

'HUMILITY AND HOSPITALITY' – MIGRANT & REFUGEE SUNDAY - 28 August 2016

Today we hear Jesus on [HUMILITY](#) in Luke 14:11,

***"For all who exalt themselves will be humbled,
And those who humble themselves will be exalted."***

Jesus challenges us to live humbly with [INCLUSIVE HOSPITALITY](#) in Luke 14:12-13,

***"When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers
or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you
would be repaid.
But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the
blind."***

It is not just the act of hospitality; it is also the reason, the attitude behind it.

Humbly offering hospitality, including the marginalised and powerless.

Humbly offering hospitality, without hope of favours, promotion or material benefit.

We can do this because God - in love - is always showing us the way.

This weekend we celebrate the 102nd World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

We hear about tragedies on our world news and later turn off the broadcast.

We see the plight of the refugees around the world on our TVs or computers or mobiles or other technologies.

Then we switch off or turn elsewhere.

Each day we are tempted to switch off to misery in our world.

This Sunday we remember that when we turn off, our sisters and brothers in the human family suffer and many die.

Responding humbly and a willingness to offer hospitality, we now share in a [Reflection and Prayer from our Brisbane staff of Multicultural Pastoral Care in the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.](#)

I invite our parish family members from Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, Oceania, Europe, North America and Australia to lead us over the Masses this weekend in the following Reflection and Prayer -

Reflection:

[UNHCR counted over one million arrivals to Europe by sea last year](#), predominantly in Italy and Greece, via the Mediterranean. Of these, 3,700 were recorded missing or believed drowned. The exodus continues.

There is turmoil in the body, mind and spirit of each and every refugee fleeing conflict and persecution.

There is despair in each and every migrant's desperate attempt to secure a dignified future.

We live in a world of immediate access to information on global events.

We sit comfortably in our lounge rooms and in our meeting rooms as passive perpetrators to the turmoils of the world: forced mass migrations, wars, riots, bombings, terrorism and human misery.

We watch and we talk.

We feel a warm fuzzy emphatic feeling and a desire to change things for the unfortunate ones.

We cheer and rally behind the tireless efforts of those who take risks putting compassion to action.

Then we switch off, because we have our own personal problems too. Fair enough.

We experience a 'compassion overload'.

We become desensitised.

We become indifferent.

As Psalm 42 ends in praise of God, we turn to God for hope and conversion.

In the face of indifference and hard-heartedness to refugees and people seeking asylum,

We pray to become people of compassion, mercy and action.

Prayer:

Let us pray.

"God of tenderness and compassion, look upon your people, created in your image and pour your saving love into the brokenness and imperfections of our lives.

Protector of migrants and itinerants, assist all men, women, and children who are forced to flee their lands in search of a future and for hope.

Refuge of sinners, obtain the conversion of heart for those who generate war, those who fuel hate, those who make money out of someone else's poverty.

Mother of mercy, ask forgiveness for us who, blinded by selfishness, self-interest and fear of the other, have become distracted towards the needs and sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

We ask you to touch this day all those caught in the cycle of exile, of the relentless comings and goings and not knowing where to stay or belong.

We pray for ourselves,

That we may not be silent in the face of other people's suffering,

That we may see in the faces of all people your image, loving God, and commit ourselves to work for the good of everyone.

Come Holy Spirit, breath of God, as you breathed on the world in the beginning, breath on us now and renew the face of the earth.

Amen."

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – 'Humility & Hospitality' – Migrant & Refugee Sunday 28 August 2016]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/082816.cfm>]

[Reference: Psalm 42: <http://tinyurl.com/Psalm42-NRSV>]