



Examination of Conscience:

We pause for a moment to think about the things we could have done better or differently. To listen to the stirring of our heart and where there is discomfort. Listen to the questions that will be read out and use the boxes below to note down anything that you feel relates to you at the moment. This is just for you and no-one else. After this liturgy you can dispose of your booklet so that it stays private.

Act of Contrition:

O my God, I am sorry for my sins. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to make amends, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



St Vincent de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

SVP FORGET ME NOT RECONCILIATION SERVICE





Josephine's Story:

Josephine is a care worker with three young children living in a town in the north of England. She is also someone who has travelled with her family from the war-torn country of South Sudan to seek asylum in the UK.

Josephine and her family have been granted a leave to remain for the last six years, and she has been allowed to work, but the system in which she is caught up is unfriendly and demanding.

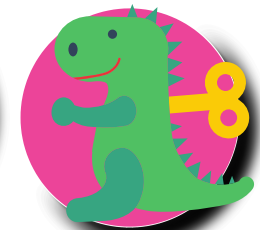


Every three years she is expected to apply again for her and her children to stay in the UK, which is expensive, time consuming and extremely stressful for her family. Josephine's children can't remember the country they came from, but every three years the possibility that they will have to return fills them with fear.



Josephine works hard as a care worker and she would like to go to university to train as a nurse, but her current right to stay doesn't permit her to study for a nursing degree.

The SVP met Josephine through their community outreach work, at first supporting with food parcels, clothing and few essentials for the children.



After befriending the family, SVP members have now accompanied them through two reapplications.

The help Josephine's family receives has changed, and although food and clothing are still helpful, she now values the SVP's support in filling in countless forms. In her last application to remain in the UK, the SVP paid the solicitor's fee, which was beyond the family's income.

Although some solicitors will offer their services for free, or for a charitable fee, there are still costs to be met during the application process.

One of Josephine's children is now 10 and is doing well at school. She has joined a local football team, and they were recently asked to get their friends and family to sponsor them in a goal shooting competition. SVP members sponsored her so that she felt part of her team and her community.

Befriending means more than just giving necessities to families like Josephine's, it means reaching out with love and seeing the person or people as individuals. It means recognising that they are just like any of us, and need love, understanding and friendship.

How would you feel if you woke up in a strange country where you couldn't speak the language and felt different from everyone else?

What things would you need to be able to cope?

How would you feel if you faced having to return to a country at war?

What kind of support would you hope for?



'A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just'

Pope Francis