

# *Peace on Earth...*



“This is peace: not simply the absence of war, but where one is in harmony with oneself, with nature, and with others.”

Pope Francis has spoken often and passionately about both the need for peace in the world and our call to be peacemakers. For him, the act of becoming a peacemaker is an inside job—we start by making peace within ourselves, then with those closest to us, then with the wider community, and, finally, with the world. “Peace lies in the capacity to listen,” he said. May listening to him help us open our ears, eyes, and hearts to all the ways we can become agents of peace in our world.

## **Walk with Jesus in peace**

*Come into a quiet place...*

*Focus on your breath...*

*Clear your mind of other thoughts...*

*Settle into a feeling of peace...*

*Be still, silent and listen...*

*Light a candle.*

*“Open my mind to know  
your voice.”*

*“Open my hands to do your work.”*

*“Open my heart to feel your peace.”*



## **Prayer**

God of mercy, help us to listen to your voice,  
a voice that speaks of peace to all people.

Let the sound resonate within us until a whisper becomes a shout,  
which cannot be ignored.

Move us with your love, so that our actions echo your peace,  
and may we bring comfort to those touched by conflict.

Fill us with your hope O Lord, and quiet the fear and hatred which divides  
us, as we seek to build a future together of true and lasting peace. Amen.

## John 14: 27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you,  
Not as the world gives peace do I give it  
to you.

Do not be troubled; do not be afraid.

*The New Community Bible*



## Breaking Open the Word

The word “Shalom” is often translated to mean peace. Not surprisingly it is also one of the many Hebrew names for God. Tracing it back to its origin, Shalom is better described as completeness, fulfilment, wellbeing – rather than the absence of conflict. Shalom is a peace which is more a “state of being”. Jesus’ peace is a “shalom” a peace which brings a total wellbeing and wholeness. The people of God have always been promised this “peace”. When Jesus promised the gift of his peace before his death, he left with us a peace that leaves our hearts untroubled, a peace that leaves no place for fear, a peace that is completeness, fulfillment and wellbeing, a peace that is God’s gift to all those who trust.

## Reflection

- What areas of my life need to be re-shaped, sanded or molded by the divine craftsman?
- How can I better be an instrument of peace in my life?
- What words come to mind when I hear the word “Peace”?
- Identify a time in your life when you really felt at peace. Describe the circumstances.
- Jesus is teacher, healer, friend and Saviour, which of these images brings you the most comfort?
- What image of the Holy Spirit is the most powerful for you?
- Do I take time to reflect on my commitment to understand how humanity can meaningfully partner with God in acts of creation, connection, and healing.
- In a world burdened with conflict, violence, and injustice, do I take time to create peace and intentional relationships with God and with my neighbours?

*“The moment we choose peace, it is ours.”* Gently, whenever it comes to mind, we breathe in love and breathe out peace. *Sue and Leo Kane, Daily Cuppa.*

*“The fruit of Silence is prayer, The fruit of Prayer is faith, the fruit of Faith is love, the fruit of Love is service, the fruit of Service is Peace.”* *Sue and Leo Kane, Daily Cuppa.*

*“Keep your minds in peace, whatever happens.”* 1890 *Mary MacKillop*

## *Prayer of St Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

During his earthly ministry, Jesus' mission was to bring God's perfect state of peace to the world. As followers of Jesus, our mission on earth is to bring God's peace to others.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

In our brokenness we are urged to show our love for God by loving, even our enemies. We feel sorrow for any wrongdoing that has affected our relationship with God and our neighbour. We are moved to show God's love in practical ways.

Where there is injury, pardon.

We are urged to discover pathways that lead to peace, pardon and non-violence, to enter into peaceful dialogue in a spirit of forgiveness, respect and understanding.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Doubt, despair, darkness, and sadness are like wildfires that threaten everything around us. We need to be like firefighters and extinguish their flames with all of our might.

Where there is despair, hope.  
Where there is darkness, light.

St. Francis embraced lepers and lovingly washed their sores. Surely, many of those suffering souls felt an inner surge of hope and human dignity when they experienced his care.

And where there is sadness, joy.

The secret of St. Francis' joyful spirit was his vibrant belief in a God of overflowing goodness and love. We are called to inspire the hearts of people and stir them to spiritual joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life.

We need to prioritise others in order to enrich their lives as well as our own. When we console others, we are telling them they're important to us. We share their pain and strengthen them. We are there when they need us most. What a mission! Understanding others starts by listening and sharing our love with them. Let's give more than we receive. When things are most difficult, give of what you have of most value; your time. So never hold back. Be grateful for the life you have. God made you strong enough to live it because we can do all things through Christ.

*Amen*



# *Let there be peace on Earth...*

*We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.*

*Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost." Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.*

*Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.*

*Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother/sister", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!*

*Amen.*

**Pope Francis Invocation for Peace**

## **Let there be peace on earth**

**Jill Jackson and Sy Miller**

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let There Be Peace on Earth  
The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father  
Brothers all are we  
Let me walk with my sister  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.

