

Chant Domine, Dona nobis pacem

Voice

Do-min-e Do-min-e do-na no-bis pa-cem, do-min-e do-min-e

do - na - no - bis pa - cem

- Presider* Let us pray for all those who have to make life changing decisions to leave home and family
- All* Domine, Dona nobis pacem
- Presider* Let us pray for all those who have responsibilities in caring for migrants and refugees.
- All* Domine, Dona nobis pacem
- Presider* Let us pray for all those who have died, been maimed or bereaved through terrorism.
- All* Domine, Dona nobis pacem
- Presider* Let us pray for all the homeless, the cold and the fearful this winter.
- All* Domine, Dona nobis pacem
- Presider* Please add your thoughts and prayers aloud or silently.
- All* Domine, Dona nobis pacem
- Presider* Let us say the prayer Our Saviour taught us.
- All* **Our Father...**
- Presider* The Lord bless us,
and keep us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.
- Hymn 900 O day of peace (Jerusalem)**
- Presider* May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace.
- All* **Amen.**

Praying for Peace
A Time for Prayer and Meditation
The Refugee and the Stranger

From the Quran and the Talmud:
“Whoever destroys a soul, it’s as though they destroy the entire world; whoever saves a life, it’s as though they’ve saved the entire world.”
Quoted by the Bishop of Manchester
Sunday Worship, Radio Four

- Presider* O God, come to our aid.
- All* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**
- Presider* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
- All* **as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**
- Hymn 885 Lord whose love in humble service (Abbot’s Leigh)**
- Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- All* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- Presider* Over the last few months we have all been forced to consider our response to migrants, refugees, and the strangers in our midst. What are their needs? How should we respond to them? And do we understand why they have left their homes? Let’s consider the story of Ruth...
- Reading 1 Ruth 1:1-17**
- Reader* The Word of the Lord
- All* **Thanks be to God**

Our Lady’s
Stricklands Road, Stowmarket
3pm, Sunday 22 November

- Meditation**
- Who are the migrants in this story?
 - Naomi and her husband went to Moab in time of famine. Their sons took foreign wives. Were they resented?
 - When they died what loyalty did Naomi have to her new country?
 - What loyalty had her daughters-in-law to Naomi?

Pause for silent prayer

Hymn 888 When I needed a neighbour

Prayer (From the Nouwen Network)

Presider God, no one is a stranger to you
 And no one is ever far from your loving care.
 In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,
 Those separated from their loved ones,
 Those who are lost
 And those who have been exiled from their homes.
 Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,
 and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord,
 Who too was a refugee and migrant
 Who travelled to another land, searching for a home.

All **Amen**

Presider Ipswich Town of Sanctuary was founded in 2009 by Melissa Niroshini Day. It is part of the national “City of Sanctuary” movement which aims to create local groups that will co-ordinate welcome and support for refugees and asylum seekers. (See ipswich.cityofsanctuary.org)

Reading 2 From the Ipswich Celebration of Community, March 2001

- Meditation**
- Are strangers, newcomers, refugees and asylum seekers welcome into our hearts, our homes, our communities, our religious buildings?
 - Do we respect and value the person who is different?
 - Are we prepared to be changed by the encounter?
 - Are we prepared to take risks?
 - Are we prepared to give ourselves, whatever the cost?

Pause for silent prayer

Hymn 889 Jesus Christ is waiting

Prayer (by Jane Deren, 2007)

Presider For those who see “home” and all it means disappear behind them;
 For those who cannot see a home in the days ahead
 For those who dwell in daily insecurity
 For those who are weary and with no safe place to rest their heads;
 For all families in migration, we pray.
 May the image of the Holy Family, fleeing oppression, stay with us as we prepare to enter a New Year.
 And stay with us each night as we are blessed with returning to a home.
 May we also be blessed with compassion for those still weary, still seeking, still with so far to go.

All **Amen**

Presider The appalling images of the Paris attacks are still in all our minds today - and, as their perpetrators intended, they have created a backlash of suspicion and intolerance. But there are other, better responses...

Reading 3 An open letter from Antoine Leiris

- Meditation**
- What does hatred do to us?
 - Are we being taught to fear and hate Islam?
 - Is there any way we can convert the radical?
 - How could we comfort the fearful?