



# PEACE SUNDAY 2026



## Introduction to Peace Sunday

In January each year, Pax Christi England and Wales promote the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace (1<sup>st</sup> January). Pax Christi is a Catholic movement for peace, working for peace, nonviolence and reconciliation in England and Wales and all over the world. We encourage parishes, schools and communities to join us in sharing this message.

This year, the title of the message is 'Peace be with you all: Towards an "unarmed and disarming" peace'. Where else do we hear the words 'Peace be with you'?

In the message, Pope Leo XIV writes about Jesus bringing peace. This peace is like a light in the darkness and we are called to also be lights, bringing peace into the world. We are called to be open and gentle to others, to listen to one another, to build trust with one another and to have hope. Pope Leo writes about the need to build peace within ourselves, but also to work to build peace between others and between countries.

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## Opening Prayer

Creator God,

Thank you for your gift of peace.

May we be peacemakers, sharing this gift of peace with others.

Help us to support each other in working for peace.

May we listen to others, be kind to people and help those who feel scared and alone.

We pray that we can be signs of hope and that we may always remember that we have hope in you.

Amen



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## First Reading Isaiah 49:3,5-6

The first reading is from the book of Isaiah. Isaiah was a prophet and often spoke about Jesus coming one day in the future. In this reading we hear the idea of the Messiah, that we know is Jesus, being a light for all the world, there to save and give hope to everyone.

### **Discussion**

- What gives us hope?
  - What do you hope for in the future?
  - How can we spread hope to others?
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## Gospel John 1:29-34

In this Gospel reading, John the Baptist is talking about Jesus. He is saying that Jesus is the Son of God and that he saw the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus in the shape of a dove. A dove is also a symbol of peace.

### **Discussion**

- Can you think of other symbols of peace?
  - John the Baptist was a witness, seeing Jesus for who he was and sharing the message. How could we be witnesses for peace? How can we share the message of peace?
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## Prayers

Dear God,

We pray for peace inside of ourselves. We pray that we may be able to share this peace with others and be signs of hope.

Amen

Dear God,

We pray for peace in our homes, schools, churches and communities.

May we be kind to one another, learn to listen to one another and work



together to bring peace to the world.

Amen

Dear God,

We pray for peace in our world. May everyone live in safety, free from fear and harm.

Amen

Dear God,

We pray for those who are witnesses for peace. We pray for those that work for peace in the world, that you may give them strength and hope.

Amen

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## Activities

- You can use the accompanying worksheet as part of your session. It can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/ypp75amw>
- For Peace Sunday 2026 we have produced an 'Activities and Prayers for Children' resource, with activities exploring peace, being peacemakers and conflict resolution. The resource can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/mwfvw6bz>
- In his message, Pope Leo XIV writes about people who have been witnesses to peace. Ask the children to think of people they know who have been witnesses to peace, or when they have been witnesses themselves. Share these stories creatively, perhaps by acting them out or creating posters to display in church.
- Create cards thanking people for being peacemakers or signs of hope. You might like to order the cards available from the Pax Christi shop: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/product/new-children-prayer-card/>