At this time of year when families prepare to travel on holidays around Ireland or abroad, no amount of interactive reporting can open our hearts to the pain and plight of many people who are not as fortunate as ourselves:

- parents, children and grandparents fleeing from Mosul under threat of forced conversion or death.
- Christian families whose houses have been branded ن (the arabic letter "n" for Nazarene).
- communities, families and children who have been killed or wounded since last week's ground offensive in Gaza.
- a whole population who have been unable to sleep, relax or live in calm due to continuous explosions.
- people in Ukraine who have suffered through Chernobyl disaster now living through international conflict.
- families of the passengers on flight MH17.

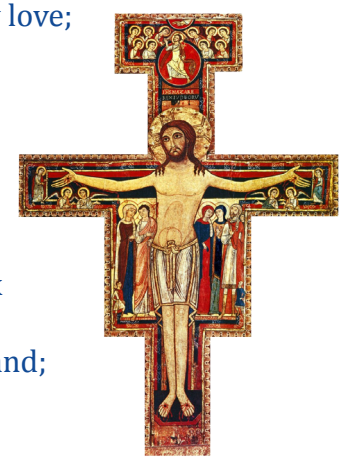
Cardinal Newman's prayer **"Grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last"** seems particularly urgent and necessary for our troubled world.

On Sunday 20 July 2014, Pope Francis called on all the faithful to pray for the Christians fleeing the Iraqi city of Mosul, and to *"persevere in prayer for those situations of tension and conflict that continue in different parts of the world, especially in the Middle East and in the Ukraine."*

***Prayer does not change things...***
***Prayer changes people ... People change things!***

Might you attach the prayers overleaf to your fridge door during these weeks?
Remember a prayer for neighbours of other faith traditions who are sheltering their Christian friends during these dark days in Iraq, Syria and the Middle East.
Please encourage your children and godchildren, parents and godparents to pray for those who do not enjoy religious freedom, a good night's sleep or the comforts which we take for granted.

### *12:00noon Angelus prayer for the Middle East*



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
... where there is injury, pardon;
... where there is doubt, faith;
... where there is despair, hope;
... where there is darkness, light;
... where there is sadness, joy;
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
... to be consoled as to console;
... to be understood as to understand;
... to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
... it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
... and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*St Francis of Assisi*

### *6:00pm Angelus prayer for persecuted Christians*

May the Lord support us all the day long,
'til the shadows lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then in His mercy may He give us
a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

*Bl John Henry Cardinal Newman*

### *A Prayer at nighttime for families*

God our Father, I come to say:
Thank you for your love today
Thank you for my family
and all the friends you give to me.
Guard your people who suffer this night
and grant a peaceful rest
to all who live in fear..