

Prayer for Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Theme: *World Peace*

Focus:

Light a candle...Spend a minute or two in silence.
Become aware of God's presence in and around you.

Opening Prayer:

God Our Creator,
you made the earth a peaceful garden.
Show us the way to restore peace
wherever it has been broken by violence and injustice.
Forgive us for the times we have used religious language
to foster greater hatred and division:
or when we have been silent in the face of peoples' suffering and pain.
Bring healing to the lives of those who have been shattered by violence.
Give us a new spirit of dialogue, reconciliation, and peace.
We ask this in your name. Amen

Reading: The Book of Isaiah 58: 6-7, 10

This is the fast that pleases me:
to break unjust fetters,
to let the oppressed go free,
to share your bread with the hungry
and shelter the homeless poor:
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness.

Sharing

1. Say aloud a word or phrase that speaks to you.
Choose someone to read the passage aloud again.
2. Take a minute to reflect on how you help to create peace in your family/neighbourhood/work/parish.
Briefly share with the person next to you

Prayer of Intercession

Response: Grant us, God of freedom and peace, a vision of your world as you would have it.

For a world where the oppressed and subjugated are set free, and walk hand in hand with their former oppressors; **R/**

For a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; **R/**

For a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; **R/**

For a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. **R/**

Personal intentions...**R/**

Closing prayer:

O God, you have given all peoples one common origin, and your will is to gather them as one family in yourself. Fill our hearts with the fire of your love and the desire to ensure justice for all our sisters and brothers. Help us to see that by sharing the good things of creation, we may secure justice and equality for every human being, and a human society built on love and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(Adapted from Praying for Peace A selection of prayers and reflections. Pax Christi Aotearoa 2018)