

## RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 2018

## PRAYER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

O God,

Who created all people in Your Holy Image, Who loves the stranger,

Who cares for the downtrodden,
Walk with those who face discrimination,
protect them from harm
help them see Christ in our community.

Guide those who fan the fires of discrimination to open their eyes to the beauty of all your creation and respect the human dignity of all people.

Open our hearts to those who face hatred and injustice because of their race, their background, their ethnicity that we might better help them belong.

Through Christ Our Lord, Amen

## **Belonging All are Welcome**

"Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age"

## **Pope Francis**

World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message 2018

As Catholics we are called to treat all humans with dignity, regardless of their background or circumstance. There are many stories of alienation throughout the Bible, with clear calls to "Love the stranger". That the Church is a place where all belong is clearly seen in the recent Feast of the Epiphany, when Christ is revealed not only to the Israelites, but to all of God's people.

The theme this year is "Belonging", emphasising that we are called not only to ensure our parishes welcome newcomers, strangers, and those from different backgrounds, but also that all people will know they will find a welcome in our parishes. The funds raised will go towards supporting the Church's work on racial justice issues.

Donations can also be made online at catholicnews.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday-2018

Thank you for your kind generosity towards this important work

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