

Dear Father,

Peace Sunday - 19 January 2025

Earlier this year, I was appointed President of Pax Christi England and Wales, succeeding Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP who had been President for 22 years. I am very much looking forward to my new role and one of my first tasks is to encourage you to mark Peace Sunday in this Jubilee Year of 2025 in your parish.

On the 1st January each year, the Catholic Church marks the World Day of Peace, first instituted in 1967 by Pope St. Paul VI. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales designate the second Sunday in Ordinary Time every year as 'Peace Sunday', a day when every parish is encouraged to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace that year.

Pope Francis' theme for 2025 is **'Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace'**. He has said that his message will be inspired by the encyclical letters 'Laudato Si' and 'Fratelli Tutti' together with the themes of hope and forgiveness which are at the heart of the Jubilee – *'a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace'*.

With the support of the Bishops' Conference, Pax Christi provides parishes with resources which can be used on Peace Sunday (or on other Sundays if more convenient). Enclosed with this letter are those for Peace Sunday 2025 including a liturgy booklet with homily notes linked to the readings and the chosen theme, and suggested bidding prayers. There are separate resources for children and young people.

As we face a world riven by war and violence, I hope that you will be able to mark Peace Sunday in your parish and use the enclosed resources to explore this message of peace and the call on all of us to be peacemakers.

Pax Christi gives practical expression to this call through its outreach work across England and Wales, offering peace education in schools, and promoting the gospel message of nonviolence. It is a national organisation but with a small team of just three members of staff. I know that the generosity of our parish communities each year makes a big difference to the funds needed for its vital work to continue. I invite you take this opportunity to support us with a collection or donation on Peace Sunday. Your help is greatly appreciated.

With every blessing,



Bishop Philip Moger
President, Pax Christi England and Wales