, in mourning for those who have died. Help us, Lord.

A: Hear our prayer. Amen

Blessing

Be open handed to receive from and give to one another in the body of Christ. Play your part in this beautiful future where integration is pursued and realised in the wake of fragmentation. Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Bible Readings

Any of the verses that feature in the **Hands Out** teaching materials could be used in the service.

Session 1 focused on Hagar (**Genesis 16:13**); session 2 The Escape to Egypt (**Matthew 2:13-15**); session 3 God as refuge, comforter and guide (**Psalms 9:9; Isaiah 49:16; John 1:5**); session 4 our role (**Leviticus 19:34; Matthew 25:35-36; 1 Peter 4:8-9**). The children's and young people's learning will have been drawn from these passages and so would facilitate participation and leading from them during the service.

Alternatively, the following passages may be useful: **Psalms 59:16** (I will sing that God has been my refuge and fortress); **Proverbs 3:27** (don't withhold good from others when it is in your power to help)

Preaching on Sanctuary Sunday

Genesis 21:8-21 – This is a powerful passage to read and reflect on. As a woman forced to leave her home multiple times, her story reflects the experience of many individuals seeking refuge. The *Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees 'Sanctuary Sunday the God Who Sees Me'* worship resource suggests the following questions as you prepare your talk:

- What leads to Hagar's displacement?
- What is Hagar's experience in the wilderness?
- What does she do in her hopelessness?
- How does God meet her in her need?

This passage reminds us of God's unfailing compassions, especially for those who are suffering and going through a time of wilderness. It should also challenge us to see and hear others. We should learn to see refugees not as an 'other', but as fellow sojourners living in hope and seeking a new and abundant life.

Alternatively, Jesus' escape from Egypt in **Matthew** provides much scope for exploring the idea that God is on the ground, incarnate and forever viscerally connected to us in our struggles and pain.

Stories and excerpts from the **Hands Out** CR videos would be useful here – Seme Peter, Mickey Aibaku or any of our other refugee friends could be included in your talk. The work of All Nations Ministries provides local opportunities to serve refugees living among us – the ANM section from video 4 could also be used at this point in the service.

Poem

This poem by Malcolm Guite would complement teaching from Matthew on the escape from Egypt.

'Refugee' by Malcolm Guite

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple,
Or cosy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.

For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on that road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.

Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
And death squads spread their curse across the world.

But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne

Possible Song/Hymn Ideas

- Brother, sister, let me serve you
- I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
- Longing for light, we wait in darkness
- We turn to you, O God of every nation
- When I needed a neighbour, we you there?
- In Christ alone, my hope is found
- Be thou my vision
- Build Your Kingdom here
- Blessed be Your name
- Shine Jesus Shine
- Hosanna (I see the King of Glory)

Getting the children involved

- ◆ As well as inviting children to write or read prayers and Bible stories, the following suggestions will ensure that the service has lots of involvement from the children.
- ◆ We would encourage you to invite any older children who have worked through the teen material to share some of their ideas on what it means to have adopted the posture of 'hands out'. What does that look like in practical terms? How will this alter our thinking?
- ◆ Do an interview with a couple of older children about what they've learned or what activity they have enjoyed. The 'Extra Guest' activity from session 4 **Hands Out** purple teens materials would be good to share with the congregation. CMSI produce a pack at Christmas each year which encourages families to make space at their festive table to remember and

give to those who don't have enough food. Use this opportunity to encourage your congregation to sign up online for this resource during Advent.

- ◆ Have children up front to sing a song that ties in with some of the themes in the **Hands Out** resource.
- ◆ Have one of the Sunday school groups recite the memory verse that they learned together and sign it for the congregation.
- ◆ Invite some of the children to explain how the memory verse underpinned the learning across the **Hands Out** series. This could lead into ideas on how we can listen to and learn from our refugee friends here in Ireland.
- ◆ Some 'show and tell' - with the children walking round the church to show pictures and crafts they have produced during **Hands Out**. You could even divide the children up - so they each 'show and tell' to a pew/row or two.

CMSI Speaker

You may want to request a guest speaker from CMSI to come and speak at your All-Age Service or to speak to the adults on one of the Sundays when the children are doing their project in Sunday school.

In addition to staff members, CMSI has a team of volunteers who speak on behalf of the Society at Sunday services and midweek gatherings. Visit the CMSI website or contact the offices for more information or to request a speaker. (The earlier you can make the request, the better).

Other Ideas

- Interview someone from the parish who is involved in mission at home or overseas.
- Explain a bit about the fundraising element of the **Hands Out** Children's Resource and encourage people to give through a retiring offering.
- Organise a simple pot-luck lunch for after the service, where everyone brings something to share. You could use this as a fundraising event for St Raphael school in Cairo, Egypt, or simply to enjoy fellowship together.
- Organise a sponsored walk and use the 'Forced to Flee' activity from purple teens session 1 to help people begin to imagine the experiences and struggles of those leaving their home in a hurry.
- If you are keen to roll out these lessons further, you could organise an informal screening of Ai Weiwei's 2017 documentary film *Human Flow* or Philippe Falardeau's 2014 biographical drama *The Good Lie* as a fundraiser.

For further information, contact CMSI's offices or visit our website -

www.cmsireland.org

We'd love to see more parishes developing a partnership link with our global partners. These links are a really effective way to connect with the global Church and to play an active part in global mission. They also provide a means of breathing new life into the mission activities within your own parish.



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