

# Peace on Earth

*especially on 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## Background

The World Day of Prayer for Peace is marked on 1 January. As this day is when the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God and it is the beginning of the new year in England and the day is transferred to 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

There may be a collection for the work of Pax Christi.

## Prayer of the Faithful

*one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs*

- For peace between nations, a lasting peace with justice.
- For all who work for peace may they never forget the victims of war.

## Mass Texts

*may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics*

- For Peace and Justice

## Prayer

God of perfect peace,  
violence and cruelty  
can have no part with you.  
May those who are at peace  
with one another  
hold fast to the good will  
that unites them;  
may those who are enemies  
forget their hatred  
and be healed.

*Roman Missal*

## Opportunities and Challenges

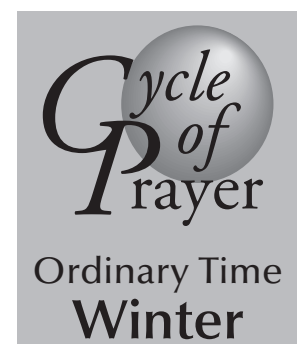
- Places of conflict may often be mentioned in the Prayer of the Faithful what opportunities are there for finding out more about what is involved.
- Why not include the references for next Sunday's readings in the bulletin.
- Read the Pope's message for the World Day of Prayer for Peace.
- Keep up to date with the statements of the Holy See and the Bishops' Conference.

## Links

- Holy Father's Message for World Day of Prayer for Peace  
[[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/peace/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm)]
- Vatican Information Service [[www.vatican.va/news\\_services/press/vis/vis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/press/vis/vis_en.html)]
- Department for International Affairs — Press Releases & Statements  
[[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/international/DeptPressReleasesandStatements.htm](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/international/DeptPressReleasesandStatements.htm)]
- Pax Christi [[www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)]

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# Christian Unity

*especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:  
18–25 January.*

## Background

The Week of was originally begun in 1908 by the American Episcopalian clergyman Paul Wattson who later became a Catholic. The Week begins on 18 January and ends on 25 January—the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Material for the Week of Prayer is prepared in collaboration by Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and The Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. Each year this material is produced by Christians in a different country.

## Prayer of the Faithful

*one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs*

- For unity among the churches, a unity founded on truth and compassion.
- For the churches to find a common voice, to speak on matters that affect the whole of society.

## Prayer

Father  
look with love on your people  
and pour out upon them  
the gifts of your Spirit.  
May they constantly grow  
in the love of truth.  
May they study and work together  
for perfect unity among Christians.

*Roman Missal*

## Mass Texts

*may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics*

- For Unity of Christians

## Opportunities and Challenges

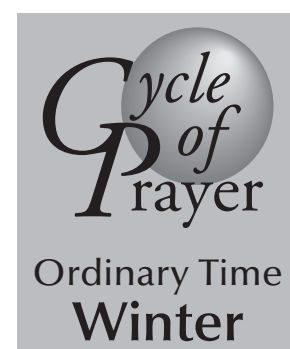
- How might a parish's chosen intention from the Cycle of Prayer be shared ecumenically both in terms of prayer and action.
- What regular liturgical celebrations in the parish could other denominations be invited to attend.

## Links

- Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity  
[[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/index.htm)]
- Resources the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
[[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/chrstuni/sub-index/index\\_weeks-prayer.htm](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/sub-index/index_weeks-prayer.htm)]
- Department for Dialogue and Unity [[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/unity](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/unity)]
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [[www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)]

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# The Sick and those who care for them

*especially on World Day of Prayer for the Sick — 11 February*

## Background

11 February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On this the Church all to pray and give attention to the sick and those who care for them. Each year the Holy Father writes a message.

## Prayer of the Faithful

*one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs*

- For all who are sick,  
may they be restored to fullness of health.
- For doctors, nurses and all who care the sick  
and the dying,  
may they bring Christ's love and compassion to all whom they care for.

## Prayer

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
the lasting health of all  
who believe in you,  
hear us as we ask your loving help  
for the sick;  
restore their health,  
that they may again offer joyful  
thanks in your Church.

