

RACIAL JUSTICE

Last Saturday was Holocaust Memorial Day, a day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. And also in a few week's time the Church will mark Racial Justice Sunday a day to remind ourselves of the dignity of every human being and the persecution people experience because of their race. This week we pray for a world where everyone is free to achieve their dreams and are treated equally as beloved children of God.



“Human dignity is the same for all human beings: when I trample on the dignity of another, I am trampling on my own.”
-Pope Francis.



WORD OF THE WEEK

God said, 'Let us make human kind in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild animals and all the creatures that creep along the ground. God created humans in the image of himself, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.'

GENESIS 1: 26-27

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father, you created each one of us in your own image. Yet yours is a world made glorious by its rich diversity. This we sometimes misunderstand, sometimes fear.

Give us the patience to build on what unites us, To celebrate our differences and to learn from them.

Grant us the wisdom to recognise your Church beyond the walls of a building, reaching out across all communities, countries and cultures.

Give us the courage to offer refuge to those in need, to challenge prejudice and seek justice for all.

Help us see that you created us in your image.

Neighbour or stranger, always our brother and sister. Amen.

Prayer by Yashoda Sutcliffe (Catholic Association for Racial Justice)

IDENTITY

As a class take a moment to list a variety of their different identities. These can include your gender, school, hobbies, appearance, age, ethnicity, nationality, race, or religion.

Now take a moment to look back over this list and discuss:

Which of these identities are visible/invisible?

Which identities have you chosen?

How do your different identities shape your life?

What do they mean to you?

Now take a moment to watch the following video:

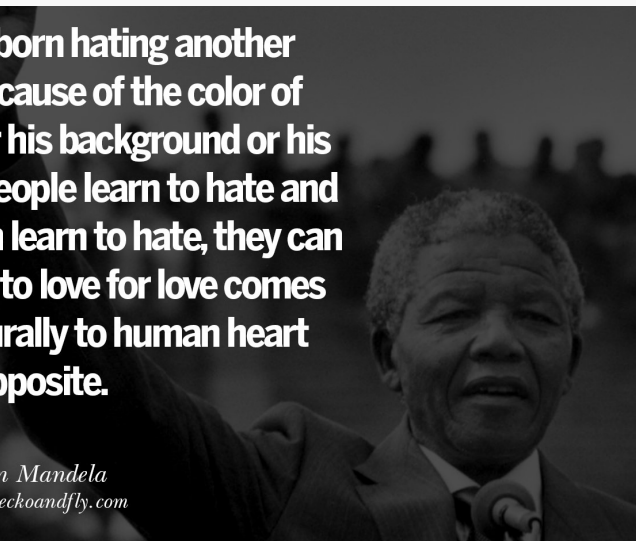
[CLICK HERE](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Day 2017: How can life go on?](#)

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion. People learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love for love comes more naturally to human heart than its opposite.



Nelson Mandela
www.geckoandfly.com



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust.

In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart.

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us.

In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen



"NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION, BELIEF SYSTEM OR GENDER, HUMANS HAVE TO BE TREATED EQUALLY."

Eddie Jaku OAM

100 year-old Holocaust Survivor.



1 CORINTHIANS 12: 12-14

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

IN THIS LETTER FROM ST PAUL TO THE PEOPLE OF CORINTH WE ARE REMINDED THAT GOD MADE EACH OF US DIFFERENTLY AND WE ARE PART OF A WONDERFULLY DIVERSE WORLD.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Have you ever experienced being treated different because of your race or religion?

Has a friend or someone you know experienced racism or any sort of discrimination?

Have you ever judged someone or made an assumption about them because of the colour of their skin, their religion, or their background?



SOMETHING TO WATCH

- IMAGE OF GOD ([CLICK HERE](#))
- UNBROKEN FAMILY ([CLICK HERE](#))
- HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2024 UK CEREMONY ([CLICK HERE](#))



"For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones."
Psalm 37: 28