

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 Sunday of Lent 26th February 2023

Last week the Moral Maze on Radio 4 explored that vexed question of why does God allow suffering? How do we Christians square the idea of God as loving and omnipotent with the destruction, loss of life and appalling suffering caused the earthquake in Turkey and Syria? Unsurprisingly no-one had watertight answers, and some, naturally, regarded the events of the past few weeks as proof either that God doesn't exist and is a figment of our imagination, or that he may exist, but he isn't either loving or omnipotent.

One contributor leaned in a different direction. He pointed out that the Cross, or indeed the manger, central icons of the Christian faith are anything but representations of power. God through the person of Jesus reveals Himself not as power, but as humility. He identifies with sinners and not the righteous. The Cross is a symbol not of success but of failure. And Jesus is tempted like we are, and wrestles with the Devil in the desert, not having eaten for 40 days. This isn't a picture of an all-powerful God who can control the elements. It's the opposite. God isn't about control.

His power is the redeeming power of love, often expressed most movingly in the face of intense suffering. God's love is compassion: for humankind at its lowest ebb. God confronts evil head on in the desert and refuses to be seduced. And God suffers as we do. When we are looking for God in our world, and in our lives, we need to look to the suffering, the anguished, the lonely; not the powerful, the secure and the comfortable.



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 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;

Wyn Hyman, Michael Coulehan, Caetano Coutinho, Violet Kathleen Taylor, George Jones, Pauline Joyce, Margaret Seymore, Patricia Bateman, Jerome Reilly, Andrew Britton, Eleanor Fanning, Thomas Hoban, Henry Ernest Gibbons, Oscar Roman Lambrano, Christine Lester, Alfred May, Patricia Nichoson, Lillian and Leslie Peach, Lambertus van Bree, Timothy Keogh.