



Prayers for Peace for Staff Briefing

For use near to Pax Christi Peace Sunday,
15 January 2017

*Each year the Bishops of England and Wales set aside the third Sunday of
January as a special day of prayer for peace*

Pope Francis's message for Peace Sunday this year is:

Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace

By choosing this theme Pope Francis wants to show a path of hope where:

- disputes may be settled by negotiation rather than through armed conflict
- the culture and identity of peoples are respected
- the opinion that some are morally superior to others is challenged

At the same time, however, it does not mean that one nation can remain indifferent to the tragedies of another. Rather it means a recognition of the primacy of diplomacy over the use of arms. The arms trade is so widespread yet generally underestimated.

Nonviolence as a political style can and must do much to stem this scourge. Education for peace is an essential part of this.



Special collections taken in parishes on Peace Sunday support the work of Pax Christi—the International Catholic Movement for Peace.

Find out about Pax Christi at www.paxchristi.org.uk

Prayer

Recognising the violence in our own hearts,
yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God,
let us seek to practice the nonviolence of Jesus:

by striving for peace within ourselves and seeking
to be peacemakers in our daily lives;

by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation
and violence;

by living conscientiously and simply so that we do
not deprive others of the means to live;

by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to
abolish war and the causes of war from our own
hearts and from the face of the earth.

God, we trust in your sustaining love and believe
that you will give us the grace to live out this prayer.

(Pax Christi USA, adapted)

