

Peace

"We only love God as much as the person we love the least." - (Servant of God) Dorothy 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

Loving God,
We pray for your peace in our homes, in our school, and in our hearts.
We pray that by learning and working together we may become peacemakers, spreading your peace throughout the world.
Amen

Peace Sunday 2021

We celebrate Peace Sunday in January each year. On peace Sunday, Pax Christi England and Wales, a Catholic peace movement, shares the Pope's World Peace Day message.

Each year the message is different, and this year the message is called: "Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace."

Why do you think the Pope talks about peace?

What do you think the message might say?

What do you think it means to have 'tools' for building peace?



Who are our enemies?

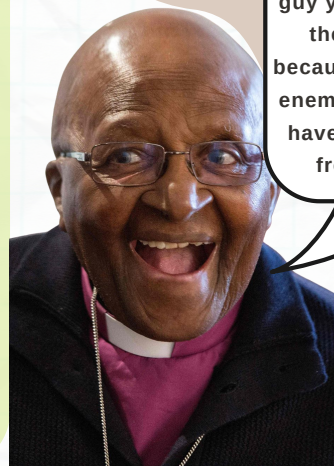
In this week's Word of the Week Jesus says that we are not to just force a smile and mind our own business when we are hated or mistreated. But that we should actively try to do good towards those people.

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.



"Peace comes when you talk to the guy you most hate. And that's where the courage of a leader comes, because when you sit down with your enemy, you as a leader must already have very considerable confidence from your own constituency."

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

Or someone who's being nasty?

Or someone who's annoying you?


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?

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu was a South African social rights activist. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his work fighting apartheid in South Africa. He was the first Anglican bishop in Cape Town. He chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission during the 1990s which helped victims of apartheid speak out and seek justice. He was never afraid to speak out about injustice and promote peace.

Desmond Tutu died on 26th December 2021 and people around the world have paid tribute to his incredible life and all the work he did for peace and justice.



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.