

Value of the term: Perseverance

Perseverance : the act or power of continuing to do something in spite of difficulties.

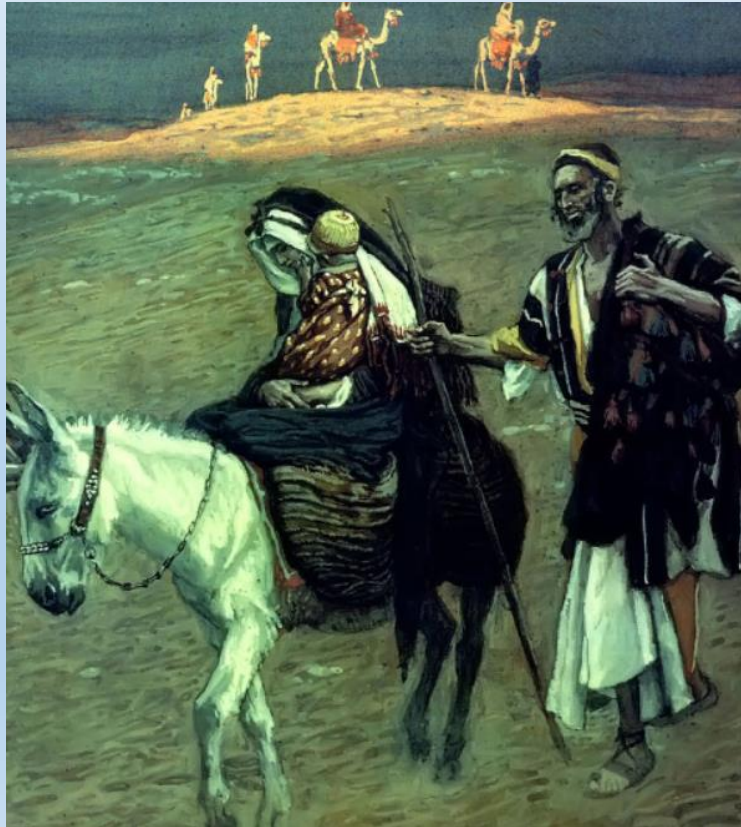
- The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you**

- This is the day that The Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

- Lighten our hearts, Lord.
Be with us today.

Keeping going against all odds

Today we're going to look at a painting by a French artist, James Tissot. It shows some refugees with a young child.



Who do you think the artist is depicting in this picture?
What makes you think this?

An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take Jesus and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave."

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. Matthew 2.13-15

Mary and Joseph must have felt afraid and scared about what the future might hold as they travelled to start a new life in a strange land. It was a very long way to travel and yet they knew that this was a journey they had to make.

They had to **persevere** in their quest to escape from King Herod and keep their small child safe.

Reflecting

Being made a refugee is not something that belongs to just the past. Every day people are forced from their homes because they are in danger of losing their lives if they stay.

We are going to learn about some refugees and why they have had to flee their homes.



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Ruth was born in Yei in South Sudan.

"In South Sudan we had a life. We had a lot of things."

Malis, Ruth's father

When two of Ruth's uncles died in the civil war, Malis fled with Ruth and her three brothers to Bidi Bidi in Uganda.

Bidi Bidi village has become a huge refugee camp.

"At first there was no water, no firewood, and food was hard to get. Life here was very hard."

Malis, Ruth's father





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Water was trucked into the camp daily but supplies were short. Women and children queued before dawn to fill containers. Now there are water pumps inside the camp.

Catholic charity, Caritas Uganda, gave Malis seeds and gardening tools. With money from selling his first crop of a vegetable called okra, he bought sandals for Ruth and her brothers as well as meat, fish and tomatoes to add variety to their diet.

Life is better than it was, but Ruth's family looks forward to the day they can return to South Sudan.





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Halima is eight years old.

Her family fled violence in Myanmar, along with more than 500,000 other Rohingya people.

She is currently in a refugee camp in Bangladesh. Halima's mother, Fatema, says the family have been surviving on rice and potatoes and as a result the children are malnourished.

CAFOD's local Church partner, Caritas Bangladesh, is providing emergency aid to many families like Halima's.





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Mohammed is six. His family fled from Damascus in Syria to the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

"...the army entered our home and we had to leave... I didn't bring any toys with me. We didn't bring anything with us. We bought some clothes in Damascus then we came here quickly by car."

Mohammed

Mohammed's school, supported by CAFOD, gives emergency education to Syrian children who are not in school, or who are enrolled in school but need extra help.



Responding

How welcoming is our school?

How do we make new children and new teachers feel quickly at home here?

How could we offer an even better welcome to new people who have joined our school so that they won't feel lonely and isolated?

School Prayer

Dear Lord,

In our school we ask you to be there for us as we persevere when challenges arise.

We ask you to help us find courage in the darkest of times and guide us down the right path.

We ask you to let us live life to the fullest and to show compassion in our hearts.

Let us remember, in learning together, we grow together and succeed together.

Amen.

Follow up work

Write a letter/poster welcoming new children to our school.

Remember to include what we do as a school so that children are not lonely or isolated.

Go in the peace of the Lord
Thanks be to God

