

## *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 29th January, 2023 4th Sunday in ordinary time.**

Our society today is full of slogans and adverts that are intended to outline how to be the best that we can be, by eating various proffered foods, keeping up with the latest fashion trends and accessories, be they technological or genuine something or other.

There is also quite rightly, increasing recognition of mental health and general wellbeing in a society where life as we have known it has changed, dramatically with many struggling to cope with this new normal.

The two could be linked. It is easy to see how failing to 'keep up' could lead to discouragement, isolation and general low esteem, if one feels or is made to feel that they are not quite 'good enough'. Could we take comfort in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, that it is those that are weak, common, the nobodies and the seemingly foolish that God chooses to show up those who may boast to know and have it all.

This though cannot be easy.

I am struck by the repeated use of the term 'happy' in the Gospel reading. (Other translations use the term 'blessed')- with each phrase relating to current suffering whose reward is achieved in heaven.

I think this too is not easy.

Reading through the Beatitudes, it is easy to see how challenging these attitudes would be to live out in our world today. These must have been hard enough when Jesus walked the earth, why else would he have preached this to the crowds gathered then.

I suppose the grounding message is one of humility, outlined in the second reading where we are reminded that if we are to boast of anything, whatever worldly achievements we may have, these really should be about the Lord.



**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;**

Denis and Nora Fogarty, Judith Over, Irene George, Eugene Herbert, May McGrath, Noel Pearce, Sean Regan, Margaret Ely, Marie King, Dee Keogh, Jimmy Thompson, Lilian Tresham, Max Noothout, Derrick Palman, Richard Hoban, Marie Prendergast, Anne Marie Agnes Chancellor-Wheale.