

SUNDAY 20TH JUNE 2021

# ST COLUMBA'S FAMILIES NEWSLETTER



Hi Families of St Columba's,

Amid Friday morning downpour I met this character (see above) on the way to church. He was making a slow and probably dangerous journey across a pavement, carrying his house upon his back. He seemed like a good reminder for this weekend.

The 20th of June (this Sunday) is designated World Refugee Day by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. Each year it celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives. Churches across the UK, including the Church of Scotland are encouraged to celebrate "Sanctuary"/Refugee Sunday.

## **Why is World Refugee Day/Sanctuary Sunday important?**

World Refugee Day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but also thrive. While it is important to protect and improve the lives of refugees every single day, international days like World Refugee Day help to focus global attention on the plight of those fleeing conflict or persecution. You may have classmates at school who have arrived from different countries in difficult circumstances. Can you be a particularly good friend to them?

At church on Sunday we will definitely include prayers for refugees and will remember the excellent charity, Play for Progress who we supported in this year's Lent Appeal. <https://www.playforprogress.org/>

*We tap into the healing power of music, the arts, play, and creative therapies to build healthy and resilient relationships that support and amplify the voices of unaccompanied refugees and asylum-seekers.*

Finally, thinking of countries, you might have heard there is a certain football match on Friday evening....



Whoever you are cheering for and whatever the result (?), remember, as Sanctuary Sunday reminds us - we all share the same humanity.

Thank you to Fiona for providing activities (see attached.)

Have a great weekend.

Angus & the Sunday School Team