



CLIMATE MIGRATION



In 1990, [the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) noted that the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and agricultural disruption.

Since then various analysts have tried to put numbers on future flows of climate migrants (sometimes called “climate refugees”) the most widely repeated prediction being 200 million by 2050.

In the mid-1990s, it was widely reported that up to 25 million people had been forced from their homes and off their land by a range of serious environmental pressures including pollution, land degradation, droughts and natural disasters. At the time it was declared that these “environmental refugees”, exceeded all documented refugees from war and political persecution put together. [IOM Migration and Climate Change Research Series No 31.](#)

The meteorological impact of climate change can be divided into two distinct drivers of migration; **climate processes** such as sea-level rise, salinization of agricultural land, desertification and growing water scarcity and **climate events** such as flooding, storms and glacial lake outburst floods. But non-climate drivers, such as government policy, population growth and community-level resilience to natural disaster, are also important. All contribute to the degree of vulnerability people experience.

Forced migration hinders development in at least four ways; by increasing pressure on urban infrastructure and services, by undermining economic growth, by increasing the risk of conflict and by leading to worse health, educational and social indicators among migrants themselves.

Church Teaching

Our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: **welcome, protect, promote and integrate.** [Message of Pope Francis for the 105th World Day of Refugees and Migrants \(September 2019\)](#)

Development cannot be reduced to economic growth alone, often attained without a thought for the poor and the vulnerable. A better world will come about only if attention is first paid to individuals; [Message of Pope Francis for World Day of Refugees and Migrants 2014](#)

The hungry nations of the world cry out to the peoples blessed with abundance. And the Church, cut to the quick by this cry, asks each and every man to hear his brother's plea and answer it lovingly [Populorum Progressio 1967](#)



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We are the heirs of earlier generations, and we reap benefits from the efforts of our contemporaries; we are under obligation to all men. Therefore we cannot disregard the

Welfare of those who will come after us to increase the human family. The reality of human solidarity brings us not only benefits but also obligations [Populorum Progressio 1967](#)

Ideas For Action

- [100 practical ways to reverse climate change.](#)
- [Ecosystems solutions](#)
- [Sciaf guide to caring for our common home](#)
- [Sign the petition - Tell the UK Government to act now on climate change - Friends of the Earth](#)

Liturgical Resources

- [Australian Catholic Liturgical Resources](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Laudato Si and Sisters of Mercy's Critical Concerns](#)
- [Peacemeal](#). Liturgy ideas for sharing a meal
- [Season of Creation](#). An excellent booklet containing liturgies on the environment, including biodiversity
- [Caring for God's Creation](#). A downloadable booklet produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with suggestions for liturgies
- [Greening Worship](#). A web page from EcoCongregation with lots of useful suggestions for worship.
- [Liturgical, Prayer and Spiritual Resources](#). Splendid resources page from the Global Catholic Climate Movement