

# Message from Fr Luke

I wanted to write to thank you for your ongoing support for the refugees on Rhodes and Kos.

**S**ince the closure of the reception centre for refugees in Rhodes, the old slaughterhouse, there are still 25 refugees from Rhodes locked up in Kos.

The rest were transferred to Athens and literally released onto the streets.

Those who could and can, are making their way back to Rhodes.

We have, several, now who are completely dependent on our Franciscan mission.

There is no state aid.

A family with a young boy and a baby girl, and several young men.

We have housed most of them. The family is in a rented apartment, we pay the rent and the utilities and all other basic needs.

The young men are sleeping four to a room in hotels that have agreed to take them (the hotel owners are willing to

house them as they are desperate for we have so few tourists).

We pay for this accommodation at around 360 Euros a month.

We then need to supply their food and all other necessities.

Many need medical and dental treatment and we have found doctors and dentists

Present Population of refugees on the Islands	
Men	239
Women	305
Boys	328
Girls	553
Sea Arrivals 2020	1,012
Sea Arrivals 2021	1,633

who are willing to see them 50-60 Euros each visit.

It is a financial demand that we try to meet each month.

So far, thanks to the generosity of you all supporting the fundraising work of Theresa and Roy, we are able to meet most of the demands, however, if the numbers continue to grow now the sea is less dangerous we will struggle.

**You probably don't see much on the news about the ongoing refugee situation.**

Every day people continue to flee conflict, persecution, and poverty.

Arrivals 31<sup>st</sup> May-8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 Rhodes Kos

*Population data –UNHCR estimates based on enrolment Arrivals/Departures –Greek Police, Greek Coast Guard*  
10,500 refugees and asylum seekers reside on the islands of Rhodes, Kos and Leros.

7,900 reside in the permanent and temporary Reception and Identification Centres (RICs).

The majority of the population on the Aegean islands are from Afghanistan (48%), Syria (14%) Somalia (9%) and Palestine (6%).

Women account for 20% of the population and children, nearly 7 out of 10 are younger than 12 years old. Approximately 8% of the children are unaccompanied or separated.

**Thank you so much for your support, we are very grateful.**

Fr. Luke ofm

You can contribute to [helping the refugees here.](#)