

Prayer Vigil at the Home Office for Victims of Global Migration October 2023

Leader invites a few moments of silence and contemplation before the 'barbed wire icon'.

Opening Prayers

All **We pray for those who will spend time during our service handing out leaflets to the public. We ask that our message will reach the hearts of people of good will on this street today. Amen.**

Leader Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives, as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike,

All **Refresh us with your mercy, you who know our own injustice.**

Leader As the stream flows steadily on, defying all the odds of stone and water,

All **Flow over every boundary and border that separates us from each other.**

Leader As the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us,

All **Renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.**

Hymn – "When I Needed a Neighbour"

When I needed a neighbour, Were you there, were you there? When I needed a neighbour, were you there?	When I needed a shelter, Were you there, were you there? When I needed a shelter, were you there? R
(Refrain:) And the creed and the colour And the name won't matter, Were you there?	When I needed a healer, Were you there, were you there? When I needed a healer, were you there? R
I was hungry and thirsty, Were you there, were you there? I was hungry and thirsty, were you there? R	Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there. Wherever you travel, I'll be there. R
I was cold, I was naked, Were you there, were you there? I was cold, I was naked, were you there? R	<i>Sydney Carter</i> <i>Words © 1965, 1969 Stainer & Bell Ltd</i>

Psalm 66

A Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

B The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

A All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Prayers of Repentance

Leader: Loving Jesus, as a child, and in fear of your life, you were forced to seek refuge in Egypt. You know what it is like to be rejected, and to be an outsider. You call us to love our neighbours as ourselves But we have hardened our hearts against strangers.

All: Forgive us, and help us to change.

Leader: You told us not to judge, yet we listen to rumours and fail to check facts. We hear what is best for us and not what is good for those in need.

All: Forgive us, and help us to change.

Leader: You said we must welcome everyone, those speaking different languages, and with different beliefs and cultures, But we have turned our backs on opportunities to widen our experience We have shut out foreigners from our communities.

All: Forgive us, and help us to change.

Leader: Today we are called more than ever to welcome those fleeing from war. Open our hearts, and those of our neighbourhood, of our city, of our country and of our continent, to those who need our shelter.

All: Forgive us, and help us to change.

The List of Names

The names or details which follow are those of people who have died trying to obtain sanctuary in Europe or the UK. We read them so as to honour their lives and mourn the injustice of their deaths. Many are unknown, but as Pope Francis said, 'Every one has a name, a face and a story'. Today we mark those who died in October 2022.

After each entry, *Leader* says: Lord have mercy.

All respond: **Christ, have mercy.**

Date	Place	Details
1.10.22	Belarus-Poland border	Dead body of unnamed man from Sub-Saharan Africa spotted lying on Belarusian side of border; authorities only arrived after some hours.
1.10.22	At sea	4 unnamed refugees starved to death, bodies found on boat after 9 days adrift on the way from Western Sahara to Gran Canaria, Spain; 1 rescued; 29 unnamed refugees presumed drowned.
2.10.22	Off coast of Zarzis, Tunisia	Aymen (young man) from Tunisia drowned, from a boat lost off the coast of Zarzis days before; found body was identified thanks to clothes he wore.
2.10.22	Beach of Djerba, Tunisia	Malek (young woman) also from Tunisia drowned in the same tragedy; her body was recovered at Djerba beach.
3.10.22	Off coast of Cabo de Palos in Cartagena, Spain	1 unnamed refugee from North Africa drowned on the way from Northern Africa, body found floating.
4.10.22	Unspecified location in the Balearic Sea	12 unnamed refugees from Algeria drowned on way from Tipaza (Algeria) to Spain; 12 missing.
5.10.22	Off coast of Oran	14 unnamed refugees from Syria (including 12

