

## 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 2nd Sunday of Lent 5th March 2023

Bear the hardships...

We've arrived at the Second Sunday of Lent: how are your Lenten resolutions going? Pretty well, it is to be hoped - if we heeded Fr Michael's suggestion to set ourselves achievable targets to include prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

People who don't share our Faith can be confused by the whole notion of 'giving something up'; they can't see the point. Maybe we could help to un-confuse them by explaining that we need to learn to resist what we might call minor temptations (to eat chocolate, drink wine, watch TV, etc), so that when major temptations come our way, we are better-equipped to turn away from them. We're able to flex our muscles of resistance.

This is fine in principle, but we need help – and we are blessed to have that in the example of Our Lord. His training took place in the desert and when Satan arrived to tempt Him, Our Lord was well able to deal with him. Jesus, the human Man, must surely have felt physical weakness after 40 days of fasting, and it occurs to me that His strength in battling away the Devil's temptations came from His knowledge of Scripture, which He quoted as an answer to each snare. So, one weapon in our Lenten armoury could be to increase our scriptural reading.

Prayer is also a key requirement of Lent. Its importance in the fight against temptation was underlined by Jesus Himself, who urged His disciples in Gethsemane to "*pray that you may not enter into temptation*" (Lk 22:40).

Finally, remember to trust in the Lord; we are not alone. As Timothy says,

*"Bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us..."*



**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 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;**  
Honey Cooke, Gus Weldon, Mr Timothy F Pereira, Peter Smith, Mariano Roza Gama, Janet Kierulf, Henry Littlewood, Cyril Lowther, Francis White, Francis Fallones, Marnie Connors, Peter Godfrey, Roman Szulc, Emelia Barratto, Lilian Peach, Rianald McGowan (Mac), Josephine Kehoe.