



**BUILDING
THE FUTURE**

Learning Retreat

Ahead of World Day of Prayer for
Migrants and Refugees

Information for Teachers





Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Building the Future.

Building the Future is an event for **senior students (S4-6)**, taking place 4pm **16th September** (Friday) until 3pm **17th September** (Saturday). Hosted at St Ninian's High School (Giffnock), and organised by Justice and Peace Scotland and URSpace.

It is a 'Learning Retreat' which will explore Catholic Social Teaching around migration and hospitality and we hope that you and your students will be able to join us.

Background

Building the Future is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the 108th World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees, which the Church will celebrate on 25th September 2022.

Since visiting the island of Lampedusa in the early days of his pontificate, Pope Francis has been one of the few leaders on the global stage to consistently stand for the rights and dignity of refugees, asylum seekers and all displaced people, and through the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Integral Development dicastery he encourages and supports the Church to do the same.

The UK has had proud moments in our history of offering welcome to those in need. The *kindertransport* in the 1940s, the welcome shown to the Ugandan-Asian community fleeing Idi Amin, and Chileans escaping Pinochet's military dictatorship in the 1970s. However, in recent years we have forgotten how to welcome the stranger in need. Since 2015 we have seen the militarisation of the UK border in Calais, this created a humanitarian crisis which led to the forced dispersal of 10,000 people from the camp known as 'the jungle' in October 2016. The Windrush scandal saw men and women invited to the UK as children facing removal to countries which were no longer their homes, or left destitute and desperate in the UK denied the right to keep doing their own jobs. Most recently the UK government's Nationality and Borders Act breaks our commitments to the Refugee Convention, and legislates for a discriminatory asylum policy, where vulnerable people face being transported to Rwanda without having their claim for asylum considered.

Given these recent events Building the Future will allow us to explore the challenges posed by our faith and the social doctrine of the Church in responding to the crisis of hospitality which our society is facing.

Joined by leaders from faith and civic organisations with first-hand experience of this crisis of hospitality and seeking to respond to it this event offers students a unique opportunity to understand the background and history of migration to the UK, the current crisis, responses within Scotland, and to consider our response to these signs of the times, in light of our faith.

Costs and Expectations

Each school is invited to bring **10** students, along with **2** members of staff (1 Male, 1 Female).

The cost for each school group is **£100**.

Schools are expected to cover their own travel costs, have a designated first aider, and be responsible for their own students throughout the event.

Schools are asked to use their existing parental consent forms including consent for photographs to be taken as part of the event.

Overnight Accommodation

As part of an immersive experience all groups will be sleeping in the sports hall. Each school will have an assigned space for students, and teachers will be allocated space nearby. (Think 'Big Sleep Out' type events which some schools will be familiar with.) Staff will be responsible for students overnight.

All students and staff are expected to bring sleeping bags (etc) appropriate for sleeping on the floor, and clothing suitable for staying in a public area with very limited privacy.

Members of St Ninian's High School staff will be awake throughout the night.

Students will be invited to reflect ahead and after on this experience of living without our usual comforts. However, please make sure students are aware of what they are signing up for when they make the decision to attend to ensure they arrive properly equipped.

Next Steps

More details on the programme and content are included with this document.

Any questions or queries feel free to contact Danny Sweeney (Justice and Peace Scotland) at daniel.sweeney@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk with the subject 'Building the Future Queries'

Spaces are limited and bookings will be 'first come, first serve'. To avoid disappointment please contact daniel.sweeney@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk with the subject 'Building the Future School Booking' to confirm your place, and receive details on making payment.

Deadline for schools registering is **4th September 2022**.

A poster with room for a named contact, and a letter for students who may be interested are included with this document.



Timetable (subject to change)

Friday 16th September

Time	Session	Speakers
16:00—17:00	Arrivals	
17:00	Welcome, introduction, and icebreakers	
17:30	“The failure to offer hospitality” Reflecting on the roots of the Refugee Convention in the Holocaust	Steven and Hilary Anson, Gathering the Voices
18:00	Dinner	
18:45	Music Practice	
19:15	Exploring the Refugee Convention and the Crisis of Hospitality Take a walk ... (workshop)	Danny Sweeney, Justice and Peace Scotland
21:00	Calais : the End of the Jungle	Film by Dan Reed
22:00	Evening Prayer Adoration Testimony	Bishop John Keenan of Paisley Br Johannes Maertens, Founder of Maria Skobtsova House, Calais
23:30	Close the day and goodnight	‘Big Sleep Out’



Timetable (subject to change)

