

Prayer of the Faithful petition

For the people of Syria,
that God may strengthen
the resolve of leaders to end the fighting
and choose a future of peace.
We pray to the Lord

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have asked
that **9 June** be a Day of Prayer for Peace in Syria.

For more information: www.catholicnews.org.uk/pray-for-syria

The text of the Prayer for Peace is adapted from Catholics Confront Global Poverty - a collaborative effort of USCCB and Catholic Relief Services

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A Prayer for Peace in Syria



St Ephrem — 9 June 2017

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Why pray to St Ephrem?

For the needs of Syria, we pray to St Ephrem because he was a great theological doctor of the fourth century who understood the tradition of the Church in his native land and the needs of its people, having suffered social injustice himself. Then, when Syria was faced with famine and conflict, he volunteered to distribute food in an equitable way to those who needed it most and to encourage people to share what they had in the interests of the common good. St Ephrem died serving others; in 373AD, he caught the plague while ministering to the sick. His 'Hymns to Light' show a deep awareness through their expressions of their love of God for the support our brothers and sisters in Syria need in our own time:

*His glory shines upon the world
and enlightens the very depths of the abyss.
Death is annihilated, night has vanished,
and the gates of Sheol are broken.
Creatures lying in darkness from ancient times
are clothed in light.
he brings salvation and grants us life.
When he manifests himself,
the saints awaiting him in weariness and sorrow,
will go forth to meet him with lighted lamps."*

St Ephrem, Deacon & Doctor of the Church, pray for us.

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Prayer for Peace

Almighty eternal God, source of all compassion,
the promise of your mercy
and saving help fills our hearts with hope.
Hear the cries of the people of Syria;
bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
and comfort to those mourning the dead.
Empower and encourage Syria's neighbours
in their care and welcome for refugees.
Convert the hearts of those
who have taken up arms,
and strengthen the resolve of those
committed to peace.

O God of hope and Father of mercy,
your Holy Spirit inspires us
to look beyond ourselves and our own needs.
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.
Inspire the Church around the world
with compassion for the people of Syria,
and fill us with hope for a future of peace
built on justice for all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace and Light of the World,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

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