

PEACE

Peace Sunday

14th January 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Luke 6: 27-36

“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

“If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For he is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is discord, union;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy;

For your mercy and for your truth's sake.

Amen

LUNCHTIME PRAYER

BLESS US, O LORD,

AS WE SIT TOGETHER.

BLESS THE FOOD WE EAT TODAY.

BLESS THE HANDS THAT MADE THE FOOD.

BLESS US, O LORD.

AMEN.

**O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others,
 Open my eyes that I may hear their cried,
 Open my heart so that they may not be without comfort.
 Let me not be afraid to defend the weak
 because of the anger of the strong,
 Not afraid to defend the poor
 Because of the anger of the rich.
 Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
 and use me to bring them to these places.
 Open my eyes and ears that I may, this coming day,
 Be able to do some work of peace for thee.**

LOVE YOUR 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.



DOROTHY DAY



Matthew West - Don't Stop Praying
[LISTEN HERE](#)

Pray for Israel & Palestine
[CLICK HERE](#)

What Does "Blessed are the Peacemakers" Mean?
[CLICK HERE](#)

PEACE BE WITH YOU

'Peace be with you' is a greeting which is found in many religions. In church, the priest says, 'The peace of the Lord be with you always'; Muslims say 'Assalamu alaikum'; the Jewish word for peace is 'Shalom'; and the Hindu word is 'Shanti'.

Each of these words for peace does not describe a lack of noise and conflict so much as a positive state of harmony, well-being and fulfilment.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Longing for peace is not enough
 There must be a new spirit.
 There must be a fight against the causes of conflict,
 against selfishness, greed and hate.
 In this battle everyone has a part...

...Peace is not the absence of war.
 It is about people becoming different.



BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

During your time of prayer this morning take some time to silently reflect on these 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?

"Peace must be based on truth, built on justice, supported by love and created in an atmosphere of freedom."

Pope John XXIII

