

PEACE AND UNITY



WORDS OF THE WEEK

JOHN 17: 21-23

THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE, FATHER, JUST AS YOU ARE IN ME AND I AM IN YOU. MAY THEY ALSO BE IN US SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME. I HAVE GIVEN THEM THE GLORY THAT YOU GAVE ME, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE- I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME SO THAT THEY MAY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY. THEN THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND HAVE LOVED THEM EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME.

2 CORINTHIANS 13: 11

FINALLY, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, REJOICE! STRIVE FOR RESTORATION, ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER, BE OF ONE MIND, LIVE IN PEACE, AND THE GOD OF LOVE AND PEACE WILL BE WITH YOU.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

GRACIOUS GOD, WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO STRIVE FOR PEACE THIS DAY, MAY WE FIND STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO LIVE OUT OUR CALL AS PEACEMAKERS.

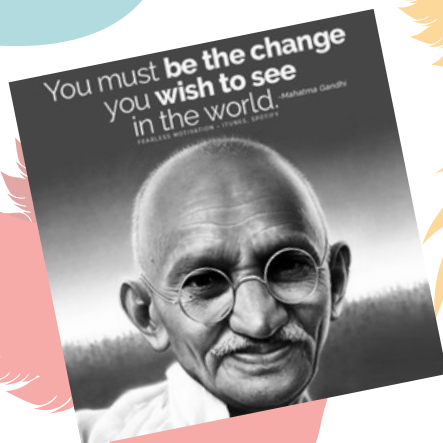
WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM VIOLENCE, MAY THEY KNOW YOUR HEALING AND PEACE.

WE PRAY FOR POLITICAL LEADERS IN BRITAIN AND ACROSS THE WORLD; MAY THEY SEEK WISDOM AND WORK TOGETHER FOR PEACE. MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, AND THE EARTH BE FILLED WITH YOUR GLORY.

AMEN

WHATS ON...

FRIDAY: YEAR 5 TASTER DAY FOR PUPILS FROM ST MARY MAGDALEN'S



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY WAS PEACE SUNDAY AND EACH YEAR THE POPE CHOOSES A THEME, A THEME THAT ENCOURAGES US TO COME TOGETHER IN UNITY TO WORK FOR PEACE.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "GOOD POLITICS SERVES PEACE."

AND THIS IS WHAT POPE FRANCIS HAD TO SAY ON IT:

"POLITICS IS AN ESSENTIAL MEANS OF BUILDING HUMAN COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONS. BUT WHEN POLITICAL LIFE IS NOT SEEN AS A FORM OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, IT CAN BECOME A MEANS OF OPPRESSION, MARGINALISATION AND EVEN DESTRUCTION."



"ONE THING IS CERTAIN: GOOD POLITICS IS AT THE SERVICE OF PEACE. IT RESPECTS AND PROMOTES FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH ARE AT THE SAME TIME MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS, ENABLING A BOND OF TRUST AND GRATITUDE TO BE FORGED BETWEEN PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS... TODAY MORE THAN EVER, OUR SOCIETIES NEED 'ARTISANS OF PEACE' WHO CAN BE MESSENGERS AND AUTHENTIC WITNESSES OF GOD THE FATHER, WHO WILLS THE GOOD AND HAPPINESS OF THE HUMAN FAMILY."

BLESSED ARE THE
peacemakers:
FOR THEY SHALL
BE CALLED THE
children of God.
Matthew 5:9

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

TALK TO THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

WHAT IS A PEACEMAKER?

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE WHO IS A PEACEMAKER?

CAN YOU THINK OF TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO BE A PEACEMAKER?

IS THERE A PEACEMAKER THAT INSPIRES YOU?

CAN YOU THINK OF SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO INSPIRES YOU?

SOMETHING TO DO

WATCH THE EVAN ALMIGHTY CLIP IN THE SHARED DRIVE.

READ: COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: 2018-2019: WEEKLY RESOURCES: PEACE AND UNITY

IN THIS CLIP GOD TELLS EVAN THAT WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD "ONE ACT OF RANDOM KINDNESS AT A TIME." ITS NOT ABOUT BIG THINGS; OTHERWISE THE CHALLENGE FROM JESUS WOULD BE TOO DAUNTING. ITS ABOUT TAKING OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES AND USING THEM TO SHOW OTHERS ABOUT GOD, FIGHTING INJUSTICE AS JESUS DID ONE STEP AT A TIME. THIS IS ALSO A COLLECTIVE AND UNITED EFFORT, IMAGINE THE EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON THE WORLD IF EVERYONE TRIED, IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIVES TO BE PEACEMAKERS.

IN YOUR DIARY WRITE DOWN ONE THING YOU ARE GOING TO DO TO BRING OR MAKE PEACE.

UNITY DOESN'T MEAN UNIFORMITY, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE ALL HAVE TO BE THE SAME. SO BY EACH OF US HAVING OUR OWN CHALLENGE, OUR OWN WAY OF BRINGING PEACE, WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE AND CHANGE TO THE WORLD AROUND US.

