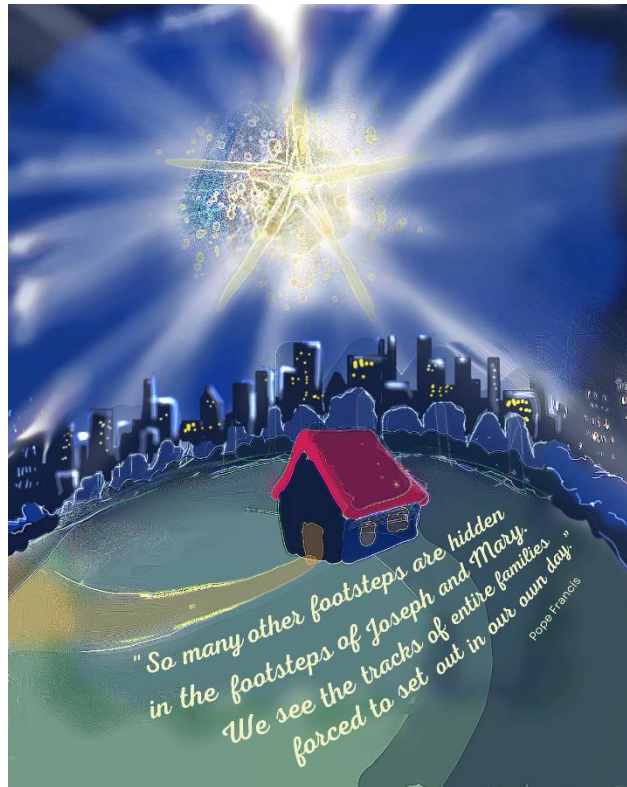


Advent Service

Jesuit Refugee Service UK



Friday 6th December 2024

7pm

Led by Fr Michael Holman SJ

Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception

Farm Street



UNITED
KINGDOM



About JRS UK

The **Jesuit Refugee Service** is an international Catholic organisation with a mission to **accompany, serve** as companions, and **advocate** alongside and for the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people. JRS in the UK has always had a special ministry to support destitute asylum seekers and those who are held in immigration detention, who are amongst the most excluded groups in the UK today.

A note about Photography

JRS UK will be taking photos and videos at tonight's event to support other aspects of JRS UK's work, such as our Annual Reports, on our website and social media, fundraising leaflets and information leaflets.

JRS UK promises to always use any photos, video footage or testimonies responsibly, taking into account your experience, protection concerns and possible consequences.

Please speak to a member of the JRS team if you have any concerns, or to let us know if you don't want to be included in images we use publicly.

Please stand and sing

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny,
From depths of Hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here,
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Please be seated

Welcome

Fr Michael Holman SJ

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-6

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death light has blazed forth. You have enlarged the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest time, as they exult when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that weighed on it, the bar across its shoulders, the rod of its oppressor, these you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear clanking over the ground and all the clothing rolled in blood, will be burnt, will be food for the flames. For a son has been born for us, a son has been given to us, and dominion has been laid on his shoulders; and this is the name he has been given, 'Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace' to extend his dominion in boundless

peace, over the throne of David and over his kingdom to make it secure and sustain it in fair judgement and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of Yahweh Sabaoth will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand and sing

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Please be seated

Second Reading

In the Echoes of our Togetherness

by Loddan

By the stove, in the heart of the kitchen,
Black excellence stirs in pots and pans,
Recipes carried from miles away,
To feed the many, as one.

Spices sing of homelands left behind,
But here, we taste their love again.
The beat of drums calls out,
A rhythm long forgotten, now remembered,
In the room where music finds a home,
Hidden talents rise like sun after rain,
Refugee friends finding their voice,
Familiarity wrapping itself around each note.
It was impressive,
To witness souls rediscovering their sound.

And yet, talent didn't stop there—

In the clinic, hands once weary, now trained,
Acupuncture needles placed with precision,
Healing offered back to the community,
By friends who came to seek,
But now stay to give.
Look at this, look at us,
Giving back, feeding, playing, healing—
As one.

Please stand and sing

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Please be seated

Third Reading

Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could into the hill country to a town in Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now it happened that as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? Look, the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said,

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant. Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him. He has used the power of his arm, he has routed the arrogant of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly.
He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his faithful love,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with her some three months and then went home.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand and sing

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter

A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom Cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Please feel welcome to sing, clap, and dance with us

JRS UK Music Group

In collaboration with Rama Alcoutlabi and Mario Christofi

In partnership with Music for Peace Building, JRS UK hosts weekly music sessions led by Rama, a refugee who has drawn strength from music during her own asylum journey. These sessions have become a much-loved space where refugee friends can come together, unwind, and celebrate the power of music to connect us all.

This evening, refugee friends will share three songs that have brought joy, comfort, and a sense of community:

- **Şemmamê (Şemmamê is a name)** – A Kurdish folk song
- **Keresimesi (Christmas)** – A Yoruba Christmas song
- **Jehovah You Are The Most High God** – A Ghanaian Christian song

Please stand and sing

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,

Jesus Christ, her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day, like us, He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles, like us He knew;
And He cares when we are sad,
And he shares when we are glad.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.

