

## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

A call to all parishes to celebrate this Day

Dear brothers and sisters in all the parishes,

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September next will be the 107<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees; for this occasion, Pope Francis has published a message entitled “Towards an ever wider We”. He reminds us that “we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer *others*, but only a single “we”, encompassing all of humanity.”

Each parish is asked to celebrate this Day; attached to this letter you will find the prayer contained in the Pope’s message, and suggested prayers of the faithful for Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. A celebration will also take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> September at 11h30 in Luxembourg City at the Church of St Alphonse (Paterekierch), enhanced by the works of Luxembourgish artist Manette Fusenig and organised jointly by the English-speaking community of the Lëtzebuerg-Notre-Dame Parish and the diocesan project Reech eng Hand. This Mass will be streamed live on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stalphonseluxembourg/> .

To mark the occasion, we are also proposing two practical actions:

- A major challenge: finding accommodation, employment and training placements

In Luxembourg, access to affordable housing and to employment or work placements is fraught with difficulties both for residents and for new arrivals, especially for refugees. Where the latter are concerned, their situation is often exacerbated by the lack of a network of contacts and by inadequate language skills. Reech eng Hand intends to gather any information on housing, employment or training opportunities that you in the parishes may be aware of, and to liaise with the Caritas and Red Cross social workers, as well as with the Agence Immobilière Sociale (Social Housing Agency)....as needed.

Please contact us by telephone at 621 981482, or by email at [reech-eng-hand@cathol.lu](mailto:reech-eng-hand@cathol.lu).

- Collection of boxes of coloured pencils or felt-tip pens (see attached poster)

All parishioners are invited to take part in this collection, intended for the children living in the refugee centres. Reech eng Hand will distribute the donations received to the various centres, according to their needs.

It is our firm hope that by our joint prayer and action, we may be able, thanks to our different talents and means, to embody the “ever wider We” which the Holy Father urges us to become.

Thank you for your interest and your support!

Luxembourg, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

+Jean-Claude Hollerich  
Archbishop of Luxembourg

Marie-Christine Ries  
Leader, Reech eng Hand Project

Prayer (Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees: Pope Francis)

Holy, beloved Father,  
your Son Jesus taught us  
that there is great rejoicing in heaven  
whenever someone lost is found,  
whenever someone excluded, rejected or discarded  
is gathered into our “we”,  
which thus becomes ever wider.

We ask you to grant the followers of Jesus,  
and all people of good will,  
the grace to do your will on earth.  
Bless each act of welcome and outreach  
that draws those in exile  
into the “we” of community and of the Church,  
so that our earth may truly become  
what you yourself created it to be:  
the common home of all our brothers and sisters. Amen.