

## 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

8th January, 2023

### The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

So, Christmas is over for another year. The decorations have been put away, our lives return to a 'normal' routine and around me I notice people becoming less joyful and more careworn.

'It's the post-Christmas blues' I was told – 'just returning to normal life'. I understand this, but today's readings remind us that 'normal life' should be joyful.

We are God's '*children by adoption*' the Collect tells us, a people chosen by God to '*serve the cause of right*' (Isiah 42:6), We are called as His children, to '*give the Lord glory*' (Ps 28:1) and we are asked to do this as one family, for God accepts and loves '*anybody of any nationality*' (Acts 10:35).

Is this not cause to rejoice? Even in the quieter days of January, even in the darker days that follow a loss, even in the trials and tribulations of living in this modern world, with all its pressures and conflicts, is this not cause to rejoice?

Across the world, at macro and micro level, there are many, many problems: politically, socially and economically. We, as individuals, encounter some – or perhaps all of these at some point and even sometimes on a daily basis. However, we should approach these troubles with calm patience, trusting in the Father's love, holding strong to our faith, and supporting one another.

It is hard at times, but we are blessed in this parish to have leaders and parishioners who care, we have people who live their faith, people to whom we can turn should we need to, people who can be the inspiration that helps us to be better ourselves.

Yes, Christmas is over – but we can, and should, take the joy of Christmas with us wherever we go – and share it with all we meet, rejoicing in the knowledge that we are sons and daughters of the living God. I hope that throughout 2023 I will be able to do that, and that you will too.



**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 as they start the new term.



**Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**  
Richard Bertram and Irene George, Doug Buck,  
Kieran Cotter, Lucy Emma Disouza,  
Delcia Rose Ingram, Patrick O'Sullivan,  
Constantino Antao, Thomas Stewart, Charles Harris,  
Sheila Stone, Willem Anschutz, Sylvester Cottrell (snr),  
James Creighton, Eirllys Godfrey.