



CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE DAYS OF ACTION

21 September – 2 October
2022

*Blessed is every step
towards nonviolence*

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 third 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?

Groups / Family

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?

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

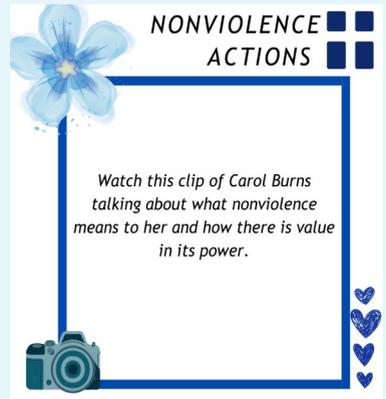


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- In Osnabrook, undaunted by COVID, Pax Christi members created an outdoor exhibition of peacemakers including Saint Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King and more.
- Miriam College in The Philippines invited students to create a powerpoint of their own 'Peace Hero' and shared this in school and on social media. (see Resources)

- Pax Christi EW and Australia showed the film *The Third Harmony* which highlights the power and creativity of nonviolence. Details overleaf.
- Daily posts were made on FB and Twitter, like this one, which many people shared.
- Pax Christi partners in Burundi held an event with young people. After a short refresher session on nonviolence they reflected on the Vow of Nonviolence



- 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 the theme of *Climate, weapons of mass destruction - and ethics for peace* involving Pax Christi International's advocacy officer Alice Kooij, and Susi Snyder from PAX.

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>Mark the Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel. 15 - 22 September, theme: <i>Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine</i>. https://tinyurl.com/3fddjupj</p> <p>Renew your commitment to nonviolence on International Day of Nonviolence. (2 October)</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 15 in 2023)</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/>