

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
11th December, 2022
3rd Sunday of Advent

Do not lose heart...

The readings on the First Sunday of Advent warned us to be ready, to be on our guard, as we don't know when the end will be. Continuing that theme of preparation, last week's readings were urging us to repent. This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent is also known as *Gaudete Sunday* – Gaudete meaning 'Rejoice!' So, does that mean that we can pack up the idea of being alert and repentant? Been there, done that, move on? I don't think so.

Advent is a season of anticipation, waiting for the joyful news of the birth of Him who is to be our salvation. "*Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.*" (James 5:7). But we do have to do our bit and that means trying our best to be even slightly worthy of salvation. We show gratitude (real or pretend!) for gifts given us by friends; how much more should we show genuine, heart-felt gratitude for the gift above all others? As the years pass, is there a danger that we become complacent? By the grace of God, we've lived through so many Christmases; it can be easy to take for granted the true message of Christ's Nativity.

So, no, we must not forget to be alert, to be repentant, to behave as if each day is our last. It can sound daunting, which is perhaps why the Church gives us this little mid-Advent fillip – Rejoice! Take heart! Have hope!

With the situation in our country and our world, hope is not currently the easiest feeling to muster – but, as Christians we persevere. We do what we can; we pray – for ourselves and for others; we trust; we hope – and the rest we leave in the hands of God. Isaiah sums it up for us:

"Courage! Do not be afraid. Look your God is coming, [...] he is coming to save you."

Gaudete, my friend – wait with patience. One day we will see the end of 'sorrow and lament.'



**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 also remember in your prayers those
whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

John and Fiona Gallagher, Fr John Ellis,

Kitty and Henry Jackubizyn, Sheila Mary Westcar,

Mat and Chris Fagen and family, Sue Carey

Rita and Owen Walter, Sophia Carikas, Angela Fung

Sophia Graham, Stanislaus Rozdolski,

Carmel Barker' Anna Maria Dias,

Margaret Skevington, Paquita Wettenhall,

Mgr Freddie Miles