



PEACE SUNDAY 2025



Introduction to Peace Sunday

Each year, on 1st January, the Pope sends a message to people around the world for the World Day of Peace. Pax Christi England and Wales is a Catholic peace organisation that encourages churches to share the Pope's message on Peace Sunday, which takes place every year in January.

This year the title of the message is 'Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace'. Where might we hear this phrase, 'Forgive us our trespasses', in church, at home or at school?

The message is about how God is kind and loves us so much that he forgives us when we do wrong. Because of God's love, we need to be full of hope and spread this hope. We can help to do this by being kind to others, forgiving them and trying to make the world a fairer place. By doing this, the Pope says we will create a peaceful world. What do you think a peaceful world looks like?

Opening Prayer

Creator God,
We pray for your gift of peace.
We are sorry for the times we have hurt others
and for the times we've hurt creation.
Help us to forgive others and to treat people
with love, respect and kindness.
We pray that we may always be hopeful
and remember that you love us.
May we always be a sign of hope and joy
for others.
Amen



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

The second reading is from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians. In it he talks about how God gives each of us gifts and talents. We all have different gifts and talents - but all of them are from God.

Discussion

What are your talents and gifts? What are you good at?
How could you use your talents to help other people and spread peace?

Gospel John 2:1-12

In this Gospel reading, Jesus is at a wedding in Cana with his family and disciples. During the wedding, they run out of wine to drink, so Mary, Jesus' mother, tells the servants to go to Jesus and to do what he tells them. Jesus doesn't want to at first, but gets them to fill the jars with water. The servants fill the jars and the water becomes wine. This was the first of Jesus' miracles.

Discussion

Do you know of any other miracles? What might the miracles show us? Jesus came to us as a sign of God's love, to heal us and to forgive our sins.

In the Pope's peace message for 2025, he talks about God's generosity and mercy and the hope this gives us. In this miracle, Jesus is generously helping the married couple. We are also called to help people generously. When have you helped someone or shown them kindness? Why is it important to do that?

Prayers

Dear God,
We pray for peace in the world. We pray that wars will stop and everyone will have all they need to live in safety and freedom.
Amen



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Dear God,

We pray for peace in our churches, schools and homes. May we learn to forgive each other, to be kind to each other and to help each other.
Amen

Dear God,

We pray that we can be peacemakers, bringing your peace to others and becoming examples of hope. Help us to remember that you always love us, no matter what.
Amen

Activities

- You might like to use the accompanying worksheet as part of your liturgy. You can find it here: <https://tinyurl.com/2tk427bm>
- For Peace Sunday 2025 we have also produced an 'Activities and Prayers for Children' resource with activities exploring peace, hope and forgiveness. You can find the resource here: <https://tinyurl.com/y.p.m.7.cm.58>
- Take some time to affirm each child's talents. You may want to do this by each child taking a turn to sit in the middle of a circle and asking the other children to call out their gifts or talents. Alternatively, you might want to give each child a sheet of paper and the others can write on it a word or phrase identifying their gifts and talents.
- In the message, Pope Francis talks about "*hearts not set on calculating what is mine and what is yours; hearts that turn selfishness into readiness to reach out to others; hearts that see themselves as indebted to God and thus prepared to forgive the debts that oppress others; hearts that replace anxiety about the future with the hope that every individual can be a resource for the building of a better world*" (Pope Francis, World Day of Peace Message 2025). You might want to cut out some paper hearts and get each child to write or draw what values or attitudes we should live out in our hearts.