

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group December 2016

'The Word was made flesh, He lived among us ' (John 1:14)

'Peace I bequeath to you, My own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.'
(John 14:27)

As Christmas approaches we reflect on the astonishing mystery of God's Word becoming flesh in Jesus Christ, and living among us. The impact of God becoming human has given us a new insight into the meaning of the ordinary things of life. He made his **home** with us and that changes everything.

Before he died his parting gift to us was **peace**.

As we ponder on these two words '**home**' and '**peace**' our minds and hearts go out to the millions of asylum seekers and refugees who have fled war-torn countries seeking peace and a home, and who continue to do so; many drowning or dying on the way. By early November 2016 approximately 4,220 had died in the Mediterranean Sea. According to UNHCR, at the end of 2015, there were more than 65 million people in the world who had been forced to leave their homes due to violence or persecution.

What will Christmas be like for these people, their families and children as they search for a home among us – will there be any room in our minds and hearts to receive them? Who among us will extend the hand of friendship and peace to these brothers and sisters of ours? What kind of support can we offer?

We pray :

- for all those who seek shelter and protection as a result of conflict and poverty: may they find a safe dwelling place among us.
- for the peace of Christ to touch all those who mourn and are broken hearted due to family loss or separation.
- that decision makers will act responsibly, compassionately and with justice and that we may all support those countries that welcome refugees.

We remember asylum seekers and refugees who have died, while making perilous journeys to find a place of protection.

Almighty Father, encourage us to reach out the hand of friendship, support and hospitality to those in need, especially at this time of year.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen us in our resolve and efforts to make this world a place of peace, where all will be free to live in harmony with each other.

Contributed by Sr Helena Daly