Saturday 17th September

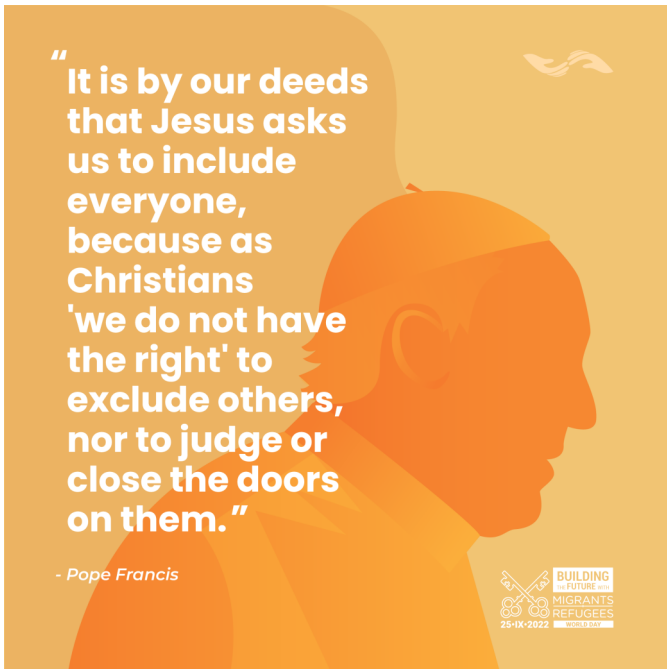
Time	Session	Contributors
08:00	Breakfast	
08:45	Morning Prayer	Fr Stephen Baillie
09:30	Building the Future in Scotland Civic Panel	Sabir Zazai (Scottish Refugee Council) Councillor Roza Salih Paul Sweeney MSP
10:30	School group planning session	
11:30	Intercultural learning	TBC
13:15	Lunch	
14:00	Celebration of Mass	Archbishop William Nolan of Glasgow
15:00	Depart	



Content & Speakers

Below is an outline of the event timetable (subject to change) along with some information about the programme, speakers and other contributors.

Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees



The theme and the inspiration for our event is the letter written by Pope Francis ahead of World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees.

In his letter Pope Francis expresses his hope that together we can build a future that includes all, a future which sees us all prosper, and a future in which we realise God's plan for a kingdom of justice, fraternity, and peace.

Throughout our event we will explore different facets of Pope Francis' message.

The full message can be viewed on the Migrants & Refugees Section website :

<https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2022/>

Friday 16th

"The tragedies of history remind us how far we are from arriving at our goal"

We begin by looking back, reflecting on our past and the history that we share. This will involve learning about the Refugee Convention, exploring the background to this international agreement, what it means in the world today.

Our first speakers are **Steven** and **Hilary Anson** from **Gathering the Voices**. Gathering the Voices exists to capture and share the testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust. It was the events in Europe in the 1930's and 40's which led the United Nations to agree the Refugee Convention in 1952. Steven and Hilary will share from their own family experience, and set the background for us to understand the events which led to the Refugee Convention being signed.

More information about Gathering the Voices can be found on their website. Gathering the Voices are available for schools to book for both talks, and to host their photo exhibition.

<https://gatheringthevoices.com/>



“No one must be excluded. God’s plan is essentially inclusive and gives priority to those living on the existential peripheries. Among them are many migrants and refugees, displaced persons, and victims of trafficking.”

We will continue our evening by exploring the Refugee Convention itself, understanding how it works, the protections that it offers, and what it means in our world today.

This will lead to reflecting on the experience of displaced people themselves. **Take a walk...** is an interactive workshop facilitated by **Justice and Peace Scotland**.

We will then move to learn more about what the crisis of hospitality looks like in our society today. There will be a screening of the short film **Calais: the End of the Jungle**. Produced by Earthling Films and the BBC, Dan Reed’s documentary captures the last days of the refugee camp in Calais when it was demolished in 2016.

“Yet this does not mean that we should lose heart. In the light of what we have learned in the tribulations of recent times, we are called to renew our commitment to building a future that conforms ever more fully to God’s plan of a world in which everyone can live in peace and dignity .”

Our evening together will conclude with prayer and reflection. We will be joined by **Bishop John Keenan of Paisley** who will lead a short period of Adoration, and reflect on *the God who sees us* and our response to welcoming those who are displaced.



Br Johannes, with members of Calais Catholic Worker and Taize communities at Maria Skobtsova House, Calais.

We will also hear testimony from **Br Johannes Maertens**. Br Johannes is the founder of Maria Skobtsova Catholic Worker House in Calais. Maria Skobtsova House is a house of hospitality which has been welcoming guests since 2016. It is a place of safety and rest in a city where many refugees find none, and the community strives to be ‘prayerfully present’ with all those displaced in Calais. Br Johannes will share his personal experiences of ministry in ‘the jungle’, on the streets of Calais, and his current ministry with refugees here in the UK.

