

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 September, 2022 26th Sunday in Ordinary time

“A Great Gulf Fixed”

When I was at school, there was an annual essay prize that everyone was expected to enter. One year, the title we were given was “*A great gulf fixed*”. I did not discover for many years where the title had come from; we find it in this Sunday’s Gospel. Here Abraham tells the rich man that there is an uncrossable gulf between Hades and Paradise. Once God’s judgement is made repentance is of no avail and it is too late.

I think that sometimes there is a case for presenting the readings in a different order. Having heard Luke’s retelling of the rich man and Lazarus, if we then read the first reading from Amos it may hit us harder. Are we “*ensconced so snugly*” or do we “*feel so safe*” with our comfortable lives?

We may or may not be dining on “*stall fattened veal*” or “*drinking wine by the bowlful*”, but even when our often comfortable lives feel hard, they cannot be compared to the many millions of people across the world who live with hardship.

Amos tells the comfortable that, “*they will be the first to be exiled*”. Jesus’ message to the anonymous rich man is that he should have done good before it was too late.

It is St Paul, in the second reading with his advice to Timothy to carry on in living the faith he has already professed, who offers hope. “*Fight the good fight... and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called....*”

It may be easier to say than to do, but we are called each day to live out the calling of our faith in word and action. I pray that when we come to be judged on living lives of love, that we may all be found on the Paradise side of that great gulf.



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

Please pray for Christopher Hicks and Maria Santano Barratto relations of Emmy Antao who have died recently.

Please pray for Eve Osz who is in hospital

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) she has now had her 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 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 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 pray for the teachers and children of the parish



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

June Godfrey, Michael O'Neil, Harold Clifford, Mingul Antao, Daniel Jenkins, Stephen Boyle, Peggy and Tony Brennan, Helen Fox, Andrew Gray, Mike and May Quinn, Andrew Selwood.