



Pax Christi,
St Joseph's,
Watford Way,
London NW4 4TY
020 8203 4884
info@paxchristi.org.uk

Peace Sunday - 15 January 2017

'Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace'

Dear Father,

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the World Peace Day. With his chosen theme, *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*, Pope Francis affirms the place of nonviolence - such as diplomacy, negotiation, and citizens' action - in preventing war and resolving conflicts. His message offers a timely opportunity for our parishes to explore the Catholic tradition of nonviolence which goes back to Jesus, and to develop ways to make Gospel nonviolence better known through our sacramental and education programmes, as well as an effective influence on our social justice work and political choices.

Our Peace Sunday booklet, enclosed with this mailing, provides bidding prayers, scripture and homily notes, as well as stories and activities. This and other resources, including the full World Peace Day message, will also be available on our website for ease of download and reproduction.

Pax Christi recognises that it is our members and supporters who put peace into action locally. We seek to be a key resource for Catholic Christians and others through our prayer and spirituality resources and through the clear direction we give in our campaigning and advocacy materials.

Among other things we have in the past year:

- Played a key role in a ground-breaking conference on Nonviolence and Just Peace, held in Rome in 2016, and co-sponsored with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. As part of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative we are developing ways to deepen an understanding of and commitment to active nonviolence within the Catholic community worldwide.
- Participated in 104 peace education workshops in schools and created a project offering Catholic spirituality INSET training to teachers.
- Hosted several performances of *Subversive Peacemakers* - presentations in words and music about the powerful witness of First World War Conscientious Objectors, and produced a *Way of the Cross* based on their experiences.
- Raised awareness about the impact of nuclear weapons in our world, by publishing an ecumenical briefing on the renewal of Trident and supporting a Lobby of Parliament and numerous prayer vigils around the time of the vote.
- Facilitated the World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel, producing prayer and campaign ideas and organising meetings and prayer events around the country.

All of this work is supported by a team of 4 staff members and volunteers. We have wonderful people resources but we do need financial resources too. I recognise your past generosity and ask you to support us again this year. It is all the more important as Pax Christi has made a deliberate choice not to be a charity in order to have the freedom and flexibility to take action which might otherwise be limited by constraints placed on charities.

With every blessing and good wishes,

+ Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP, National President of Pax Christi British Section

www.paxchristi.org.uk