

ADVENT 2016 –St. Joseph’s and St Michael’s.

JESUS THE REFUGEE—WEEK

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2 v1-5



Image a young couple today from Birkenhead getting notice they have to go down to London tomorrow to register their names there and the young wife expecting their first baby any day. They know no-one in London and money is scarce for hotels. What a dilemma they would be in.

One out of every 122 people on the planet today is out of their natural home. Break it down even further: a staggering 42,500 people are uprooted every day. That’s one person every 2 seconds. Half of them are children.



At the end of 2015 1,005,504 migrants had entered Europe during the year—that’s the entire population of the City of Birmingham. Drownings while crossing the seas came to 3,692—we all remember the picture of three-year old Aylan Kurdi, whose red-shirted body was washed up on the beach.

Jesus himself began his life in a situation quite similar to the situation that many undocumented children at the border face today. I find it sobering and humbling that we worship a God who became man in the form of a Child refugee.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of



Prayers

Lord God, help us to remember those who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign lands, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes.

We pray for all refugee women and children ----may they find a welcome and shelter wherever they may be.

Lord Jesus, give us more compassion for their plight, soften our hearts to their situation, an help us to follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf We pray these things in the name of your son, Jesus, who was himself born into the troubled life of a refugee.

Leviticus 19:33-34

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt, I am the Lord your God.