

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Pope Francis has declared Friday 27 October as a day of fasting, penance and prayer for peace in our world. He has invited all Christians, members of other religions and all who hold the cause of peace in the world at heart to participate.

Peace in the Holy Land

God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of
history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen.

Linda Jones / CAFOD

O God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in
the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and
fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of
suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews,
Muslims and Christians and for all people of the
land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to
violence and the establishment of peace, we also
call for you to bring justice and equity to the
peoples.

Guide us into your kingdom where all people are
treated with dignity and honour as your children
for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

Very Revd Canon Richard Swell

Peace in Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide
their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world.

Amen.

Peace throughout the World

Watch over the people
who have been forced to flee their homes
and face violence and fear.

Lead them to a place of safety,
comfort those who grieve
and bring healing to those in pain.

Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Convert the hearts of those
who commit violence and wage war.
Turn them away from persecution towards peace.
Turn hatred to understanding,
and anger to compassion.
Through your love, transform horror into hope.

Lord, send us the gift of peace.

And fill us all with your Spirit
so that with one voice, throughout the world,
we may cry out:

Lord, send us the gift of peace.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us...

Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

O Risen Christ,
you breathe your Holy Spirit on us

and you tell us: 'Peace be yours'.
Opening ourselves to your peace -
letting it penetrate the harsh and
rocky ground of our hearts -
means preparing ourselves to be
bearers of reconciliation
wherever you may place us.
But you know that at times
we are at a loss.
So come and lead us
to wait in silence,
to let a ray of hope shine forth
in our world.

Brother Roger, Taizé

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, harmony;
where there is error, truth;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may no so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born into eternal life.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many
years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers
and by the force of our arms. How many moments
of hostility and darkness have we experienced;
how much blood has been shed; how many lives
have been shattered; how many hopes have been
buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach
us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the
courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war

everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage
to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God
of Love, you created us and you call us to live as
brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to
be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone
who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make
us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat
us to turn our weapons of war into implements of
peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our
quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with
patience and perseverance we may opt for
dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace
triumph at last, and may the words "division",
"hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of
every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our
hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the
word which always brings us together will be
"brother", and our way of life will always be that
of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

A Prayer for Peace

How do we pray for peace
from half a world away?
How can words salve and soothe real wounds,
assuage real fears, wipe tears from real eyes?

God of endless compassion,
transform our prayers
from words into bridges, that span the distances
between us, uniting our hearts in yours.

Every time we turn our keys in a lock,
may we remember all who are losing their homes.

Every time we step into our cars,
may we remember all who are having to flee.

Every time we embrace our children,
may we remember all who are trying to shield
theirs from war.

May our besieged sisters and brothers
be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ,
and may our cry be heard as one voice,
ringing out from every corner of the earth:

God of endless mercy, grant us peace.

Amen.

Cameron Bellm