

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 25th December, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord

How is your Roman history? Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) consolidated Rome as the world power of the time and was proclaimed a god. His adopted heir Octavian (63 BC -14 AD), having defeated Mark Anthony, entered Rome with the title Caesar Augustus. It was said that nobody before, during or after would eclipse the glory of Caesar Augustus who is the “son of god,” the one who ushered in the time of peace (Pax Romana) and the one who has given the good news (gospel) to the world. Do these titles sound familiar?

Responding to a decree issued by Caesar Augustus, a man and a woman well advanced in her pregnancy living in the eastern fringes of the empire, made their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted. While there, the baby was born, laid in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. Caesar Augustus was at the centre of power, protected, with a vast army at his command and every material desire satisfied. The baby vulnerable and weak.

This baby would grow up and in just three years of public ministry would reveal himself as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace and the one bringing Good News to the world. The good news that through him the world would once more be reconciled to God and eternal life available to those who wish to accept this gift from him.

If you go to Rome today where is Caesars’s empire? In ruins. What is the baby’s legacy? The Church spread throughout the world that continues to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. This was achieved not with a mighty army, but by love and self-sacrifice.

Today we rejoice that God took on our flesh to experience all that we undergo to enable us to be become his adopted children and heirs to his everlasting kingdom. On this special day we are confronted with a choice. Do we seek to imitate the example of Caesar Augustus the “son of god” and seek power and domination over others, or the baby in the manger, the Son of God and seek the way of love and self-sacrifice?

A happy and holy Christmas to you and all those you love.



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 families of Amelia Muñoz de Hernandez (Haydee's Mother) and Barbara Small who died last week.

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;

Maud Cooper, Gino Dell'Aqua, Ivy Edna Roberts, Charles Harris, Kathleen Harris, Mickey Harris, Bridget O'Loughlin, Frederick Everett, John Halter, Kenneth de Silva, Danny Jenkins (sr), John Owain Lewis, Ilona Bakaes, Julia Welemars, John Forbes, Jack Oswald, Philomena Rodrigues, Louise Coulehan, Mary Williams.