

Extracts from some of the Peace Messages of Pope Francis

Has any one of us wept because of this situation [the plight of refugees who die while seeking safety] and others like it? Has any one of us grieved for the death of these brothers and sisters? ...We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion, 'suffering with' others: the globalization of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep!

Pope Francis, speaking in Lampedusa, Italy, July 2013

I appeal strongly for peace, an appeal which arises from the deep within me. How much suffering, how much devastation, how much pain has the use of arms carried in its wake in that martyred country, (Syria) especially among civilians and the unarmed! I think of many children will not see the light of the future! With utmost firmness I condemn the use of chemical weapons: I tell you that those terrible images from recent days are burned into my mind and heart. There is a judgment of God and of history upon our actions which are inescapable! Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war, violence begets violence.

Pope Francis, Angelus Message 1 September 2013

Among other things this war against evil entails saying "no" to the fratricidal hatred and falsehood that are used; saying "no" to violence in all its forms; saying "no" to the proliferation of weapons and to the illegal arms trade.

Pope Francis, Angelus Message, 8 September 2013

To be human means to care for one another! But when harmony is broken, a metamorphosis occurs: the person who is to be cared for and loved becomes an adversary to fight, to kill. What violence occurs at that moment, how many conflicts, how many wars have marked our history! ... Even today we let ourselves be guided by idols, by selfishness, by our own interests. We have perfected our weapons, our conscience has fallen asleep and we have sharpened our ideas to justify ourselves. Violence and war lead only to death. Violence and war are the language of death!

Pope Francis, St Peter's Square, Rome, September 2013

Spending on nuclear weapons squanders the wealth of nations...when these resources are squandered, the poor and the weak living on the margins of society pay the price.

Pope Francis, December 2014

Nuclear deterrence cannot be the basis for an ethics of solidarity and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states.

Pope Francis, December 2014

We ask for peace and freedom for the many men and women subject to old and new forms of enslavement on the part of criminal individuals and groups. Peace

and liberty for the victims of drug dealers, who are often allied with the powers who ought to defend peace and harmony in the human family. And we ask peace for this world subjected to arms dealers, who profit from the blood of men and women.

May the marginalized, the imprisoned, the poor and the migrants who are so often rejected, maltreated and discarded, the sick and the suffering, children, especially those who are victims of violence; all who today are in mourning, and all men and women of goodwill, hear the consoling and healing voice of the Lord Jesus: "Peace to you!" (*Lk 24:36*). "Fear not, for I am risen and I shall always be with you" (cf. Roman Missal, Entrance Antiphon for Easter Day).

Pope Francis, Easter, 2015

"Even in our time, the desire for peace and the commitment to build peace collide against the reality of many armed conflicts presently affecting our world," he said.

"They are a kind of third world war being fought piecemeal and, in the context of global communications, we sense an atmosphere of war."

The people of Sarajevo know well what pain war can bring, he said. "Today, dear brothers and sisters, the cry of God's people goes up once again from this city, the cry of all men and women of good will: war never again!"

Pope Francis, Sarajevo, September 2015

In order to seek solutions to the unique and terrible ` world war in instalments; which directly or indirectly a large part of human kind is presently undergoing, it helps us to think back in time.... We learn that to bring about true peace, it is necessary to bring people together concretely so as to reconcile peoples and groups... In a word, humanity needs to refurbish all the best available tools to help men and women of today to fulfil their aspirations for justice and peace. Accordingly, your thoughts on revitalising the tools of nonviolence and of active nonviolence in particular will be a needed and positive contribution.

Pope Francis, Message to Pax Christi International gathering, Rome April 2016

You can find more messages and Peace Encyclicals here
<http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/previous-world-peace-day-themes/>