

## *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**  
**30th October, 2022**  
**31st Sunday in Ordinary time**

Zacchaeus was a very little man,  
And a very little man was he,  
He climbed into a sycamore tree,  
For the Saviour he wanted to see,  
And when the Saviour passed that way  
He looked into the tree,  
And said "Now Zacchaeus you come down,  
For I'm coming to your house for tea,  
I'm coming to your house for tea"

This week's gospel features the story of the unpopular figure of Zacchaeus the tax collector; a much berated and disliked figure of greed and dishonesty in first century Israel.

As a music teacher at a Catholic school I have a vast repertoire of hymns and religious songs at my disposal and this is certainly one of the littlest children's favourites. Obviously some discussion goes into giving them insight into the context and narrative of the story but, as with all children, they engage even further with their learning if you add actions. A hand to the forehead re-enacts Jesus gazing up at Zacchaeus in his elevated physical position up the tree and they cannot help but wag their little fingers rather gleefully for the lines "Now Zacchaeus you come down..."

They can quite understand from their own limited experience the uncomfortable position of being told their behaviour is not acceptable and they have been "naughty". Do they, however, condemn Zacchaeus himself or merely his actions? Do they, through superiority and judgement see Zaccaheus as being a thoroughly 'bad egg' or just that he has strayed from the right path?

I'm sure they, much better than adults recognise that redemption and forgiveness are attainable and perhaps more simple than we realise. Though child-like, their views of the deeper issue perhaps are more in line with those of Our Father. Jesus certainly saw Zacchaeus' path to redemption as a tangible certainty and as achievable as starting with as simple an action as the sharing of a meal. Seeing ourselves as sinners in these terms and seeing the sins of others in this way, perhaps, would make us both less judgemental and willing to forgive ourselves more readily. May God help us to seek forgiveness for our sins, but also to see the good in the people we encounter each day!

A parishioner



**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 been diagnosed with cancer.

Please pray for Michael McNamara (Maria's brother) who is in hospital in Ireland with a perforated bowel.

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for victims of all wars

Please pray for Savanna Clark (age 2 with heart 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 very poorly

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;**

Monsignor Michael Hoban, Frederica Mary King, Theresa O'Shea, Christine Thompson, Cher Vaughan Issel, Deacon Paul Grosvenor, Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville, Fr. Frank Dawson, Suzanne Meyers, Anna-Maria White, Margot Gubbin, Patrick Barke, Henry Prendergast, Bertha Rementina Rodrigues.