

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 PALM SUNDAY 2ND APRIL, 2023

As we celebrate Palm Sunday and come towards the end of our Lenten Journey we think of Our Lord arriving in Jerusalem to a wonderful reception, but we also prepare for contemplation of his suffering.

Each Lenten journey to this point will be different.

For much of our Lenten journey this year, we were travelling in Andalucia, Spain. Though we would not be there for Semana Santa (Holy Week), we were present for some of the preparations for the passionate and spectacular celebrations that would follow.

Outside Malaga Cathedral we attended a dusk Procession of young and old parishioners carrying flickering 5-foot tall candles, pausing periodically for a prayer or hymn. In Granada we watched as 20 men walked with tiny steps under the heavily weighted platform that they would use in Holy Week to carry ancient wooden sculptures of Our Lord or the Virgin Mary. Their training, effort and dedication was inspirational.

During Lent a withdrawal to nature can also allow space for prayerful contemplation. In Spain, we found this during a trip to the Alpujarras Hills. High above a gorge we heard the distant clanging of the bells worn by the goats in the valley below and saw above in the distance, the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada. Such perspective is a prompt to prayer, a time to reflect on how we've listened and what we've learned.

In the words of Isaiah:

*The Lord has opened my ear
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away*

There are many Lenten pathways and the way we celebrate Easter will differ among Christian communities across the world. There is a place for both the loud, vibrant and spectacular, and also for quieter, simpler, more reflective celebrations.

As we prepare for Easter, we are reminded in the Gospel of how our Lord was to travel on Palm Sunday

"He is humble, he rides on a donkey."

Lord may the blessed palm leaves we receive guide us on our final steps towards the end of our Lenten Journey.



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 whose has died.

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who has had his stem cell transplant to treat the Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers please for a successful outcome.

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan who continues to recover after chemotherapy.

Please pray for Beth Selwood.

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 victims of all wars.

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;

Mary Burns, Derek Graham, Flora Bradley, Gerry Buck, Bernard Lobo, Jim Roginski, Elenor and Arnold Fox, Harry and Mary Gardner, Jim Roginski, Bridie McGarry, Paddy Hickey, Josephine Legge, Lilian Muston, Harry Selway (Husband of Joan), Ina Dias, Lilian Everett, Maggie Monter, Kathleen Regan, Mgr Freddie Miles.