

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

1st January, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Octave of Christmas ends today on the first day of 2023 and it is the face of the loving God-bearer who smiles us into that new year.

If you haven't done enough celebrating of the festive season yet you can stretch Christmastide to the Epiphany (another five days), the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (two more days this year) or even, if you are a very traditionalist Catholic, to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on the 2nd of February!

For some of us, 2022 may well feel like a year best left behind; for others, memories may be of successes, happy times and joyful occasions. Equally, economic and political uncertainties, worries about family, friends, our jobs or our health may make the thought of 2023 somewhat daunting. In which case, today's first reading and psalm should bring us comfort, strength and hope.

The blessing that God instructed Moses to give to the Israelites in the Wilderness is for us too.* God's blessing, passed on to us at the end of every liturgy by the priest, is more than a "goodbye" or a trite "have a nice day". God's blessing is a promise of his protection and his presence with us during our difficulties and our successes; in our sadness as well as our joy, and whether we are sick or well. The words of today's blessing offered, freely and unconditionally, to us all is a reminder that He is truly Emmanuel, God with us, on our journey into whatever 2023 has in store.

May you feel the light of the Lord's face shining on you and may you reflect that light into the lives of those you meet on the road ahead that is 2023.

A Parishioner

(* It is also the first one of the Solemn Blessings in the Missal for use in Ordinary Time).



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

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 pray for the Teachers and Pupils of St Martin's school as they start the new term.

As we start a New Year, we ask for your prayers for those parishioners and family members who died in 2022.

Stephen Aldworth, Maria Santano Barratto,
Peter Blaker, Joyce Butler, Patrick Hardiman,
Christopher Hicks, Raymond Hughes, Phyllis Kiely,
Rita Lonsdale, Bernard Lowe, Michael McNamara,
Jane Mikhail, Ramsay Mikhail,
Amelia Muñoz de Hernandez, Henk Noothout,
June Payne, Barbara Pike, Maddy Sharman,
Barbara Small and David White.



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

Yvonne Fernandes, Terence Vincent Anthony Fernandes
Matt Kearney, Jenny (Winifred) Thompson,
Maryann and Charles Smith, James Rideout Belletty,
Peter Raynard, Grace Rehor, Kitty Cottrell,
Roberto Roman Arrieta, Richmond Buike,
Richard Cannings, Will van Bree, Henry Clay,
Paul McDermott, Richard Bertram George.