

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 4th Sunday of Lent 19th March 2023

On this 4th Sunday of Lent we hear the second of three long Gospel readings from St John. Last Sunday Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well. Today, Jesus opens the eyes of the man born blind. Next week Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Over these three weeks we have the promise of living water, new sight for the blind and resurrection to new life. Does this sound familiar?

It should do, because Jesus has touched each of us in these ways. At our baptism we were given the living water, the Holy Spirit, as a never-ending spring rising within us. Our spiritual blindness, caused by Original Sin, was healed and our spiritual eyes opened. At our baptism we entered the tomb with Jesus and were raised up to new life with him.

Our Lenten journey, through our recommitment to prayer, fasting and acts of charity (in their many forms) help us to reflect on our appreciation and response to these baptismal blessings from God. Do I seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit or do I prefer to go my own way? Are my eyes open to the truth that comes from God and his Church or do I give more credibility to what the world shows me? Do I live as a child of the resurrection with hope and joy?

Now is the time to repent for the times we have failed to respond to the blessings of our baptism so that at Easter we can renew our baptismal promises with sincerity and joy. Having renewed our own commitment Jesus will continue his saving work through us; offering living water, healing spiritual blindness, and giving new life to those who will listen.



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

Please pray 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 continues to recover after 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 her great grandson Rogan who is 10 and whose Leukaemia has returned. Rogan has to have 3 months chemo so he continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the residents and staff of Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for the pupils, teachers and parents of St Martin's school.



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

Alan Dant, Mary Fallon, Henry Ernest Gibbons, Mary Ann Kerr, Iva Andrews, Ted Cotter, Nancy Keogh, Hermien Noothout, Tony Dover, James Roughneen, Peter Warren, Audrey Gallagher, Fr Andrew Creighton.