We are going to read the story of Maximilian Kolbe. As we are reading, you will need to consider how Maximilian and others involved in the story may have felt. Write your thoughts in the boxes provided.

Maximilian Kolbe was born in 1894 near Poland. Maximilian was a **Catholic** and in 1910 he became a priest. Maximilian was alive during the Second World War. In 1939 Germany invaded Poland. There were 3,000 Polish **refugees,** 2,000 of these were **Jews.** Maximilian and a number of other priests helped to look after the refugees. They housed, fed and clothed them.

How might the Jewish refugees have felt when Maximilian and others looked after them?

On 17th February, Maximilian was arrested by German police and sent to **Auschwitz.** Auschwitz was a concentration camp where people were **tortured, starved and killed.** Prisoners lost all their rights, they had everything taken away from them and were referred to only by a number. Kolbe was number 16670.

How might Maximilian have felt when he was arrested and taken to Auschwitz?

On 14th July 1941, a prisoner escaped from Auschwitz and as a punishment the German commanders chose 10 people to be put to death.

How might the prisoners have felt while waiting to find out whether they would be chosen?

Ten men were chosen, they were to be starved to death. One man named Franciszek Gajowniczek cried out as he was chosen “**My poor wife! My poor children! What will they do?**” Maximilian heard this and said” I am a Catholic priest from Poland; **I would like to take his place because he has a wife and children.**

How might Franciszek have felt when he heard this?

How might Maximilian have felt when he made this choice?

Maximilian and the 9 other chosen men were taken to a starvation bunker. While in the starvation bunker, **Maximilian led prayers and hymns** to try and bring hope and peace to those around him. After 2 weeks, Maximilian and 3 other men were still alive. The cell needed to be cleared for other prisoners so they were all given a lethal injection. Maximilian was the last to be injected. When it came to his turn, he just lifted his arm up to the guard.

How might Maximilian’s strength and faith helped the prisoners?