

## *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.*

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

## **Thought for the week 5th Sunday in Lent 3rd April 2022**

‘No need to recall the past.’

Some time ago I went to Confession and the Confessor was Fr Michael. I reached the end of my list of sins and said, *“I am sorry for these and for all those sins I have forgotten.”*

Fr Michael replied, *“Well, God has also forgotten them.”* He then went on to give me absolution. I found that an extremely reassuring comment. And I fell to wondering why we might find it so hard to accept that our sins, our failings are forgiven so readily. Perhaps it’s because, as humans we ourselves do not always find it easy to ‘forgive and forget’; maybe we let perceived insults or unkind deeds by others fester within us; we harbour grudges and, while we might not treat badly the person who has ‘wronged’ us, we may be a little standoffish or curt with them. That might be one reason why we struggle to believe that we ourselves can be forgiven by Him who bears no trace of a grudge but goes out to meet and welcome back repentant sinners.

We are drawing to the end of Lent, a time for charity and self-examination. Now is a good time to do a little soul-searching and make sure that we are as forgiving of others as we should be. Maybe it is time to forget past differences?

In the first reading, Isaiah says, *“No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.”* And in the second reading, St Paul, Our Lord’s one-time persecutor, says, *“All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come.”*

The message is unequivocal: Christ has ‘paid the price of our iniquity’. The debt is settled. There is cleansing to come, but our ultimate goal is assured by the sacrifice we will commemorate in less than two weeks’ time.

Let us not wallow in self-pity or have any doubts that we have been saved. Let us just make sure that we live in a way that acknowledges the magnitude of the price paid for our salvation.

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**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;**

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, Harry Fry,  
Katinka Werfhorst