Please be seated

Fourth Reading

The reading will be read in Yoruba.

Luke 2:1-19

Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee

for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the living-space. In the countryside close by there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger'. And all at once with the angel there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours'.

Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us'. So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and

pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Homily

Fr Michael Holman SJ

Please stand

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for all our refugee friends, and give thanks especially for the community that forms at our centre at the Social Drop-In. We pray that our centre may continue to be a place where each person, new friendships, solidarity, and support can flourish.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our friends in detention, and for those who have been released and are still affected by their experiences. We ask that they might know your closeness to them in this difficult period.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all JRS staff and volunteers, here and around the world. We ask that they may be given the graces needed to be true to the mission to accompany, serve and advocate on behalf of refugees. We thank you

for our donors and supporters who walk alongside our refugee friends through giving.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the work of the Jesuits in Britain. We ask that their commitment to strengthening the faith of Christians, to social justice, to promoting reconciliation and to engaging in dialogue with those of other faiths and cultures, may help build a fairer and more compassionate society for our nation.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace around the world and an end to the violence, fear and persecution that causes so many to flee their homes. We pray for our society, that all peoples may seek to build communities based on fraternity and social friendship.

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray in a moment of silence for all those other things we hold in our heart.

A moment of silent prayer and reflection

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We offer all these prayers to Mary, the Mother of God, and ask for her intercession as we say:

**Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,**

**The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

We invite you to say the Lord's Prayer in your own language.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.**

Amen

Sign of Peace

Please offer one another a sign of peace, in whatever way feels comfortable.

Please be seated

Fifth Reading

The poem will be read in French.

Réfugié
By François Ville

Le RÉFUGIÉ ne poursuit pas un rêve,
Il fuit un cauchemar,
La guerre, la mort, la misère achèvent
Sur place ses espoirs.

Ce n'est pas facile de tout quitter,
Les vivants, les défunts,
Les fragments qui fondent l'identité,
Maison, culture, gagne-pain.

Partir dans l'inconnu où rien n'est sûr,
La peur comme bagage,
Passeurs, arnaques, dommages, blessures,
Un chemin, des barrages.

Être quelqu'un et devenir personne,
Réduit à un seul mot,
RÉFUGIÉ, statut qui pèse une tonne,
Sésame ou bien couteau.

Le RÉFUGIÉ aspire à son retour,
Pas à rester chez toi,
Il attend la paix, la fin des vautours,
Pour reconstruire un toit.

Qui sait ? Tu pourrais chercher un REFUGE,
Ou tes enfants demain,
Ton pays aussi a subi des déluges,
Aujourd'hui, tends la main.

The REFUGEE does not chase a dream,
He flees a nightmare,
War, death, and misery destroy
All hope where he stands.

It is not easy to leave everything behind,
The living, the dead,
The fragments that shape identity,
Home, culture, livelihood.

To step into the unknown, where nothing is certain,
Carrying fear as luggage,
Traffickers, scams, injuries, losses,
Barriers on the journey.

To be someone and become no one,
Reduced to a single word,
REFUGEE, a status that weighs a ton,
A key—or perhaps a blade.

The REFUGEE longs for a return,
Not to stay in your land,
He waits for peace, for the vultures to retreat,
To rebuild his home.

Who knows? You might seek refuge someday,
Or your children might tomorrow,
Your country too has faced storms,
Today, extend your hand.

Closing words and blessings

JRS UK

Fr Michael Holman SJ

Please stand and sing

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel,
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King.

With our grateful thanks to:

Our refugee friends

Rama Alcoutlabi, Mario Christofi and

Music for Peace Building

François Ville

Fr Michael Holman SJ

David Graham

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and

all at Farm Street Church

and

all who have read or volunteered behind the scenes to make tonight possible.

Please do join us for festive refreshments in the Arrupe Hall

Advent Appeal 2024

This winter, many refugees are facing the harsh reality of homelessness, with nearly half of those we serve spending time on the streets last year. Being banned from working and unable to access support leaves many struggling to find safety, warmth, and stability.

By donating to this year's Advent Appeal, you will help refugees find somewhere safe and warm to stay this Winter.

At JRS UK, we are committed to providing a place of safety through our hosting scheme and houses, offering not just shelter but the stability refugees need to rebuild their lives.

As we reflect on the Holy Family's journey this Advent, we ask you to stand in solidarity with refugees forced to flee their homes. Your generosity will help provide essential warmth, food, and safety this winter and beyond.

There will be a retiring collection for the work of JRS UK after this evening's service. You can donate in person or online by scanning the QR code:



Ditoma, a resident of Emilie House, JRS UK's home for refugee women, reflects:

“Before I came to JRS UK, I was in a bad place...when you are sofa surfing, you don't have any control over your time or any personal space...even when you're trying to sleep, you're worrying about when you'll have to wake up and clear out. Now that I have a space of my own, I can control my time. I have started to feel like I can build myself up again, like there is a light in my life.”

Thank you for your generous and kind support this evening.



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JRS UK is a work of the Jesuits in Britain, registered as a charity in England and Wales 230165 and in Scotland SCO40490.

"Réfugié" by François Ville, sourced from Les Poètes: [Poème Réfugié par Francois Ville](#)

Cover image: JRS UK