

## Homily 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B 2021 Migrants and Refugees (Week early)

We are beginning to recognise that we belong to more than our families, our local parish, our town, our country but to a global community. This why the theme for the Migrants and Refugees Day (next week) is: *Towards an ever wider "We"*. The pandemic has brought home to us very bluntly that unless all countries in the world are vaccinated against Covid, we all remain vulnerable to future mutations and more deadly versions of the virus. Our history clearly shows that over the centuries different races have settled on this small island and our heritage is intertwined with different races. Because of our mixed blood, we, as a country, are more open to migrants and refugees coming to our shores and recognise the strengths and riches of the cultures they bring with them. The different Christian denominations have discovered that we are stronger together and are enriched by being open and welcoming to each other. This is also being recognised by the different faiths.

Living with one culture, it is not enough. Living with people of different cultures is much more interesting as it greatly helps us understand others. We are able to build a stronger society together rather than remain in fragmented groups living apart. This will lead society into a much more colourful future, enriched by diversity and intercultural relationships. We are called to continually learn to live together in harmony and peace. As Pope Francis says: *The Holy Spirit enables us to embrace everyone, to build communion in diversity, to unify differences without imposing a depersonalized uniformity. In encountering the diversity of foreigners, migrants and refugees, and in the intercultural dialogue that can emerge from this encounter, we have an opportunity to grow as Church and to enrich one another. All the baptized are, by right, members of both their local ecclesial community and the one Church, dwellers in one home and part of one family.*

This diversity and interconnectedness include our relationship with the environment and nature. 'The Cry of the Amazon' promotes the sustainability of life as a political commitment aimed at building a new model towards an ever wider "we", where people and nature are in an interdependent and balanced relationship. In healing the planet, we will also heal the reasons why so many are forced to migrate because of lack of food and water.

**Holy Father**, 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.  
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:  
a common home for ALL. Amen.

**It seems** that there's no official training for Dustmen. They just pick things up as they go along.

What do you call a woman who sets fire to all her bills? **Bernadette.**