



CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE DAYS OF ACTION

21 September – 2 October
2021

Nonviolence is something you live and a tool for social change.

Jasmin, The Philippines

Nonviolence operates in the now but pays attention to what happened in the past and sows a vision for the future. *Sarah, USA*

An invitation to See, Judge, Act

For a second year we're promoting the Catholic Nonviolence Days, a time to think about, pray, and act for peace and nonviolence. It's a time when we can be in solidarity with Pax Christi members around the world.

We begin on International Peace Day, 21 September, and end on 2 October, International Day of Nonviolence and Gandhi's birthday.

We offer ideas and resources. Take a look and pick one or two that best suit your situation. There are lots of support resources on the Pax Christi website.

- How do you **SEE** nonviolence being practised in your community, the world?
- What do you think of, how do you **JUDGE**, the power and strength of nonviolence as a way of life and as a tool?
- How can you **ACT** on this, sharing your views with others, inviting others to join you in celebrating nonviolence and praying the Vow of Nonviolence?



And then... keep going!
There are all-year-round opportunities to reflect, act, and celebrate the power of nonviolence.



Your pick and mix menu of ideas

Individuals

Order and read *Advancing Nonviolence*. An accompanying study guide divides the book into themes. Pass the book on to someone else.

Start a **scrap book of nonviolent stories** local/national that you come across during the week. Use this as a starting point for conversations with family and friends.

Ask for more copies of this leaflet to pass on to parishes, schools, groups, suggesting that they too can celebrate these days.

As a parent, grandparent, governor or teacher **ask that the message of peace and nonviolence** be shared in prayer times/assemblies.

Offer a 'peace week' in school. This could include cooperative games, children relating stories of their own peace hero/heroine, planting seeds as a commitment to care of the earth and hope for the future.

Schools

Watch the series of short videos (and powerpoints, see *Resources*) that **discuss the meaning, and planning for non-violence**. What insights might these offer your situation?

Read the **Seven Stories of Nonviolence** in *Advancing Nonviolence* p.33. Do they help us see how our personal/ Church resources, space, skills, personnel could be better used to develop a fuller understanding of nonviolence?

Is there a public space near you... a memorial, a place where violence has taken place, a military building, where you could hold a **silent vigil for peace**, with simple messages on nonviolence, ending with the Vow of Nonviolence?

Groups / Family

Offer to **run the 5-session course** Nonviolence as a Way of Life (*based on the 2017 World Peace Day message*) in the run-up to the Days of Nonviolence.

Invite your parish to **re-post the Pax Christi Facebook and Twitter** posts during the Days of Nonviolence.

Invite your youth group, catechists, women's group to take each of the **4 calls of the Vow of Nonviolence** and talk about what it means to them. Bring them and others together on 2 October to share this and pray the Vow.

Parishes

Be encouraged—local and global action ideas



AUSSTELLUNG FRIEDENSSTIFTER



- In Osnabrook, undaunted by COVID, Pax Christi members created an outdoor exhibition of peacemakers including Saint Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King and more.
 - Miriam College in The Philippines invited students to create a powerpoint of their own 'Peace Hero' and shared this in school and on social media. (see Resources)
- Pax Christi EW made videos available for individuals and groups to use to stimulate discussion on what nonviolence means.
 - Daily posts were made on FB and Twitter, like this one, which many people shared.
 - We held an online service on 2 October and prayed the Vow of Nonviolence together.



- In Hitchen, Pax Christi member Ann Milner organised a silent vigil and three prayer services on nonviolence themes.
- Pax Christi Scotland held an online event on 2 October with speakers on the themes of divestment from nuclear weapons, the language of violence / nonviolence and domestic violence.

Share your actions and stories

Telling your story, sharing what you did and what worked well is an important action in itself. We can all make better use of photographs, Facebook, Twitter and ZOOMS. Here you can find some great tips to help you do even better this year. <https://tinyurl.com/httjapkv>

PLEASE send them to us too: info@paxchristi.org.uk twitter.com/paxchristiEW
facebook.com/PaxChristiEW instagram.com/paxchristi_/

An all-year-round opportunity

Jul-Aug	Sept-Oct	Nov-Dec
<p>Gather a team to start planning the Days of Nonviolence.</p> <p>Offer a 'menu' of activities, for individuals, family, community, school or parish.</p>	<p>Renew your commitment to nonviolence on International Day of Nonviolence. (2 October)</p> <p>Find a way to show the links between nonviolence and care for creation. Use this to plan a response/message for the COP 26 gathering. (1–12 Nov)</p>	<p>Mark the feast of St Martin of Tours to reflect on conscientious objection / non-cooperation to violence and war today. (11 Nov)</p> <p>Host a day-long Advent retreat on nonviolence using the resources / videos on the Pax Christi/CNI website.</p>
Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-June
<p>Celebrate Peace Sunday in your community / parish. (January 16 in 2022)</p> <p>Offer the 5 sessions Making Nonviolence a Way of Life course.</p>	<p>Share stories of women and nonviolence on International Women's Day. (8 March)</p> <p>Host <i>Advancing Nonviolence</i> discussion groups as a Lenten project. Study guide available.</p>	<p>Celebrate the feast of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter. (21 May)</p> <p>Celebrate others who continue to refuse to cooperate with war on International Conscientious Objectors' Day. (15 May)</p>

Resources

Advancing Nonviolence and study guide: <https://tinyurl.com/AdvancingNonviolence>

5-session Course <https://tinyurl.com/NonviolenceSessions>

For schools: Pax Christi has a wide range of assemblies, lessons and other resources here <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/>

Vow of Nonviolence <https://tinyurl.com/NonviolenceVow>

Stories of Peace People/ Communities <https://tinyurl.com/PeopleStories>

Films and PowerPoints <https://tinyurl.com/EducationFilms>

Arrange to show the film *The Third Harmony*: nonviolence and the new story of human nature. <https://thirdharmony.org/#content>

Catholic Nonviolence Initiative <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>