

Refugee Week 2026

Collective Worship for Catholic Schools

This collective worship plan introduces secondary students to Refugee Week 2026 and its theme of courage through prayer, scripture, video, and questions for reflection. It is designed for use in key stages 3-5. It offers the flexibility to delve deeper with students if you have time through reflection questions and additional resources at the end of this text.

Please contact fiona.ranford@csan.org.uk for guidance on further resources or to offer feedback.

Slide 1	Refugee Week title slide (15th-21st June 2026) Introduce the theme and remind students that this is also a time for reflection.	Light a candle
Slide 2 1 minute	Opening Prayer This can be read by the person leading, or a young person can be invited forward: <i>In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</i> <i>Together we pray: For all those who work for justice and peace around the world. We ask that they may be your hands and feet on earth. Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.</i>	Sign of the Cross Pause Read prayer
Slide 3 1 minute	Introduction to Refugee Week <i>Refugee Week is an opportunity to celebrate the role that refugees play in our society. It takes place every year around World Refugee Day (20th June) and is celebrated by more than 2 million people in more than 20 countries.</i> <i>Refugee Week brings together people from different backgrounds to connect beyond labels and foster a deeper understanding of why people are displaced and the challenges they face when seeking safety.</i>	Read text
Slide 4 1 minute	What is the definition of a refugee? <i>... someone who has been forced to leave their home country because of violence, war or persecution. They are unable to return home because they fear harm because of their race, religion, political opinions or social group. People have sought refuge or 'asylum' for many thousands of years, but they have only been a category in international law since 1950. This describes their legal status, but it doesn't say anything about them as individuals; their experiences, struggles, hopes or dreams.</i>	Read text
Slide 5 2 minutes	Video by the International Rescue Committee (1 minute 40): YouTube link This video should begin playing automatically when you click to this slide.	Play video
Slide 6 1 minute	Words from Pope Leo XIV Catholics are taught that we must respond urgently to all people in need because every person has fundamental dignity and is made in the image and likeness of God.	Read info, then the text

	<i>Pope Leo XIV said: "Nevertheless, the dignity of every human person must be respected today, not tomorrow, and the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our consciences"</i>	
Slide 7 1 minute	<p>Refugee Week theme: Courage</p> <p><i>For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It takes courage to leave home, build new relationships, navigate unfamiliar systems, learn a new language, and live with uncertainty about the future while seeking a sense of belonging in a new community. But courage is also asked of all of us.</i></p> <p><i>The Gospel teaches the dignity of every person and rejects the idea that some people in society have more value than others. We are called to love our neighbour, wherever they come from, whatever their religion and whatever their culture. This is rooted in our belief in the fundamental dignity of all people. Standing up for our beliefs and building inclusive communities takes courage.</i></p>	Read text
Slide 8 1 minutes	<p>Scripture</p> <p>This can be read by the person leading, or a young person/s can be invited forward:</p> <p><i>We read in the Gospel of Matthew: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."</i></p> <p><i>And in the Book of Deuteronomy, we hear: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."</i></p>	Read scripture Pause for thought
Slide 9 1/2 minutes	<p>Simple Acts</p> <p><i>In the Scripture we just read, we heard of how to put our faith into action in small but powerful ways. Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities. Small acts of kindness, conversation, and understanding can help people feel welcomed and included. They also help us grow personally by broadening our perspectives, building empathy, and deepening our understanding of others.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Courageous conversations help us speak honestly, share values, and listen to one another to build understanding.</i> ● <i>Walk and talk together, speak openly, listen attentively, and discover new perspectives.</i> ● <i>Nature shows us how connection, trust, and collaboration help all life thrive together.</i> ● <i>Books and stories help us see new perspectives, challenge assumptions, and build empathy.</i> 	Read text If time allows, have a chat about more examples
Slide 10 1/2 minutes	<p>Examples of well-known changemakers</p> <p><i>Throughout history, society has been transformed by those willing to show courage and speak out against injustice.</i></p> <p>Do you recognise these faces? What injustices have they spoken out about publicly? Throughout history, society has been transformed for the better by those who had the courage to speak out against the injustices they saw. (Mo Farah/Ncuti Gatwa/Nelson Mandela/Dua Lipa/Greta Thunberg/Rosa Parks/Malala Yousafzai/Marcus Rashford/Stormzy)</p>	Read text Invite students to name the faces and suggest more
Slide 11 1minute	<p>How to be courageous</p> <p><i>Let's think about this in relation to our own lives.</i></p> <p><i>We asked some secondary school students: What does 'courage' mean to you?</i></p>	Read text
Slide 12	Video from Caritas Brentwood students (1 minute 43): Video link	Play video

2 minutes	This video should begin playing automatically when you click to this slide.	
Slide 13 1/2 minutes	<p>Reflection questions</p> <p>Ask for a moment of quiet reflection to consider a personal answer to the questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What does courage mean to you?</i> • <i>When has someone else's act of courage been important for you?</i> • <i>Where do you see courage in others around you each day?</i> 	Invite students to reflect on the q's, and discuss if time
Slide 14 1 minute	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p><i>Lord, grant us the grace to work tirelessly for justice, solidarity, and peace so that all Your children may enjoy the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay. Grant us the courage to speak out against the horrors of our world and to combat every injustice that destroys the beauty of our common home. Sustain us by the power of Your Spirit so that we can reflect Your love and welcome every migrant whom You place in our path. May we be reflections of You and foster a culture of encounter and care.</i></p> <p><i>In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.</i></p>	<p>Read prayer</p> <p>Pause</p> <p>Sign of the Cross</p>
Slide 15	<p>Refugee Week title slide</p> <p>There are additional resources available following this collective worship assembly, if you feel your students or staff would like to continue the conversation.</p>	

Additional resources

Love the Stranger Youth Version:

This resource guides young people through the catholic church's core teaching on migration.

It offers questions for reflection and discussion as well as accompanying video resources.

Download them at: <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/launch-of-love-the-stranger-youth-version/>

Christian Campaign for Asylum Guide:

We are calling on catholics to stand up for refugees and people seeking asylum in the face of the government's anti-refugee laws, which criminalise people for seeking sanctuary and aim to make their lives in the UK much more difficult. People in churches and schools across the UK will be writing to the Prime Minister to say that these laws do not represent them, and they want an asylum system that affirms the dignity of everyone, wherever they were born. Download the campaign guide here:

www.csan.org.uk/news/christian-campaign-for-asylum

Refugee Week Resources for Young People:

The people at Refugee Week have compiled a wide range of resources for children and young people to help them dig deeper into the subject. Download them at: <https://refugeeweek.org/take-part/resources/>



This resource was created in collaboration with [Caritas Diocese of Brentwood](http://www.caritas.org.uk).