

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 5th Sunday of Lent 26th March 2023

On this last Sunday in Lent, before Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we get a foretaste of the resurrection message of Easter Sunday. The clear promise of God is that resurrection is not just for his Son but for humankind too.

The great Psalm 129, the De Profundis, seems to start off with despair and anguish for the human condition: *“I cry to you from the depths”, “If you would mark our guilt, who would survive”*. The response offers us hope for, if we rely upon the Lord, with him *“there is mercy and fullness of redemption.”*

Redemption and resurrection can be understood in many ways: a physical return from the dead, like Lazarus in the Gospel, or something more mystical and unknowable at the end of time.

The readings from Ezekiel and St Paul, in his letter to the Romans, promise something just as amazing: a rebirth and a re-giving of life in the here and now. We can be refreshed, renewed and transformed through God’s gift of his Spirit today and every day. As St Paul says, the Spirit of God makes its home in those who turn to the spiritual rather than those always focusing on unspiritual things. If we try to live our lives in the Spirit then God will live in us.

The promise of the resurrection that we so joyfully celebrate at Easter is with us already. With Holy Week in sight, it is not too late to re-energise the spiritual side of ourselves so that we can even more fully share and be part of the fulfilment of God’s promise and his plan for each one of us.



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

Please prayer for the repose of the soul and consolation of the family of Delia Hoban who died on Tuesday.

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 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;

Fr Andrew Creighton, Christine Ryman (nee Lester), Karen Milledge, Nan and Larry Maxwell and Family, Sarah Bardon, Mary Gardner, Liam Treacey, Kevin Cotter, Eileen Foley, Cedric Baring-Gould, Mary Burns, Joseph Anthony Melling, Derek Graham, Celestino Ruiz.