



Celebrate Peace
There is a new law!
Horrible nuclear weapons
are **illegal** now

People all over the world
have worked hard



to make the United Nations Treaty and the new international law

Pope Francis helped



A world of peace,
free from
nuclear weapons,



The new law will help us to get rid of nuclear weapons forever

Sometimes a dove means peace

Sometimes a rainbow means peace

In Japan, a bird called a crane means peace

Draw what peace looks like for you



We can celebrate peace!

*wave your hands
smile at everyone
peace feels good
say thank you to God*

Thank you for all
the people who
make good laws

Thank you for
peace



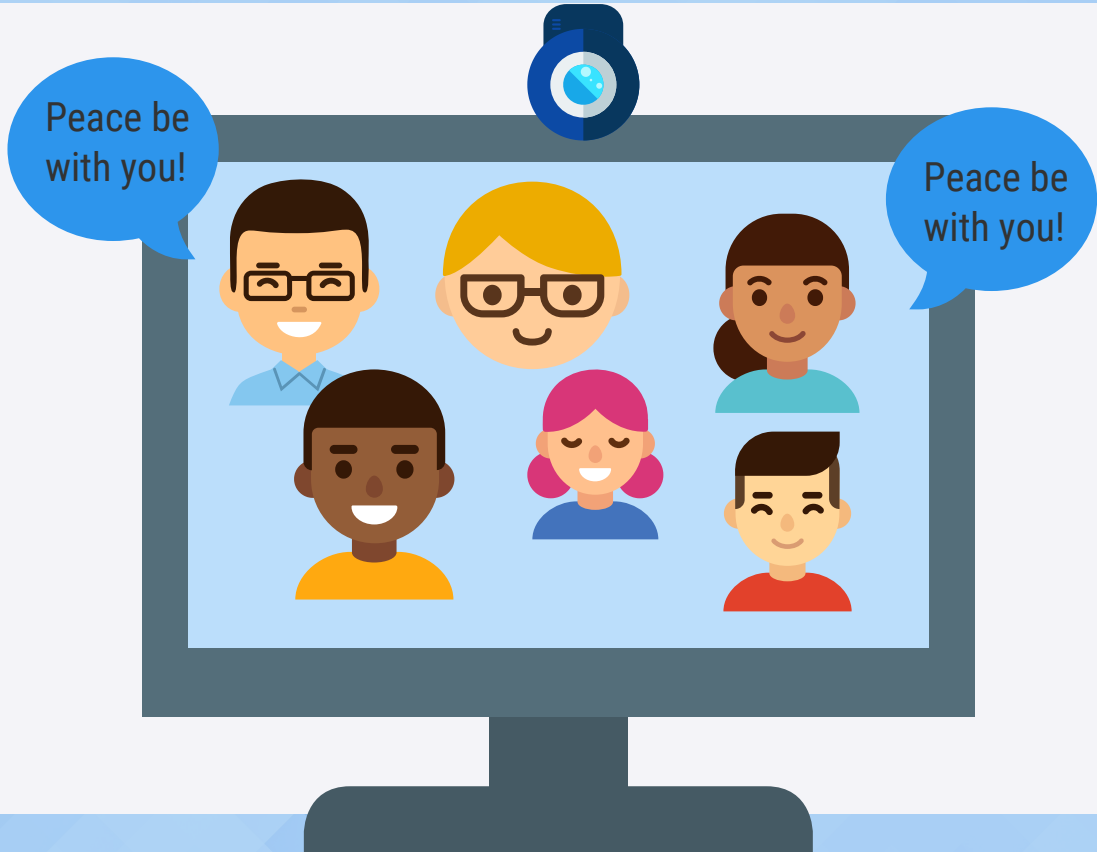
At Mass we say

Peace be with you

We can say

Peace be with you

to each other now



Notes for leaders

Context

In 2017 122 countries in the United Nations adopted The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons . 50 countries needed to sign and ratify the treaty for it to come into force. 50 countries have now ratified the treaty and so in 90 days time, the production and use of nuclear weapons will be banned under international law. Although not all countries have ratified the treaty, historically the banning of certain weapons has an influence over the behaviour and actions of other countries.

Source: https://www.icanw.org/how_the_tpnw_works and https://www.icanw.org/the_treaty.

Potential questions

What do they mean by international law?

International laws are rules and agreements between different countries that says what countries should and shouldn't do. (<https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/uphold-international-law/>) They apply in many countries at the same time, not just one, and are often about very important issues.

What are nuclear weapons?

Nuclear weapons are explosives (like bombs) and are very strong. They are called 'nuclear weapons' because of the way the explosion is created, made by very small particles but which create a lot of energy. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/44058739>)

What do nuclear weapons have to do with peace?

At Pax Christi we agree with Pope Francis that nuclear weapons are so dangerous and powerful, they makes the world less safe and friendly. We think that for the world to be a peaceful place, everyone needs to feel safe and happy, not worried or scared about nuclear weapons.

Notes for leaders

Outline

Page one: This page introduces that we are celebrating peace as a new international law has made nuclear weapons illegal. There may be some questions about what this means and some suggestions for how these could be answered are above. You may also want to see if the children can explain in their own words first. For many years, many people from all around the world have worked together to see this ban come into effect through advocacy and campaigning, such as writing to their leaders and raising awareness.

Page two: The Pope has also spoken out about nuclear weapons, calling them dangerous and saying that we can't have peace whilst we have them (<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-11/pope-in-hiroshima-use-and-possession-of-atomic-energy-for-war-i.html>). You might want to discuss the significance of the Pope saying this.

Page three: We believe that a world without nuclear weapons is a step towards a more peaceful world. On this page we ask the children to draw what peace looks like to them (some suggestions are given).

Page four: We ask the children to think about how else they could celebrate peace and perhaps they could share this with the group.

Page five: We think about how we offer the sign of peace to each other during Mass and ask the children to share that sign of peace now in a way that is appropriate, perhaps by waving or the peace sign.

Issues such as nuclear weapons can be seen as controversial and difficult to talk about. If you have any questions, please contact us at education@paxchristi.org.uk . Alternatively, other helpful resources may be found at <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/teaching-controversial-issues-a-guide-for-teachers-620473> , <https://cnduk.org/education/> and <https://peacemakers.org.uk/resources>