



# PEACE SUNDAY 2023



No one can be saved alone.

Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace

## What is Peace Sunday?

We celebrate Peace Sunday in January each year. On Peace Sunday, Pax Christi England and Wales, a Catholic peace movement, shares the Pope's World Day of Peace message. Each year the message is different, and this year the message is called 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace'.

- Why do you think we celebrate Peace Sunday?
- What do you think the message might be about?
- What do you think it means by 'embarking together on paths of peace'?

Some words to help you are:

- Combatting: to fight, battle, stop something bad
- Embarking: to begin something, often a journey





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## **What is the message about?**

Over the last few years with Covid-19 people have felt very scared. For many people daily life completely changed and in some cases life became much harder, particularly for those most in need.

Pope Francis says that we should now look at what we have learnt and what we could do differently to build a better world. We need to remember that we need one another. When there is unfairness and inequality in the world, that creates conflict and fighting. Pope Francis asks us to think about how we can make the world a better place. How do we make sure that everyone is cared for, that everyone is treated fairly, that we live peacefully and care for creation? By doing this we will be building God's kingdom.



**How do you think we could show we care for others and creation? How could we work for peace?**



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## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

In the second reading, St Paul is writing to the church in a place called Corinth. He is greeting them and wishing them God's peace.

## **The Gospel: John 1:29-34**

In this Gospel reading we see John the Baptist telling people about Jesus. John says that Jesus is the Son of God. In the Gospel last week, you might have heard that John baptised Jesus. When Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit came down on him as a dove. A dove is also a symbol of peace.



- What other peace symbols, images or words do you know ?
- John the Baptist, St Paul and Pope Francis have all taught people about God's message. What would you tell people in your church about how they could work for peace and show they care for other people and creation? How could you share the message?



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## Activities

- Draw a dove and decorate it. Around the dove you can write or draw of what you think it means to work for peace.
- Find some hymns about peace and sing them together. You could create some actions to go with the song.
- Send a card to someone who you think works for peace, thanking them for what they do. You could use the card from our shop: <https://tinyurl.com/tcdm7wfz>
- Fill in the worksheet associated with this liturgy looking at paths of peace: <https://tinyurl.com/yd4xz7a5>. How can you share the message of peace in your family, church, school...
- Have a look at the *Activities and Prayers for Children* sheet on our website for more ideas: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Peace-Sunday-Activities-for-Children-1.pdf>



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## Prayer

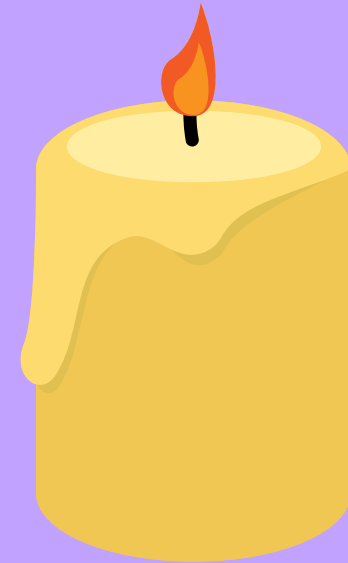
Dear God

We thank you for giving us your peace.

Help us to spread peace at home and at school  
by loving and caring for one another  
even when we don't agree.

Help us to spread peace  
by sharing our time with those  
who are lonely and who need a friend.

Help us to spread peace  
by thinking and praying for  
children who have no food  
or who are frightened and live in fear.



Let us pray every day for  
peace  
for our families, our friends  
and ourselves.

Amen