

FOR REFLECTION

**In *Choosing the Common Good*,
the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales write:**

Politicians who respect the unique human dignity of each person will not reduce the issue of immigration simply to a matter of numbers, without distinguishing between its different forms – those who seek asylum, those from the east and west of the European Union, those from outside the European Union, those who come to study and those who are members of settled migrant communities in the United Kingdom. While government has a responsibility to manage migration effectively, it is imperative that all policies on immigration, and the procedures, structures and processes that implement those policies, should start from the recognition of this human dignity and the inalienable rights that follow from it.

Politicians have a serious responsibility for the common good not only in what policies they pursue but also in the way they campaign. They are right to appeal to the best and most decent instincts of the electorate rather than to whip up fears, prejudices and anxieties. We appeal to all in the political debate today never to address a sensitive issue such as this in a way that threatens harmonious relations between our communities and causes ill-will.

Choosing the Common Good,
Catholic Bishops of England & Wales, April, 2010

Consider your parish.

- Are immigrants from any of the categories described present?
- Is the human dignity of each being respected?
- What does the parish do to 'promote harmonious relations between our communities'?
- What more might it do?
- What might you do?

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY

There is much to celebrate in our diocese:

- The Diocesan Mass held on Racial Justice Sunday provides a valuable diocesan focus enabling us to celebrate our diversity and the ways in which we are similar.
- The **Catholics for Racial Harmony Group** arranges the annual diocesan racial justice Mass and meets together several times a year.
- A multi-ethnic team from the group would be willing to facilitate an evening of gentle conversations to enable parishioners to get to know each other better.
- One of its members has produced English/ Polish funeral service sheets.
- A useful website for Sunday Readings in different languages can be found at www.virc.at.
- The Diocesan Year Book has details of Masses celebrated regularly in other languages or rites.
- International Masses have been found to be an excellent way of celebrating the diversity now found within our diocese.

The J&P Coordinator, Joan Sharples, acts as a contact point for issues concerning migration and would be pleased to hear of current parish concerns and good practice.

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

01270 620584



1/2011

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission



People on the Move

MIGRATION

**Resources for
Reflection and Action**

**Bishop Patrick Lynch,
Bishop with pastoral responsibility for
migrants has called for:**

“a more visible culture of welcome,
hospitality and solidarity
with our migrant sisters and brothers
in God’s family
recognising and celebrating
their rich cultural and spiritual patrimony
and the ways in which
they are enriching us
as they join us in our parishes
and dioceses.”

www.catholic-ew.org.uk

SHREWSBURY DIOCESE TODAY

People are on the move. Our diocese has become more diverse in recent years, as people from other parts of the world: Eastern Europe, India, the Philippines and elsewhere come to live here on either a temporary or permanent basis. They bring both opportunities and challenges. Many parishes have been enriched by the experiences of Catholics from other parts of the world, but sadly, racism and xenophobia do exist in the diocese, both beyond and even within our Catholic communities.

This leaflet offers resources for reflection and action.

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) works to support people from diverse backgrounds with catholic dioceses and parishes, awareness raising and education for racial justice.
www.carj.org.uk 020 8802 8080

Catholic Church in England & Wales Office for Migration Policy (OMP) monitors information and prepares briefs on migration to enable the bishops to develop policy and respond to debates. OMP represents bishops on the migration issue nationally and internationally and also acts as a catalyst for lay engagement in refugee work. www.catholic-ew.org.uk 020 7901 4897

Church Action on Poverty mobilises churches to work alongside others to overcome poverty in the UK.
www.church-poverty.org.uk 0161 236 9321

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has resources which explore the theme of migration and the movement of people.
www.ctbi.org.uk

City of Sanctuary seeks to build a culture of

hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Its goal is to create a network of towns and cities throughout the country which are proud to be places of safety, and which include people seeking sanctuary fully in the life of their communities.

www.cityofsanctuary.org

EQUIP is an umbrella organisation aiming to equip, network and improve coordination between churches, Christian organisations and individuals working with refugees and asylum seekers in the UK
www.equipnetwork.org.uk

National J&P Network (NJPN) A report of its 2009 conference *On the Road Together: A-mazed by Migration* is available on its website.
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Jesuit Refugee Service UK is an international Catholic non-governmental organisation, at work in over 50 countries, with a mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. Its purpose is to accompany, to serve and to advocate on behalf of all asylum seekers.
www.jrsuk.net 0207 488 7310

Refugee Council is a human-rights charity and the largest organisation in the UK working with asylum seekers and refugees. It not only give direct help and support, but works with asylum seekers and refugees to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed.
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk 020 7820 3085

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Asylum Link Merseyside
An organisation dedicated to assisting asylum seekers and refugees and to raising public awareness around refugee issues.
www.asylumlink.org.uk 0151 709 1713

Healthy Inclusion (Ellesmere Port)

Provides social and practical support to asylum (sanctuary) seekers; educates medical students of their needs; and promotes changes in attitude to the socially excluded in society.

0151 355 4008 healthyinclusion@yahoo.co.uk

Revive (Manchester)

A project of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers, based in Manchester, supporting refugees and people seeking asylum.

www.revive-uk.org 0161 835 1253

Restore (Birmingham)

An instrument of Birmingham Churches Together acting in response to the Biblical teaching to welcome the stranger and to provide justice for the oppressed.

www.restore-uk.org 0121 236 0069

WHO'S WHO

A **migrant** is someone who leaves his/her country of origin for any number of social, economic, political, and/or religious motives.

A **refugee** is someone who has left his/her country of nationality or habitual residence, who is unwilling or unable to seek protection from that country because of well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.

An **asylum seeker** is someone who has claimed to be a refugee and who is waiting for a decision on his/her asylum claim.

A **refused asylum seeker** is someone who has had a final decision on his/her claim stating that he/she does not meet the refugee definition criteria.