

World Peace Day Message for 2021: A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace

We have in Pope Francis someone who communicates well about peace, reconciliation and nonviolence. To lift our spirits in these challenging times, here are some highlights.

Pope Francis, Servant of Peace

A Message for Pax Christi International

To mark our 75th anniversary, Pope Francis prayed: *'... that this anniversary will be an occasion for the members to renew their commitment to be a leaven of social peace, grounded in justice and directed by the charity of the gospel.'*

Follow our Pax Christi 'Advent to Peace Sunday' blog on our website. There will be reflections and prayers written or sourced by our members to further inspire you to be 'a leaven': <https://paxchristi.org.uk/advent-reflections/>

Fratelli Tutti 2020

'... with increased globalization, what might appear as an immediate or practical solution for one part of the world initiates a chain of violent and often latent effects that end up harming the entire planet and opening the way to new and worse wars in the future. ... Let us not remain mired in theoretical discussions, but touch the wounded flesh of the victims. ..Let us ask the victims themselves. ... Let us hear the true stories of these victims of violence, look at reality through their eyes, and listen with an open heart to the stories they tell.'

We work to amplify the voices of people of peace in Palestine and Israel. Pax Christi members and friends met online this summer with our Palestinian partners, to hear from them about their lives and the impact of the proposed annexation.

Laudato Si' 2015

'War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons.'

We campaign for an end to nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will enter into force on 22 January 2021. We continue to press church leaders and our government to engage with the Treaty. With our partners, we challenge banks and pension providers to stop investing in nuclear weapons: <https://moneyoutofnukes.wordpress.com/>



Pope Francis greets refugees held on the island of Lesbos, in 2016. Foto©Vatican Media

World Peace Day 2017 Nonviolence as a Style of Politics for Peace

'When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peace-making. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms.'

With the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, we launched study sessions called 'Making Active Nonviolence Our Way of Life'. We marked 'Days of Action on Nonviolence' for the first time. Many members committed to 'carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus: by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life; by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence; by persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart; by living conscientiously and simply so that I 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 my own heart and from the face of the earth'.

Peace Sunday is 17 January 2021. For ideas and resources visit <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-Sunday-2021/>

Christmas greetings to all our members, volunteers and supporters.

Peace be with you.