

Focus

At the outset of another year, to help children make simple resolutions that can change their world - home, school, locality for the better.

Preparation

- A cut out dove for each student; pens, coloured pencils, string (*See template overleaf*)
- Large tree branch (or board) on which to hang the doves
- Peace Prayer written on large piece of card (*See text below - this is also available as a Prayer Card from Pax Christi*)
- Appropriate music / song

Assembly

1. **Short introduction** to the concept of New Year; new beginnings, starting afresh and the custom of resolution making. Engage children in discussion re the need for all of us to pray for peace and to be pro-active in creating it - each in his/her own setting. Can each of us make a New Year resolution that will 'give peace a chance'!



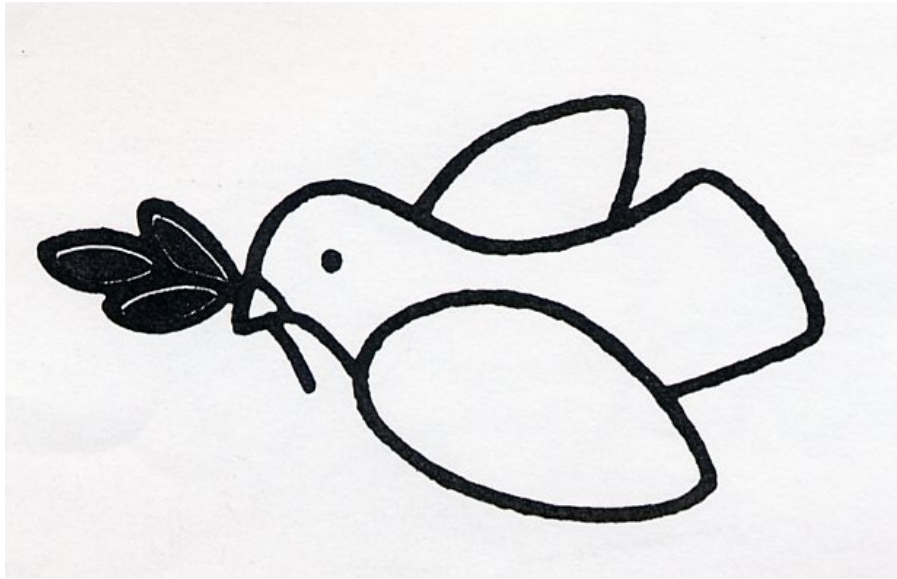
2. **Pray together**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
 Where there is injury, let me sow pardon.
 Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.
 Where there is despair, let me sow hope.
 Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled as to console,
 To be understood as to understand,
 To be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
 It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

St. Francis of Assisi

3. **Play some gentle music and invite** the children to think of a way by which he/she can to help create peace at home, in school or in the neighbourhood during this coming year.
4. **Brief sharing** (no discussion!)
5. **Children** write their resolutions on the previously cut out dove, decorate it and hang on the tree branch or board.
6. **Brief leader led discussion** on the outcome of the task and the means by which it can be evaluated from time to time.
7. **Children** invited to share a sign of peace with each other
8. **Conclusion:** Pray the Lord's Prayer together and/or appropriate song.



Pax Christi, St Joseph's Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY

phone: 020 8203 4884

info@paxchristi.org.uk

www.paxchristi.org.uk