

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 24th July 2022 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Having come back from camping in Cornwall the day before the heatwave struck, I felt particular resonance in last Sunday's reading from the book of Genesis relating to the The Lord's appearance to Abraham "at the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day." I wondered how often extreme heat is mentioned in the bible. A quick look revealed dozens of references such as "scorching heat" and 'fever heat' of the sun.

For Jonah and for others, extreme heat was often a time of testing, where the physical challenge pointed to a deeper spiritual crisis that had reached a 'make or break' point.

Our own record-breaking heatwave caused a range of reactions, thousands heading excitedly to the coast, others drawing curtains, pulling down blinds and staying inside, disconcerted that it could become so hot in the UK. Dozens of fire engines tackled bush and forest fires, while in an East London estate many lost their homes and all their possessions in a fast-spreading blaze. Passengers were stranded when air travel was stopped by melted runway tarmac, and trains by heat buckled rail tracks.

One way or another extreme heat stops us in our tracks. Some good may come of this: spontaneous acts of generosity and kindness, such as the businesses that donated cooled water bottles, the churches or social clubs that invited the public in for free drinks and to cool down in their cool or air-conditioned buildings. Some of those who stayed at home used the time to contact family and friends to see how they were coping. Looking back now, with a cool head, we need to consider how we can play our part in reducing the greenhouse gas build-up behind such extreme weather. We have a new group at Church The Thoughtful Living Group who are doing just that.

As the schools close for the summer holidays we pray for pleasant, warm weather and smoothly running airports, railways and roads. But more importantly we ask for God's guidance in making our break from our usual routine become an opportunity to grow closer in love and understanding of one another. Amen.



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for the repose of the soul and the consolation of the family of Henk Noothout (Cousin of Eveline Dodd) who died last Monday

Please pray for Eve Osz who is in hospital with pneumonia

Please prayer for Delia Hoban who is in Abbeycrest.

Please pray for Barbara Van Bree who has cancer

Please prayer for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who has been diagnosed with Aplastic Anaemia and needs our prayers.

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 Grand-son 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 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;

Jacqueline Margaret Clyne, Norman Hutchinson, Judith Gomes, Margartet Lousdale, Bill Riordan, Michael Collins, Kitty Minter, Rosita Smith, David Andrews, Kathleen Butler, Edward Cottrell, Jimmy Minter, Brian Stratmore Cleary, Patrick O'Flaherty-Hilder, Brian Mudge, Shirley Anderson-Williams, Joseph Brown, Jeanette Fernandes, James Fornara,