Pray for the Children in Palestine and Israel

'Behold, Children are a Gift from the Lord.'
Psalm 127:3



Children in Palestine

Photo Credit: Ann Farr

Written on the palm of your hand

Prayer for children

Living God, we bless you for the gift of life
in the very being of children:
innocent joy playing at the waves' edge
and in the marketplace – piping and dancing –
energy and laughter, carrying water and sharing bread.
Thank you for family hopes that children embody;
help they can give as well as receive:
care for small sisters and brothers,
answers to the prayers of their elders,
giving meaning for whole communities:
a generation growing, flourishing like olive trees.

Loving God, in your presence we rage
at fragile lives lost,
lies politicians tell,
our own complicity;
we grieve for wickedness, waste,
hunger and fear, homes no longer there,
children killed while carrying water and bread –
stories too hard for us to bear –
denying our common humanity.

How can we believe that you take sides –
giving orders to starve, harm and destroy –
a God of genocide?
No! We believe in your constant love,
that we are all your children, and
that each child's name is written on the palm of your hand.

Copyright: Jan Sutch Pickard

What can I do?

We are all invited to pray, act and stand in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land

PRAYER

Use the prayer on this leaflet, at home, in your church, school and community (Other prayer cards are available from Pax Christi).

Include bidding prayers at Mass; hold a special vigil/service on significant occasions such as the Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, Nakba Day in May or during Advent and Lent.

SOLIDARITY AND ACTION

Arrange an event to share stories; **invite** a speaker; **watch** a film; **enjoy** Palestinian food; **sell** Palestinian produce (for example on an Advent/Christmas stall).

Buy Zaytoun products and **sponsor** olive trees: https://zaytoun.uk

Sign up to the Just Peace Coalition and take part in the Time to Act Campaign: www.justpeacecoalition.com

Read, discuss and respond to the Call from Palestinian Christians in
'Kairos II, A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide'.

Write to your MP and ask them to:
work for an end to all military cooperation with Israel and an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Resources for prayer, information, action

Pax Christi

https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/world-week-for-peace-in-pi/

WCC, World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel

Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel – EAPPI

https://www.quaker.org.uk/action/palestine-and-israel/eappi

Kairos Palestine II document booklets available from

https://sabeel-kairos-uk.sumupstore.com/

Parents' Circle - Families Forum

https://www.theparentscircle.org/en/homepage-en/

Embrace the Middle East: https://embraceme.org/

For info and photos of the children and community in Holy Family Parish, Gaza, see: Gabriel Romanelli's page on Facebook

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem: lpj.org

More copies of this flyer can be ordered from Pax Christi. 25 copies for £4 plus postage

PAX CHRISTI
St Joseph's, Watford Way,
London NW4 4TY
020 8203 4884
paxchristi.org.uk