

Leaving our Shores

In the past more than six million Irish people left Ireland for reasons including famine, poverty, search for work, escape from persecution and to find a place where they could build a future for themselves and their families. They worked hard. Many suffered while others experienced loneliness and separation. In time they settled and became part of their new society contributing to growth, life and community.



Between 1990 and 2007 over 400,000 people have come to our shores. Some were Irish people coming back home with children born in other lands but most were immigrants from other countries coming here for the very same reasons that Irish people left our shores in the past. Like the Irish in other countries these foreigners/immigrants have begun to contribute and become part of our community.

CHURCH TEACHING

In “foreigners” the Church sees Christ who “pitches His tent among us” (Jn 1:14) and who “knocks at our door” (Ap 3:20). This meeting characterised by attention, welcome, sharing and solidarity reveals the constant solicitude of the Church, which discovers authentic values in migrants and considers them a great human resource.

(Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi)

PRAYER

God of love and mercy we thank you for all the blessings that you have given to us. The work and contribution of our people has enriched cultures all over the world. Today it is not as necessary for our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters to leave our shores as in the past. Instead we welcome newcomers who, in turn enrich our lives.

Lord you meet us in the stranger at the door. Make us always open to new friendships, sympathetic to people far from home, generous to those in need and always ready to play a part in building a community of welcome.

AMEN