After evening prayer students will have an immersive experience of displacement, when everyone will ‘bed down’ for the night in the school sports hall. For many this may be the first time they have slept without the usual comforts which many of us are accustomed to.



Saturday 17th

“Openness to one another creates spaces of fruitful exchange between different visions and traditions, and opens minds to new horizons. It also leads to a discovery of the richness present in other religions and forms of spirituality unfamiliar to us, and this helps us to deepen our own convictions. In the new Jerusalem of all peoples, the temple of the Lord is made more beautiful by the offerings that come from foreign lands”

Our second day will begin in prayer, we will reflect on our experience of displacement overnight, and start our day looking forwards to the vision of building the future that Pope Francis expresses in his letter. This session will be led by Fr Stephen Baillie, School Chaplain to St Ninian’s High School.

“Indeed, history teaches us that the contribution of migrants and refugees has been fundamental to the social and economic growth of our societies. This continues to be true in our own day.”

- Pope Francis



“Building the future with migrants and refugees also means recognizing and valuing how much each of them can contribute to the process of construction. I like to see this approach to migration reflected in a prophetic vision of Isaiah, which considers foreigners not invaders or destroyers, but willing labourers who rebuild the walls of the new Jerusalem, that Jerusalem whose gates are open to all peoples”

Our Saturday morning will explore Building the Future in Scotland. During the first part of this we will hear from three members of civic society; their experiences, their hopes, and an opportunity for questions, discussion and debate about these issues. Our speakers for this session are **Sabir Zazai** (CEO

Scottish Refugee Council), **Councillor Roza Salih** (one of the Glasgow Girls, and the first refugee elected to public office in Scotland), and **Paul Sweeney MSP** (Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Migration).

“Let us build the future today! For the future begins today and it begins with each of us. We cannot leave to future generations the burden of responsibility for decisions that need to be made now, so that God’s plan for the world may be realised and his Kingdom of justice, fraternity, and peace may come.”

The second part of our morning will provide an opportunity for each school group to meet together to discuss what they have learnt, and to begin to reflect on how this experience can be grown and developed once students return to school.

“Your gates shall always be open; day and night they shall not be shut, so that nations shall bring you their wealth” (Is 60:11). The presence of migrants and refugees represents a great challenge, but at the same time an immense opportunity for the cultural and spiritual growth of everyone. Thanks to them, we have the chance to know better our world and its beautiful diversity. We can grow in our common humanity and build together an ever greater sense of togetherness.”

Our morning will continue with the opportunity for students to experience some of the cultural wealth which migrants and refugee communities have brought to Scotland. Contributors are still being confirmed.

But for this wondrous harmony to reign, we must accept Christ’s salvation, his Gospel of love, so that the many forms of inequality and discrimination in the present world may be eliminated.

Our time together will conclude with a celebration of Mass, led by **Archbishop William Nolan of Glasgow** who is President of Justice and Peace Scotland.





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Migrants and Refugees



Information for Students

Thank you for your interest in 'Building the Future'.

"We are called to build a world where everyone can live in peace and prosperity."

These are the words of Pope Francis, and his invitation to each of us. Every year since 1914 the church has celebrated World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees. A day to be mindful of the additional challenges people who are displaced from their homes can face, and to celebrate all that they contribute to the societies where they seek to rebuild their lives.

This year Justice and Peace Scotland and URSpace are organising a 'Learning Retreat' ahead of World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees. This is taking place 16th—17th September 2022. A learning retreat is an opportunity to hear from men and women with lived experience of being displaced, those who live their faith on the front line of the crisis of hospitality which we see in our society, to pray and reflect on these issues, and to share time with others who care about the world we live in.

Is this event for me?

Are you interested in learning more about these complex issues. Are you interested in hearing more about what people are doing, and what can be done to help people seeking safety? Do you ever feel annoyed that the church isn't doing enough to help? Do you want to see what faith can look like when it is put into action?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions—this is probably for you!

What do I need to do now?

Speak to the member of school staff who gave you this letter to let them know you're interested.

What should I bring?

- Sleeping bag/ ground mat/ pillow
- Clothes to sleep in / Clothes to wear the next day
- Washbag

As part of the retreat you will be sleeping in a school sports hall; a small experience of being displaced from your familiar surroundings. Make sure you have the right clothes and equipment for a night away from home .

- Something to make notes with

You'll be hearing a lot of information—you may want to write some of it down!

Other than that—just bring yourself!

www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

BUILDING THE FUTURE

LEARNING RETREAT

Ahead of World Day of Prayer for
Migrants and Refugees

Friday 16th - Saturday 17th September 2022
National Overnight for S4 - S6 Students

Exploring Catholic Social Teaching on migration and
hospitality ahead of the 108th World Day of Prayer for
Migrants and Refugees.

Prayer, reflection, and workshops, learning from people with
lived experience.

Contact :

for more information



