

Prayers for peace

Dear Lord,

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world
Your everlasting peace.

Amen.

Dear Lord, look with kindness on our broken world
in which there is so much conflict.

May God, our Merciful Father,
give wisdom to those who are trying to sustain, protect and
build peace through negotiation and diplomacy,

Amen.

Thought for the Week
15th January, 2023
2nd Sunday in ordinary time.

‘he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.’

The responsorial psalm this weekend is a song of praise written by King David. Psalm 39(40) starts as a hymn of praise to the Lord (verses 1-11), before becoming a prayer for help (verses 12-17, which are not included in this week’s Mass).

When I first read this psalm, what really caught my attention was how David waited and waited, patiently persevering in prayer and how the Lord stoops down to hear him.

For me, this sense of God bending down, removing any distance between Himself and His servant, is comforting and encouraging - like a parent crouching down to a child, asking, *“What do you want to ask?”* and the child knowing that their wish will be granted.

In the psalm the Lord hears David’s cry and offers him a new song to sing - a song of praise. David praises the Lord because he knows that his prayer will be answered, as it had been in the past. David’s response is to listen, he offers himself with ‘an open ear’.

Perhaps this is a format we can use when we pray. Praise the Lord and thank Him for gifts and blessings already received and then, as we ask for help again, listen with an open ear as we try to discern His plan for us. God does not require sacrifices from us; He longs for us to listen to Him and willingly obey Him. Only then are we following in the steps of Christ, the most obedient servant of all.



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for Geoff Stitt for the success of a 4th operation to reverse his atrial fibrillation

Please prayer for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who needs a bone marrow transplant - he has Aplastic Anaemia. Please pray a donor match is found.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan who has had surgery for cancer and must now have lengthy chemotherapy.

Please pray for Beth Selwood.

Please pray for victims of all wars.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (age 2 with eye trouble).

Please prayer for Delia Hoban who is in Abbeycrest.

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Haggar.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 10 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.



Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Richard Bertram and Irene George, Ivan Dover, Joan Godfrey (mother of Tony), Cecil Keane, Antony C and Regina Pereira, Richard Konazeski, Joseph Smyth, Kathleen Smyth, Lily Deegan, Bernard C. Oates, Imrie Osz, Philomena Smith.