



Peace Sunday 2021- “ A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace”

Pope Francis’ World Peace Day Message 2021

Each year the Pope releases a message for the World Day of Peace on 1st January. This year the message was titled “A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace”.

On the Second Sunday of Ordinary time, this year 17th January 2021, Pax Christi England and Wales promotes the peace message as part of its work for peace.

The message this year focuses on the need for us to care for each other if we want to build a peaceful world and “combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation”.

This idea of justice, love and care is found in the Bible, in the life of Jesus and in Church teaching. The Pope calls on us to live out these values and to be “peacemakers ...prepared to work boldly and creatively”.

What do you think Pope Francis means by “A Culture of Care”?

We will now look at some quotes from the message to explore what the Pope has said and what it might mean for us. Each quote is followed by some questions.

“Peace, justice and care for creation are three inherently connected questions, which cannot be separated”

What do you think peace, justice and care of creation are?
Why can they not be separated?

“become a prophetic witness of the culture of care, working to overcome the many existing social inequalities”

What inequalities do you see in our world today?
How can you be a witness to a culture of care?

“How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ...the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace... the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care.”

What would your priorities be to make the world more peaceful?
How can we show on a global level that we care?

“schools and universities – and, in some respects, the communications media – are also responsible for education. They are called to pass on a system of values based... Education is one of the pillars of a more just and fraternal society”

What can you do in your school community to show you care?
Do you agree that the media is important in making society more peaceful? Why?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

May we all work together and play our part in creating a world of compassion, peace and justice.

May we always remember that everyone we meet is our brother or sister. May we learn how to care for them and show that we accept them for who they are.

Grant us the courage to challenge injustice and become peacemakers.

Amen

Write your own prayer for peace based on the Pope's Peace Message

Extension activities

- 1) What would your peace message to the world be? Write a paragraph explaining what you think would make the world more peaceful and why you think it's important.
- 2) Create a poster to promote the Pope's World Peace Day Message. You can find a link to the message below or some download some more quotes here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-Sunday-2021/>

Each year Pax Christi promotes Peace Sunday with a range of resources. Our resources can be found on our website at: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

The quotations in this resource come from Pope Francis' Message for the 54th World Day of Peace, "A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace", the Vatican, 8th December 2020. Available at: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html