Are you ready for Peace Sunday on 19 January 2020?

Each year Peace Sunday gives Pax Christi members a major opportunity to share our hope that God’s promise of peace will prosper in the new year ahead. Pope Francis’ theme for 2020 is: “

In this Justpeace we offer some ideas to get you going with plans for your own church or local community. Justpeace subscribers will find in their mailing copies of the Peace Sunday materials that we send out to all the parishes, including the booklet with liturgy ideas, stories, and children’s activities, for you to pick up and use.

So what can I do?

Put up the Peace Sunday poster (see reverse) and talk to people about your experience of Pax Christi to generate interest in advance of the day. Remember 2020 will be the 75th anniversary of the foundation of Pax Christi so it is a special year.

Approach your parish priest (and any other priests you know). They will have received Peace Sunday materials in the post. Talk to them about the date, the liturgy booklet, further resources available from Pax Christi. Ask about a collection or a parish donation for Pax Christi. If you feel less confident, find someone to go with you to speak to the priest.

Offer to help as generously as you are able: you can speak at Mass; organise a literature stall in the church porch/hall; take responsibility for managing the collection; create a peace display; provide resources for children’s liturgy/schools. A school assembly on Pope Francis’ theme will be available on our website: http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/assemblies/

Enlist the help of others who have the skills you need. They may be full of ideas and really glad you asked them. You may wish to prompt the priest to have the parish pay for additional resources. Pax Christi keeps the costs of these low and they really help to amplify Pope Francis’ peace message. Order resources in plenty of time so you feel prepared.

We provide a script for you to read at Mass on Peace Sunday. Find it on our website and adapt it or use your own words. Practice with a trusted friend if you feel anxious. Having someone local speak about Peace Sunday is what makes the biggest difference to the support we receive - so please challenge yourself to do it!

Last year one parish group held a fish and chip supper as a Pax Christi fundraiser in lieu of a parish collection. Another recycled the Christmas tree and hung it with peace messages contributed by parishioners. What might work in your parish?

Can you involve local press? Ecumenical friends? Have you thought about all age groups? Using social media?

Take pictures of your stall/display/talk and/or of people talking together about peace because of the Peace Sunday work you have done. Display the pictures and reports afterwards to celebrate the fruits of your efforts. Send details to the Pax Christi office too. We appreciate hearing how you celebrated Peace Sunday.

Any leftover resources? Think about placing them in libraries, coffee shops, church porches, donate to bric-a-brac collections, offer them to parish visitor teams who can take them to people they are visiting. Use them creatively to continue spreading the message of peace.

The Pax Christi office team, Theresa, Fausta, Aisling and Rachel, wish all our members, volunteers and supporters a lovely Christmas, celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace.

You will find a blank Christmas card in this mailing. We invite you to write a warm message and send it to a prisoner of conscience: https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-getting-started, or someone detained in this country: https://www.jrsuk.net/news/christmas-card-appeal-messages-of-solidarity/, ask a parish visitor to deliver it to someone they are visiting, or take it to a homeless shelter.

Allow that blank card to inspire you!
Celebrate Peace Sunday!
19 January 2020

Pax Christi, International Catholic Movement for Peace
020 8203 4884
www.paxchristi.org.uk

Illustration by Sr Sheila Gosney JFm

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