

Advent Week 2 – Praying for Peace

Prepare a Sacred Space themed on peace around the Advent Wreath.

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and Of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

L: Peace be with you R. And with your spirit.

Student 1: We gather today especially in this season of Advent, in solidarity with people who suffer because of war. (here, if you wish name a place(s) in the world you would like to pray for) We ask that our prayer today would open our hearts to the images and stories that we have seen across the TV. As followers of Christ, we are called to be people of peace, We are called to be a light for the people who are in need.

Student 2: These numbers of dead and injured are not only figures. These numbers represent parents, uncles aunts, brothers, sisters, young children and teenagers. Those who are suffering are members of God's family. We in (name your school) understand 'Peace as not merely the word, but a real and concrete action' and today we pray for our abandoned and excluded brothers and sisters, to those who suffer hunger and to all the victims of violence.

We now listen to a Gospel story:

Student 3: But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Student 4: But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Reflection

But who is my neighbour? We often respond to that question by saying: "My neighbours are all the people I am living with on this earth, especially those around me. When Jesus tells the story of the good Samaritan to answer the question "Who is my neighbour?" he ends the by asking: The neighbour, Jesus makes clear, is not the poor man laying on the road beaten, and half dead, but the Samaritan who crossed the road, "bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them, ... lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him." My neighbour is the one who crosses the road for me! We are called to be neighbours.

Prayers of the Faithful

Student 5: That the Lord will bring peace to the troubled parts of our world (name countries you wish to be included in this prayer) that justice and human rights will be respected by those caught up in violence.

Lord hear us...

Student 6: "That families and children who are affected by the violence and bloodshed areas of war, will receive the peace this Christmas time and that there will be an end to hatred and violence.

Lord hear us...

Student 7: We unite our voices with theirs, and pray as Jesus taught his disciples for all time: Our Father ...

Closing prayer: St. Ignatius of Loyola

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.