

# Get Involved: Pray

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**EMBRACE Prayer Group**  
**January 2011**

‘So Joseph got up, took mother and child by night, and sought refuge with them in Egypt...’ *Matthew 2: 14–15*

## **People who seek sanctuary here and those who support them**

Every year a small number of people who have been forced to flee from their home countries seek sanctuary locally. When they apply for asylum they face the ordeal of trying to prove their case, living with past traumas, adjusting to life away from their home country and isolation from family and friends. Most receive some financial support and housing here but others do not; if their cases fail they cannot be sent home immediately and they may find themselves destitute once again.

*Contributed by Margaret McNulty*

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## **Please pray for...**

- People who are seeking sanctuary and those who have been given permission to stay, and are adjusting to life here as refugees.
- People in the organisations that process their applications and advise them (staff in the Bryson One Stop Service for Asylum Seekers, immigration law practitioners, staff at the Law Centre NI, members of the local Refugee Action Group, Refugees in Time of Need (RITON) volunteers who support individual asylum applicants and UK Border Agency case officers).
- Charities that assist destitute people who are seeking asylum, such as EMBRACE, the NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS), the Red Cross and St. Vincent de Paul.
- Refugees who are trying to arrange for family members to join them who are currently in refugee camps abroad.
- People who find themselves lonely and depressed during the winter season when the distance of family and the absence home customs can be strongly felt.

## **We give thanks for...**

- Refugees who are helping others who are less fortunate than themselves.
- Groups that help people to integrate (the staff, members and volunteers of the NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS) and the Corrymeela/ NICRAS Inclusive Neighbourhood Project staff and volunteers).
- Churches who have given emergency funding, clothing, toiletries and foodstuffs through organisations such as EMBRACE.
- Small but significant gestures of kindness that make people feel welcome and appreciated.