



# 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

24 September 2023

"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay"



## Eucharistic Celebration



# INTRODUCTION

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) is a day kept aside to remember all the people in the world who are displaced due to many circumstances; it may be with choice or forcibly. It is celebrated on the last Sunday of the month of September. This day gives us an opportunity to show our concern and respect with dignity, the people who are part of us from other places or country. This year, our Holy Father Pope Francis has chosen the theme, “Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay”.

Pope Francis in his message on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2023 says, “even as we work to ensure that in every case migration is the fruit of a free decision, we are called to show maximum respect for the dignity of each migrant; this entails accompanying and managing waves of migration as best we can, constructing bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration. In whatever place we decide to build our future, in the country of our birth or elsewhere, the important thing is that there should always be a community ready to welcome, protect, promote and integrate everyone, without distinction and without excluding anyone”.

In this Eucharistic Celebration, let us remember all the people who are on their migratory journey from place to place or country to country to have a better life. This journey may be of their choice and free decision or they may be forced to take up this journey. May they experience a welcoming and respectful atmosphere and that the receiving community may have more understanding and respect them with dignity. May the grace and spirit of our creator always enable us to create a safe and welcoming space.





# Offertory Symbols with Reflection

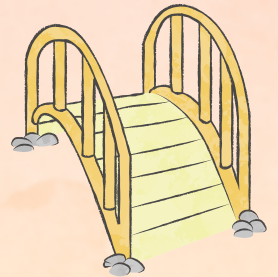


**Globe:** “God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good” (Gen.1:31). As we offer this globe, let us acknowledge the importance of each other, as we live in this world which was created with love. May we live giving respect and dignity to people in all walks of life with its own uniqueness, and care for our common home and feel the warmth of love.



**Crossroads:** We don't meet people by coincidence, they are meant to cross our paths for reasons unknown to us. Compassionate Lord, we place before you all the migrants and refugees who are torn from their homes, family and everything familiar to them. May they experience the warmth of your love, especially, through the hearts of young, old and the most vulnerable among them. Open our hearts to receive them as our sisters and brothers in whose face we see you.

**Bridge:** Bridge symbol of connection. It connects us with God in our spiritual life and with people in social life. We place all the organizations who work for social issues of giving a dignified life to the people who are at the margins. May they continue to be the bridge which will enables people to travel in a community of love and respect.



**Pen:** The pen is a powerful tool of the educated people. We pray for authorities who have the power to frame the laws of their country, especially the government servants. May all those in authority be able to understand the situation of the migrants and refugees and design laws/policies which will benefit these groups of people. May they be guaranteed safety and the basic needs for a human person.



**Bread and Wine:** Lord Jesus when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body. We acknowledge the work of human hands, especially that of the migrants and refugees, who help us in our day-to-day work. May the compassion which you showed to the hungry crowd inspire us to respect and accept their contribution to the growth of society.

# Hymns

The following are model hymns for the Eucharistic celebration. Any other appropriate hymns can be taken for the Eucharistic celebration.

## Entrance

**Walking with the Lord,  
We are walking in the morning  
Lift up your hearts,  
For you are walking with God.  
Singing to the Lord,  
We are singing in the sunshine,  
Lift up your hearts,  
For you are singing to God.**

Hand in hand with everyone,  
We are walking, walking,  
Singing new songs now,  
Living new lives,  
Building new bridges,  
Walking distant miles,  
Well we're walking with the Lord...

Rain and storm will not prevent us  
Walking, walking,  
Faith and hope and love,  
Will send us walking, walking  
Crossing all barriers,  
Climbing all stiles,  
Breaking through fences,  
Walking distant miles  
Well we're walking with the Lord...

## Lord Have Mercy

Change my heart O Lord  
Make it ever new  
Change my heart O Lord  
May I be like you  
You are the Potter  
I am the clay  
Mould me and make me  
This is what I pray

## Gloria

Glory to God in the highest! (2)  
Let there be peace and joy for all in whom  
He is pleased.

**Glory, glory to God in the highest! (2)**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty god  
and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
We praise you for your glory!

Lord Jesus, Son of the Father,  
Lord God, lamb of God, you take away  
Our every sin,  
Have mercy on us.

You alone are the Holy one, you alone  
Are the Lord,  
With the Spirit in the glory of God the  
Father,  
Amen.

## Response

Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your  
love,  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek,  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace,  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring  
hope,  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.



## Acclamation

### Alleluia! (5+5)

Show me your way, O Lord, guide me  
Along your path.

Bend my heart to your will, teach me  
your decrees.

### Offertory

**All for you, Lord, all for you**

**Everything I give to you**

**All for you, Lord, all for you,**

**Make it all your own.**

Take my hands and feet, Lord, take them  
all for you,

They are instruments, Lord, put them to  
your use,

To spread your love and give the good  
news,

All for you, my God.

Take my joys and sorrows and the toil of  
day,

Take my rest and leisure, all I'll do to-day,  
To serve my neighbours, share with them  
your joy,

All for you, my God.

### Holy Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

### Proclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this  
Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord,  
until you come again.

## Communion

**Whatsoever you do to the least of my  
people,  
That you do unto me.**

When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;  
When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink,  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was weary, you helped me find rest;  
When I was anxious, you calmed all my  
fears,

Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was homeless, you opened your  
door,

When I was naked, you gave me your coat,  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was little, you taught me to read,  
When I was lonely, you gave me your love,  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

When in a prison, you came to my cell,  
When on a sick bed, you cared for my  
needs,

Now enter into the home of my Father.

In a strange country, you made me at  
home,

Seeking employment, you found me a job,  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

When I was laughed at, you stood by my  
side,

When I was happy, you shared in my joy,  
Now enter into the home of my Father.





## Post Communion

Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence  
Of all that I love here on earth,  
All the beauty I see he has given to me,  
And his giving is gently as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment,  
Have been blessed by the strength of his  
love,  
At the turn of each tide, he is there at my  
side,  
And his touch is as gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned  
From his presence,  
And I've walked other paths, other ways,  
But I've called on his name in the dark  
Of my shame,  
And his mercy was gentle as silence.

## Recessional

**Hand in hand with Christ, our Brother,  
His love we'll show,  
We will rise and leave the house of  
God,  
To all we'll go.**

Grant, o Lord, that we may journey  
On the way that was your own,  
For our neighbours ever caring  
In the way you've shown

Let the petty strife be banished  
Teach us all the way of peace  
So that, living as companions  
All our fears may cease.

With the fire of love now burning  
By the power of God made strong  
Give us, Lord, to spread your message  
And proclaim your truth.

