

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 in Lent 27th March 2022

It's Laetare Sunday, so-called because the Latin introit for the day begins Laetare Jerusalem 'Rejoice with Jerusalem'. It's also Mothering Sunday, originally named not because mums, for once, were to be given a bit of due and public recognition, but because people used to visit the church where they were first baptised as Christians – referred to as their mother church. No disrespect, but I prefer the idea of mums being a bit spoiled. Luckily the Church allows us to cut ourselves a bit of slack if we're fasting for Lent. So, why not enjoy a chocolate biscuit or a glass of wine, especially if you're a mum or a grand-mum.

If you read today's gospel with a rather critical eye, no-one emerges from Jesus' parable terribly well. Even the loving father. Wasn't he a bit over-indulgent letting his wayward son go off with his half of the inheritance? Neither of the two sons behave well either. Perhaps this is the point Jesus is making. Life is messy, but it is in the mess that we find redemption.

The scribes and the pharisees don't like the way Jesus mingles with tax collectors and sinners. They prefer their religion neat and tidy. But obviously we are all sinners. As Pope Francis says, the church is more field hospital for the sick and the wounded, than it is a home for the perfect. We all have flaws in our make-up, whether that's a tendency towards parsimony or profligacy, being a bit of a soft touch, or inclined to be rather hard hearted and judgmental.

Whatever our flaws, and however often we fall short of the standards we would ideally like to live up to, we can, and we should always, be prepared to turn the page and start over. Lent is a time for turning and for asking forgiveness. God does not love us despite our failings. He loves us with our failings and longs to heal our self-inflicted wounds.



**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 has been diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia and needs our prayers.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Please pray for Colin, Stephen and Judy Fox's nephew who had to have a stem cell transfusion, the treatment started on Feb 22nd

Please pray for victims of all wars remembering those in Ukraine

Please pray for Savanna Clark (age 2 with heart trouble)

Please pray for Shirley Trollop

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) that she may be able to have an operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is very poorly

Please pray for Beth Selwood

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

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 9 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 also remember in your prayers those whose
anniversaries occur at this time including;**

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