

Prayers for Peace during a Time of War

A PRAYER FOR PEACE BY POPE FRANCIS

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years
to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms.
How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced?
how much blood has been shed?
how many lives have been shattered?
how many hopes have been buried?
But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid!
Grant us peace, teach us peace;
guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts,
and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost".
Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love,
you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace;
enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.
Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens
who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace,
our trepidation into confident trust,
and our quarreling into forgiveness.
Keep alive within us the flame of hope,
so that with patience and perseverance
we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.
In this way may peace triumph at last,
and may the words "division," "hatred," and "war"
be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands.
Renew our hearts and minds,
so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother,"
and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!
Amen.

SUGGESTED MASS TEXTS

As the liturgical day allows, parishes may consider using the following Mass texts.

Masses for Various Needs and Occasions

30. For the Preservation of Peace and Justice (for readings, see *Lectionary #887-891*)
31. In Time of War or Civil Disturbance (for readings, see *Lectionary #887-891*)
32. For Refugees and Exiles (for readings, see *Lectionary #927-931*)

SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS

- For leaders of nations: that they may promote diplomacy over war, justice over oppression, and equality over dominance, we pray...
- For our allies and our enemies: that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, they may learn to work together for justice that brings true and lasting peace, we pray...
- For all those working to reduce tension in Eastern Europe: that God will bring forth new understanding of one another's concerns and open new paths for justice and peace, we pray...
- For all those in military service: that God will give them courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice, we pray...
- For Peace: that the Spirit will renew the dedication of those working for peace and help all to work together to defeat the common enemies of disease and poverty, we pray...

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE USCCB

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayers-time-war>