	(Algeria)	men) drowned in a shipwreck on the way to Europe; 10 bodies found, 4 missing, 1 rescued.
5.10.22	Unspecified location in Western Mediterranean	15 unnamed refugees from North Africa drowned on the way from Oran (Algeria) to Spain; 15 missing.
5.10.22	Off Kythira Island (Greece)	14 unnamed refugees from Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan drowned when a boat from Turkey to Italy crashed into rocks; 11 bodies found, 3 missing, 80 rescued.
6.10.22	Off Lesbos (Greece)	Artan Abdimsaq, Abdale Maxamed Warsame (man), Abdalle Maxec Marsame (man), Mahad Ibrahimi (man), Ibrahim Burco (man), Abdi Risaq Mohamed Cartan (man), Deqo Xasan (woman), Sridca Abdi Mahmoud (woman), Sucod A. Jamal (woman), Harza Maxamud Cumar (woman), Hayida (woman), Asma Abdi Rahman (woman), Badriya Yousuf (woman), Maryam Acilahi (woman), Yasmin Alodi (woman), and three unnamed refugees, all from Somalia, drowned when an overloaded boat on the way from Turkey capsized; 3 missing, 28 rescued.
6.10.22	Pirot, Serbia	2 unnamed refugees (men) died when hit by train.
7.10.22	Beach near Sabratha (Libya)	5 unnamed refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, shot by smugglers, bodies found burned inside charred boat; 6 survived.
9.10.22	Near Al Bouri oil field (Libya)	18 unnamed refugees from Niger, Nigeria, Sudan drowned when 3 boats on the way from Sabratha (Libya) got in distress; 18 missing, 270 rescued.
9.10.22	Off coast of Zuwara (Libya)	22 unnamed refugees from Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan drowned when a boat on the way from Zuwara (Libya) sank; 5 bodies found, 17 missing, 88 rescued.
10.10.22	Off coast of Az Zawyah	12 unnamed refugees drowned when a boat got in distress off the coast of Az Zawyah, where it sailed on the way to Europe; 97 rescued.
10.10.22	Off coast of Zarzis (Tunisia)	Muhammad M. Abdullah (man aged 38) from Syria, Younis H. Ajiyeh Al-Shaer (man aged 20) from Palestine, and Moqbel Majdi Moqbel Ateem (30) and Adam Muhammad Shaath (man aged 21), both from Tunisia, plus 6 unnamed Tunisian refugees including 1 baby and boys aged 16-18, drowned when a boat sank on the way to Europe; boat got lost 14 days before. 2 bodies were found by sailors off the coast of Zarzis; 4 missing. Walid Zreidat (boy, 15) from Tunisia missing, presumed drowned.
10.10.22	Off coast of Zarzis (Tunisia)	4 unnamed young men from Tunisia; their drowned bodies were found & secretly buried by

		local authorities in unmarked graves. The drowned body of an unnamed baby was also found, & secretly buried on the beach in a garbage bag by the authorities.
11.10.22	Tamaya area, north of Dakhla	1 unnamed woman, aged about 30, presumed drowned, body washed ashore on beach.
11.10.22	Off Island of Fuerteventura (Spain)	1 unnamed woman, died of unknown cause, body found on boat in problems; 56 rescued.
11.10.22	Off Kythira Island (Greece)	1 unnamed woman drowned when a boat from Turkey to Italy crashed, body found after 6 days; 80 rescued.
11.10.22	Off island of Kos (Greece)	2 unnamed men, aged about 30, drowned, bodies wearing swim gear found floating, tried to swim from Greece to TR
11.10.22	Off coast of Trapani, Sicily (Italy)	6 unnamed Tunisian refugees (including 3 men) drowned, boat from Raf Raf (Tunisia) got in distress; 3 bodies found, 3 missing, 1 rescued.
13.10.22	Off coast of Skikda (Algeria)	7 unnamed refugees from North Africa, including a child aged 4 and a child aged 5, drowned when a boat on the way to Europe sank; 2 bodies found, 5 missing, 8 rescued
13.10.22	At sea	22 unnamed refugees drowned on the way to the Canary Islands (Spain), inflatable boat was half-sunken and rescue took too long; 30 rescued.
13.10.22	Tunisia	The decomposed bodies of 5 unnamed refugees from Tunisia and Sub-Saharan Africa washed ashore on the beaches of Chebba, Salka and Mahdia (Tunisia).
16.10.22	Alborean Sea off Ain Temouchent (Algeria)	17 unnamed refugees from Algeria drowned on the way to Spain; 1 body found, 16 missing.
20.10.22	Alborean Sea	1 unnamed refugee presumed drowned, French Navy helicopter sighted corpse floating in the Alborean Sea.
21.10.22	Off coast of Oran (DZ)	5 unnamed refugees from Algeria including 1 child, 1 woman and 1 man drowned when a boat on the way to Europe got in distress ; 3 bodies found, 2 missing, 18 rescued.
21.10.22	At sea between Sfax (Tunisia) and Lampedusa (Italy)	4 unnamed refugees, 2 women, 2 men, drowned; they jumped in the sea when boat caught fire on the way from Sfax to Lampedusa. Alina (baby, 10 months) and 1 unnamed male child, 2, were burned alive; their charred bodies found in boat after it caught fire; 34 rescued.
22.10.22	Near Oran (DZ)	Faouzia Baccouche (woman, aged about 30) from Morocco shot by Algerian Navy during interception of rubber boat leaving to Spain; 12 survived.
22.10.22		Barış Büyüksu (man, 30) from Turkey died of torture by Greek police, was found badly injured

