

Prayer Vigil at the Home Office for Victims of Global Borders July 2024

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

Opening Prayers

Leader 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.

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?

(Refrain:) And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter,
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty,
Were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there? **R**

I was cold, I was naked,
Were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there? **R**

When I needed a shelter,
Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a shelter, were you there? **R**

When I needed a healer,
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there? **R**

Wherever you travel,
I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there. **R**

Sydney Carter

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Canticle – The Lord's Prayer

A Our Father, who art in heaven,

B hallowed be thy name.

A Thy kingdom come.

B Thy will be done,

A on earth as it is in heaven.

B Give us this day our daily bread

A and forgive us our trespasses

B as we forgive those who trespass against us.

A And lead us not into temptation

B But deliver us from evil.

A For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

B For ever and ever.

A & B Amen.

Prayers of Repentance

Leader: Loving Jesus, as a child 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 to welcome strangers in our land, but we have hated, humiliated imprisoned, and killed those who have asked for our hospitality.

All: Forgive us, and help us to change.

Leader: We are called today to welcome those fleeing from war, famine and poverty. Open our hearts, and those of our neighbourhood, of our city, of our country and of our continent, to those who need shelter.

All: Forgive us, and help us to change.

The List of the Dead

The names and 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 July 2023.

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

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

	Date	Details
1	?	Ibrahim Eltony, a man of 37 from Egypt, went missing. His backpack and blue rain jacket were found in swampy terrain near the Poland-Belarus border
2	?	Mansaré, a young boy from Sierra Leone, drowned on his way to Lampedusa, Italy. His father and 2 siblings survived; his mother had died crossing the African desert.
3	1/7	3 children, 11 women, and 37 men from Senegal, Gambia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, and elsewhere, died during 8 days adrift on the way from Tan Tan, Morocco to the Canaries, Spain; 4 survivors returned to the Moroccan coast.
4	2/7	A man died of unknown causes, his body found when his boat was escorted by a rescue boat off Tenerife, Spain; 64 survived.
5	2/7	S., a man of 25 from Tunisia, died in a Marseille hospital, possibly due to exposure to a fire in Detention Center Canet, France.
6	4/7	Yahya, a Sudanese man in his 20s, fell from the truck he was hiding on and got crushed on the A16 in Calais, France, on the way to the UK.
7	5/7	5 people were presumed drowned on the way to Europe, their remains washed ashore at Sabratha beach, Libya.
8	7/7	97 people drowned when a Spain-bound boat capsized off Saint-Louis, Senegal at the mouth of the Senegal River; 50 survived.
9	8/7	A man from Syria in his early 20s died when a jeep overturned on Trakai highway near Drazhevo, Bulgaria. Another man died in hospital in Yambol of his injuries. 10 survived with injuries.
10	8/7	11 people drowned when a boat on the way from Zarzis, Tunisia to Lampedusa, Italy sank off Sfax; 11 survived.
11	11/7	6 men from Algeria, and 4 people from Syria including 2 children and a woman, drowned on the way to Spain when the boat from Oran, Algeria sank in international waters. 1 survived.

12	11/7	A girl 8 months old and her two parents from Algeria drowned off the Balearic Islands. The girl's body was found on a beach near Tarragona, Spain.
13	12/7	5 people drowned off Lampedusa, Italy; their boat is believed to have come from Tunisia.
14	12/7	22 people from Senegal, including a boy of 15 or 16, drowned when a Canaries-bound boat capsized off the coast of Saint-Louis, Senegal; 59 survived.
15	13/7	20 people drowned in the Mediterranean on the way from Sfax; 272 survived.
16	13/7	2 people full overboard when a boat going from Sfax to Lampedusa sank; 43 were rescued by a fishing boat.
17	13/7	13 people from sub-Saharan Africa drowned after their Italy-bound boat capsized off Sfax. 25 survived.
18	13/7	A boy of 4 from Nigeria died of exhaustion off Lampedusa on a boat from Africa. 50 survived, including his mother.
19	14/7	24 people drowned when a boat capsized off Western Sahara on its way to Spain. 37 survivors were taken to hospital.
20	Mid-July	1 person died of unknown cause on the way to the Canaries, their body found by Moroccan navy in the North Atlantic Ocean.
21	Mid-July	18 people from Senegal drowned when a Spain-bound boat capsized off Morocco; 13 came from the same town. 45 survived.
22	20/7	5 people from Algeria drowned off Almeria, Spain on the way from Ténès, Algeria; 20 survived.
23	21/7	6 people from Morocco, including Houssam Bouraawane, drowned when a boat sank in unclear circumstances off Nador, Morocco. The Moroccan Navy has been accused of causing the boat to sink.
24	24/7	5 people from Tighassaline, Morocco drowned when a Canaries-bound boat capsized due to waves off Dakhla, Western Sahara.
25	24/7	53 people from Senegal, including a boy of 17 and 2 women, drowned when a boat sank following naval intervention near a beach in Dakar, Senegal. 2 survived.
26	25/7	A 26-year-old man from India died of unknown causes in Amygdaleza detention centre in Athens, Greece, after being denied medical care.
27	25/7	A man and a woman from sub-Saharan Africa died during a boat journey from Africa to Gran Canaria; 83 survived.
28	31/7	A decomposing corpse was found in the Mediterranean sea off Port of Cherchell, Algeria.
29	Late July	Feyyaz Haşim died due to a drug he was given by smugglers to bolster his stamina in a forest in Hungary on the way to Serbia.