*Roman Missal*

## Liturgical Texts

*may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics*

- Roman Missal: 32 For the Sick (838)
- Book of Blessings: Orders for the Blessing of the Sick (Chapter 2)
- Book of Blessings: Order for the Blessing of a New Hospital or Other Facility for the Care of the Sick (Chapter 17)

## Opportunities and Challenges

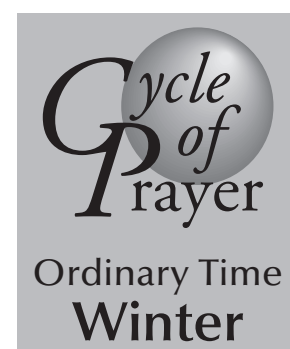
- Take copies of the parish bulletin to those who are sick and housebound.
- Ask the sick and the housebound to pray for the needs of the parish, maybe those preparing to receive Sacraments.
- What support is offered those who visit the sick and housebound?
- How can the parish through volunteers support the work of the local hospital and other healthcare centres.

## Links

- Message of the Holy Father for World Day for the Sick  
[[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/sick/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/sick/index_en.htm)]
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers  
[[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/hlthwork/](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/hlthwork/)]
- Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship - Healthcare Information  
[[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/citizenship/CRCInfo-Healthcare.htm](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/citizenship/CRCInfo-Healthcare.htm)]
- The Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics  
[[www.linacre.org](http://www.linacre.org)]
- Catholics in Healthcare  
[[www.catholicsinhealthcare.com](http://www.catholicsinhealthcare.com)]
- *When someone is ill* - a guide to Pastoral Care of the Sick  
[[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Rites/PCSGuide.pdf](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Rites/PCSGuide.pdf)]

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# Students and Teachers

*especially on Education day —  
3 Sundays before the 1st Sunday of Lent*

## Background

The day of prayer for Education is organised ecumenically by the Education agencies of the various denominations. It is celebrated on this day as the theme of readings in lectionary in the Anglican *Alternative Service Book* was education.

In the Catholic Church material is distributed by the Catholic Education Service. There may be a collection for the Agency on this Sunday.

## Prayer of the Faithful

*one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs*

- For the love of learning,  
may we all desire to grow in our faith in God and our knowledge of the world he created.
- For teachers, catechists and all who share what God has done;  
may they always be open to deepening their knowledge.

## Prayer

God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers.

For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding.

For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students.

*Book of Blessings*

## Liturgical Texts

*may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics*

- Book of Blessings: Orders for the Blessing of those appointed as Catechists (Chapter 4)
- Book of Blessings: Orders for the Blessing of Students and Teachers (Chapter 5)
- Book of Blessings: Order for the Blessing of a New School or University (Chapter 13)

## Opportunities and Challenges

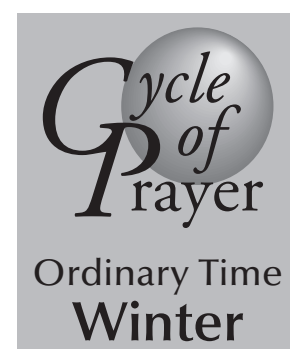
- What liturgical skills could be shared between school and parish? The sharing of parish's musical repertoire for example.
- The Liturgy Office produces a half-termly bulletin about the liturgy for schools: *Spirit of the Season*.

## Links

- Congregation for Catholic Education  
[[www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/)]
- Department for Catholic Education  
[[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/educ](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/educ)]
- Catholic Education Service [www.cesew.org.uk]
- *Spirit of the Season* — liturgy bulletin for schools  
[[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS)]

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# The Unemployed

*especially on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.*

## Background

The Day of Prayer for the Unemployed was organised by Church Action on Poverty. They have recently renamed their day as Poverty Action Sunday. Caritas-Social Action is the agency in the Catholic Church which acts as an umbrella for many diocesan and local organisations concerned with poverty and other social issues.

## Prayer of the Faithful

*one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs*

- For all seeking work or unable to work through disability and illness; may they place their trust in the God of hope and new beginnings.
- For politicians and all who work with the economy; may they always remember the poor and those who have least.

## Prayer

O God,  
the source of human dignity,  
in your image  
every person is fashioned  
and by your Son  
all people are redeemed.  
Make us honour  
the work of your hands,  
that we may reverence you in those  
whom the world considers least  
and serve you  
in all whom society neglects.

## Liturgical Texts

## Opportunities and Challenges

- Learn about Catholic Social Teaching — Find about the *livesimply* project.
- Make use of Caritas' Faith Reflections

## Links

- Caritas-Social Action [[www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk](http://www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk)]
- Church Action on Poverty [[www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)]
- The Common Good — Bishops' Statement [[www.catholicchurch.org.uk/citizenship/CRCInfo-CommonGood.htm](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/citizenship/CRCInfo-CommonGood.htm)]
- *livesimply* project [[www.livesimply.org.uk](http://www.livesimply.org.uk)]

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