

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.

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

Thought for the Week 22nd January, 2023 3rd Sunday in ordinary time.

We are all called to love and serve God; the question we may ask ourselves is, exactly what does he call us to?

Today we see four men apparently abandoning family and livelihood in order to follow Jesus – no questions asked, at least in Matthew’s account. Whatever possessed them to respond with such generosity (or recklessness?) when they had no idea where they would be led by this charismatic figure?

We may find a clue in the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556) and the Venerable Mary Ward (1585–1645), for whom spiritual freedom is key. Ignatius teaches that in order to follow the Call, we need to be free from the things that may stand in our way of loving and serving God. Choosing to respond to the call to build the Kingdom is unlikely to be an easy option, as the Apostles and Ignatius, Mary and countless others would discover.

Some of Mary Ward’s retreat notes give us an insight into her meditation on the call of the Apostles: they were so graced with the gift of spiritual freedom that *‘their whole being was entirely at their Master’s disposal; without that attitude of freedom they would never have... had the means to serve him so faithfully’*. The gift of spiritual freedom is one that Ignatius suggests we pray for, even though that means praying not to cling to the things of this world – be they riches, reputation, health, a long life...

Mary Ward sensed (correctly, as it turned out) that her call to found a radically different religious order for women would bring her great trouble; nevertheless, in faith she prayed: *‘What pleaseth thee best, that do.’* She saw that *‘there was no help for me but to cling to him... for he was there to help me’*.

Mary’s total trust in God’s providence may help us when the going gets tough; today’s Psalm encapsulates perfectly her disposition at times of difficulty: *‘The Lord is my light and my help... Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.’*

As the Holy Father has established this Sunday as the Sunday of the Word of God, perhaps we could honour that by spending time pondering today’s Gospel reading as Mary Ward did, and open ourselves in freedom, to see where it will take us.

A parishioner



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.



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

Leslie Archard, Winifred Dougan, Winifred Halter, Philomena Smith, William Tillotson, Judith Over, Frederick Wareham, Alan Graves, Kieran Cotter, Rev. Canon Frederick Smythe, Briget Gurney, Richard Bertram and Irene George, Carlos Ramirez, Anne Marie Agnes Chancellor-Wheale, Jan Treder, Eugeni Micotti, John Cano, Denis and Nora Fogarty.