Taken from UNITED List of Refugee Deaths, produced by UNITED for Intercultural Action (UNITEDAgainstRefugeeDeaths.eu). Collated from the following sources: AlArabia, Aljazeera, ANSA, APnews, ArabNews, AragonNot, AfricaNews, AlarmPhone, Barrons, BFMTV, BulgariaPostsen, CadSER, Cimade, CMS, CTV, DarikNews, ECRE, El Diario, Euronews, France24, GRCityTimes, Guardian, HelenaMaleno, Heroes, Hespress, InfoMigrants, IOM, IOMItaly, IOMLibya, IOMSenegal, Italy24, Le Monde, LSW, MarseilleAntiCRA, MorWN, NewArab, RaRa, Refugees_GR, Reuters, SCF, SenePlus, StreetPress, SyrDelMar, TikiToki, Tnnum, and TRMinute.

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

Hymn – “Wait for the Lord”

by Communauté de Taizé

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart! **(x3)**

Reading

(Psalm 8)

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic
is your name through all the earth!
Your majesty is set above the heavens.
From the mouths of children and of babes
you fashioned praise to foil your enemy,
to silence the foe and the rebel.

When I see the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you arranged,
what is man that you should keep him in mind,
the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him little lower than the angels;
with glory and honor you crowned him,
gave him power over the works of your hands:
you put all things under his feet,

All of them, sheep and oxen,
yes, even the cattle of the fields,
birds of the air, and fish of the sea
that make their way through the waters.
O LORD, our Lord, how majestic
is your name through all the earth!

Reflection – Chris Brice

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 Atlantic, the Aegean Sea, or the English Channel, and for those who mourn them. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for migrants who have met hostility or violence from authorities or vigilantes. We pray for those pushed back into the sea, and those forced into the desert. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for the protection of all people in refugee camps in Calais and elsewhere and the communities they build. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for refugees arriving in the UK and being placed in detention in poor conditions at arrival, and those made homeless on being granted asylum. We pray for their mental and physical well-being and for the recognition of their right to decent housing. We pray for Ibrahima Bah and all others imprisoned through unjust laws. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We give thanks for the humanity shown by the new government in cancelling the Rwanda deportation policy. We pray especially for the Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, that she will be guided by her conscience in her new role. We pray for the end of the hostile environment, and

the creation of safe, legal routes to claim asylum in this country. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray for a resolution to the conflicts and oppression which are forcing so many to flee in desperation, for the end of the arms trade, and the realisation of the right of people to remain in their homes. We pray for the people of Congo, Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, Ukraine, and Palestine. 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 safety and success of those serving aboard the rescue ships: the *Sea Watch 3*, the *Life Support*, the *Aurora*, the *Imara*, the *Rise Above*, the *Nadir*, the *Geo Barents*, the *Wind Express*, the *Ocean Viking*, the *Open Arms*, the *Aita Mari*, the *Trotamar III*, and others; and of the volunteers of the Alarm Phone, and the reception teams on the Greek and Italian islands. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray that you inspire compassion in all those who work with migrants on behalf of governments, and that they recognise all those they come across as their brothers and sisters. O Lord hear our prayer, **and let our cry come unto you.**

We pray that you create in all of us the strength and resilience 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.

Concluding Prayer

by the Baptist Union of Great Britain

All: God of all humanity,
When your people were enslaved and displaced
You led them to a land that they could call home.
When your people were in exile
Your promise was that one day
They would live in streets of play and laughter.
When your disciples were afraid and uncertain,
You spoke of your Father's House
With mansions and places prepared.

We pray today for all those who have no place to call home,
Hearing the heart-cry of your word
For those who are without refuge.
Where shelter is ours to offer
Grant us the will and resolve to reflect the generosity of our Creator.
Where others stand in the way of those who need safe haven
May our cry for justice never falter.
May the idols of self-interest and economic gain
Never deflect us from the ways of your Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. 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.

Words by John Newton, music by William Walker.

All introduce themselves briefly. Any announcements are given.

*[List produced by UNITED for Intercultural Action – campaign 'Fortress Europe No More Deaths'
unitedagainstrefugeedeaths.eu – listofdeaths@unitedagainstracism.org]*