		but still alive in life raft pushed back to Turkey.
22.10.22	Off coast of Lampedusa (Italy)	4 unnamed refugees (1 woman, 3 men) drowned when a boat capsized; 26 rescued.
23.10.22	Off the coast of Tunisia	Younis al-Shaer, Maher al-Shaer, Mohammed al-Shaer, Sami al-Shaer, Adam Shaath, Mohammed Qishta and Moqbil Ashour, young men from Palestine, drowned after a boat sank on the way from Gaza to Europe.
23.10.22	Lampione (Italy)	1 unnamed baby girl aged 2 weeks from Sub-Saharan Africa drowned; baby disappeared when boat capsized off uninhabited islet of Lampione (IT); 72 rescued.
24.10.22	Off island of Lampedusa (Italy)	4 unnamed refugees (1 child, 1 woman, 2 men) from Sub-Saharan Africa drowned, decomposed bodies recovered off Lampedusa, boat sank 1 day earlier; 26 rescued.
24.10.22		2 unnamed refugees (twins, boy & girl, 1 month) from Guinea died on the way from Sfax (Tunisia) to Lampedusa (Italy); were underweight, parents sought medical care in Italy.
25.10.22		1 unnamed refugee presumed drowned, fell overboard from boat in distress on way from Tobruk (Libya) to Europe; 1300 rescued.
25.10.22	Belarus-Polish border	Sidding Musa Hamid Eisa (man, 21) from Sudan drowned, body found by border guards in Świsłocz River near Krynki (Poland)
26.10.22	At sea	52 unnamed refugees presumed drowned, boat disappeared on way from Dakhla (Western Sahara) to the Canary Islands (Spain)
27.10.22	Frankfurt Airport (Germany)	1 unnamed man, stowaway, body found in wheel bay of aircraft from Teheran (Iran).
28.10.22	Atlantic Ocean off Dakhla (EH)	34 unnamed bodies, drowned when a boat capsized on the way to the Canary Islands, washed ashore south of Dakhla. 6 unnamed refugees missing.
30.10.22		45 unnamed refugees drowned at unspecified location in Mediterranean on the way from Castelverde (Libya) to Europe; 1 rescued.
31.10.22	Off coast of Almería (Spain)	2 unnamed refugees drowned, forced to jump off boat by trafficker in fear of Civil Guards patrol boat.
31.10.22	Off island of Samos (Greece)	8 unnamed refugees from Palestine drowned, dinghy capsized on way from Turkey; 8 missing, 4 rescued.

All: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Hymn – “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright, shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

Reading

(Luke 11:29-32) The crowds got even bigger, and Jesus addressed them: “This is a wicked generation; it is asking for a sign. The only sign it will be given is the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. On Judgement day the Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here. On Judgement day the men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation and condemn it, because when Jonah preached they repented; and there is something greater than Jonah here.”

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

*Everyone present reads in turn. All say the **response** in bold.*

We pray for the thousands of men, women and children, known and unknown, who set out to seek safety and a better life in Europe, but who were drowned in the Mediterranean, the Aegean Sea or the English Channel, or whose lives were cut short when they met with hostility or violence. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for all those seeking sanctuary in the UK who depend on the UK adhering to the European Convention for Human Rights, and pray that our government will respect the agreement that we helped to draw up over 70 years ago. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the former residents of the camp in Calais and for those who remain there. We pray for the protection of all people in refugee camps and the communities they build. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the refugees arriving in the UK and ending up in former military barracks and camps, and those placed in detention at arrival. We pray for their mental and physical well-being and for the recognition of their right to decent housing. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

For the comforting of all who have lost loved ones in the course of fleeing from their home country, or who have had to experience the trauma of watching others die.
O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

For a resolution to the conflicts and oppression which are forcing so many to flee in desperation; and we pray in particular for the people of Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Palestine and Ukraine. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for those who are fleeing the effects of climate change, with rising sea levels, drought, flood or crop failure, yet who have caused little or no damage to our climate; for those who make decisions about compensation, and those who continue to exploit the earth for profit. We ask forgiveness for our complicity in this. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the staff and volunteers of the Rescue Ships and the Alarm Phone. We think of the people serving on board the Sea Watch 3 and of the reception teams on the Greek and Italian islands. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for those who died in the English Channel last month, for their friends and families, and for the marine rescue forces of France and the UK who collaborated in the rescue efforts, that they continue to show compassion and humanity in this ongoing task. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

For the end of the arms trade and militarism, which aggravate and sponsor these conflicts.
and let our cry come unto you.

For the strength and resilience for all citizens to continue to resist unjust immigration laws and to support one another in this struggle. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

Leader invites those present to add other prayers if they wish.

Act of Faith and Commitment *Iona Abbey Worship Book 2001*

Leader: Let us affirm our faith.

**We believe that God is present
In the dark before dawn;
In the waiting and uncertainty
Where fear and courage join hands,
Conflict and caring link arms,
And the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God
Who sits down in our midst
To share our humanity.
We affirm a faith
That takes us beyond the safe place:**

**Into action, into vulnerability
And into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change
And put ourselves on the line;
To bear responsibility, take risks,
Live powerfully and face humiliation;
To stand with those on the edge;
To choose life
And be used by the Spirit
For God's new community of hope.
Amen.**

Hymn – “Here I am Lord”

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save,
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

(Chorus:) Here I am, Lord,
It is I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If You lead me,
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away,
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them,
Whom shall I send? **(Chorus)**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save,
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied,
I will give my life to them,
Whom shall I send? **(Chorus)**

All introduce themselves briefly. Any announcements are given.