

Peace

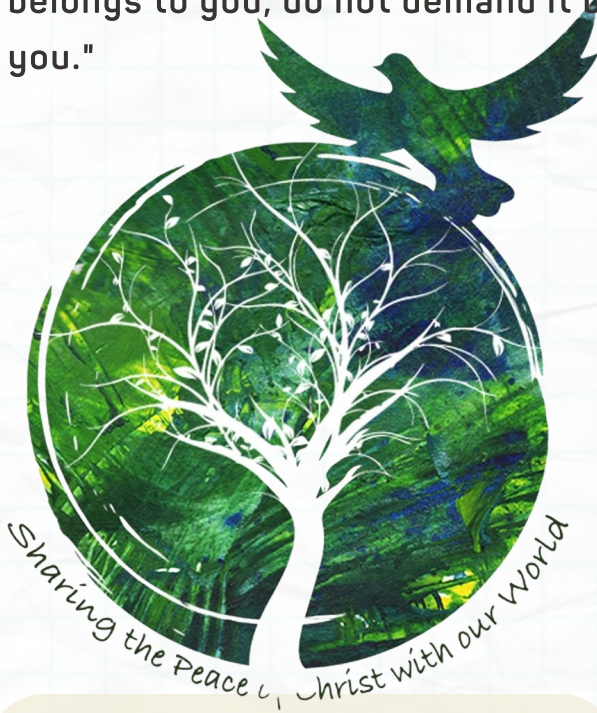
"We only love God as much as the person we
love the least." -Dorethy Day



Word of the Week

LUKE 6: 27-31

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."



This week's theme is quite a challenge. It is calling us to love those who we may consider our enemies.

Instead of being angry and wanting revenge we should work hard to forgive people who hurt us and not use violence in our words or actions. We should look for the good in others and focus on what we have in common rather than what divides us.



Prayer for the Week

Dear God,

You have called us together to be one,
you have called us to live together in unity and harmony,
you have called us to be friends and to love our neighbours,
yet we ignore this.

You have called us to spread the word of God,
you have called us to find peace in a war,
you have called us to refrain from anger and jealousy,
yet we ignore this.

we ignore this and commit these sins,
sins against each other that we feel makes us stronger,
when in fact, it is only you who can makes us stronger,
you make us stronger by helping us to love others.

God, we pray, that we can and that we will
find the strength to love each other,
even those who have sinned against us.

We pray, that we will find peace in violence,
and that we will find love in hatred.

We pray, that we will find light in the darkness.

Amen.

Who are our enemies?

In this week's Word of the Week Jesus says that we are not to just force a smile and mind our own business when we are hated or mistreated. But that we should actively try to do good towards those people.

Loving those that are unkind to us or mistreat us can lead to peace and reconciliation.

Can you think of a time when you have done this, and gone out of your way to love those who haven't been kind to you?

Can you think of a time when you have seen someone do this, either at school or in the media?

Find an example today of someone who has done just this and use them as your inspiration to be a peacemaker today.


How easy is it to love someone you're mad at?

Or someone who's being nasty?

Or someone who's annoying?

Jesus gives us a very direct order when it comes to interacting with people. "I tell you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you maybe children of your father in heaven,"

So the real question is: How do we love those who don't love us?



Take a bit of time now to think about who you might consider your enemies and how you can start to show love towards them. Why not write a list of who you might need to reach out to with love today.

Pope St John Paul II Prayer for Peace

Lord, you who are called Prince of Peace, grant peace.


Make all of us witnesses of truth, justice and love.

Eliminate from our hearts whatever might endanger peace.

May all people on earth become as brothers and sisters.

May longed for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Amen.



"As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself... Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, but humility."

"If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then they become your partner."

PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY

17TH JANUARY 2021



Every year we celebrate Peace Sunday.

This year the theme for 2021 is:

"A culture of care as a path to peace."

This theme comes from Pope Francis's peace message which he gave on the 1st January.

Hear more about Peace Sunday and Pope Francis' message in this week's assembly.

Check your email for the link!