

Peace on Earth

especially on 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background

The World Day of Prayer for Peace is marked on 1 January. As this day is when the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God and it is the beginning of the new year in England and the day is transferred to 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. There may be a collection for the work of Pax Christi.

The day of prayer for Racial Justice is organised by the ecumenical Churches' Commission for Racial Justice. Within the Catholic Church material is distributed by Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) for whom a collection may be taken on this day.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For peace between nations, a lasting peace with justice.
- For tolerance and respect, for an openness to neighbours and strangers.

Mass Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- 30. For the Preservation of Peace and Justice

Prayer

*O God of peace, who are peace itself
and whom a spirit of discord
cannot grasp,
nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart
may persevere in what is good
and that those in conflict
may forget evil and so be healed.*

Roman Missal

Opportunities and Challenges

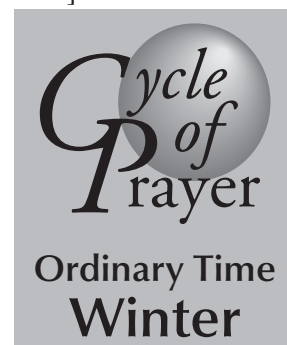
- Places of conflict may often be mentioned in the Prayer of the Faithful what opportunities are there for finding out more about what is involved.
- Read the Pope's message for the World Day of Prayer for Peace.
- Keep up to date with the statements of the Holy See and the Bishops' Conference.
- How well do those who minister to the assembly represent the diversity present in the parish?
- The use of music from around the world can both remind us that we belong to a worldwide Church and give us fresh insight into our beliefs.
- Invite different ethnic groups within the parish to contribute to an evening of food and entertainment.

Links

- Holy Father's Message for World Day of Prayer for Peace [www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm]
- Department for International Affairs — Press Releases & Statements [www.catholic-ew.org.uk/international/DeptPressReleasesandStatements.htm]
- Pax Christi [www.paxchristi.org.uk]
- Catholic Association for Racial Justice [http://www.carj.co.uk/]

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Christian Unity

*especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:
18–25 January.*

Background

The Week of was originally begun in 1908 by the American Episcopalian clergyman Paul Wattson who later became a Catholic. The Week begins on 18 January and ends on 25 January—the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Material for the Week of Prayer is prepared in collaboration by Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and The Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. Each year this material is produced by Christians in a different country.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For unity among the churches, a unity founded on truth and compassion.
- For the churches to find a common voice, to speak on matters that affect the whole of society.

Prayer

*May your people grow constantly
in love of the truth
and devote themselves with zeal
to perfect unity among Christians.*

cf. Roman Missal

Mass Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- 17. For the Unity of Christians

Opportunities and Challenges

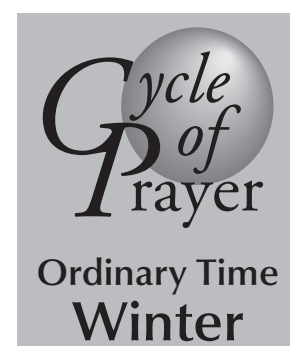
- How might a parish's chosen intention from the Cycle of Prayer be shared ecumenically both in terms of prayer and action.
- What regular liturgical celebrations in the parish could other denominations be invited to attend.

Links

- Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity
[www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/index.htm]
- Resources the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
[www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/sub-index/index_weeks-prayer.htm]
- Department for Dialogue and Unity [www.catholic-ew.org.uk/unity]
- Churches Together in Britain and Ireland [www.ctbi.org.uk]

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Victims of Human Trafficking

especially on the feast of St Josephine Bakhita — 8 February.

Background

St Josephine Bakhita is the Sudanese Saint who at the age of nine was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She suffered terribly at the hands of her kidnappers so much so that she forgot her birth name. Her kidnappers gave her the name 'Bakhita' which means 'Fortunate'.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For all who are victims of human trafficking, may they know wholeness and safety.
- For all who work with victims of human trafficking, may they be agents of mercy and seekers of justice.

Liturgical Texts

- Roman Missal: 43. For those held in captivity
- Book of Blessings: Order for the Blessing of a Victim of Crime or Oppression (Chapter 2)

Prayer

*O God,
who led Saint Josephine Bakhita
from abject slavery
to dignity of being your daughter and a
bride of Christ,
grant, we pray, that by her example
we may show constant love
for the Lord Jesus crucified,
remaining steadfast in charity
and prompt to show compassion..*

Opportunities and Challenges

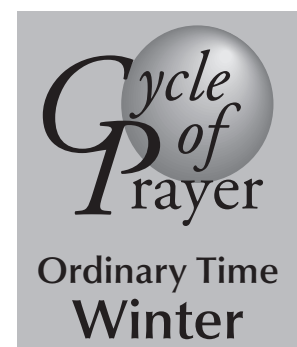
- Find out about any local projects to support the victims of human trafficking.

Links

- Catholic Church in England and Wales — Human Trafficking
[<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Jan-March-2013/Human-Trafficking>]
- Vatican Conference on Combating Human Trafficking
[<http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Features-2012/April-June-2012/Combating-Trafficking>]

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The Sick and those who care for them

especially on World Day of Prayer for the Sick — 11 February

Background

11 February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On this the Church all to pray and give attention to the sick and those who care for them. Each year the Holy Father writes a message.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For all who are sick,
may they be restored to fullness of health.
- For doctors, nurses and all who care the sick
and the dying,
may they bring Christ's love and compassion to all whom they care for.

Prayer

*Accept the prayers we offer
for our brothers and sisters
who are ill,
that, having been anxious
for them in their danger,
we may rejoice
at their recovery of health.*

cf. Roman Missal

Liturgical Texts

may be used when permitted - see Table of Rubrics

- Roman Missal: 45 For the Sick
- Book of Blessings: Orders for the Blessing of the Sick (Chapter 2)
- Book of Blessings: Order for the Blessing of a New Hospital or Other Facility for the Care of the Sick (Chapter 17)

Opportunities and Challenges

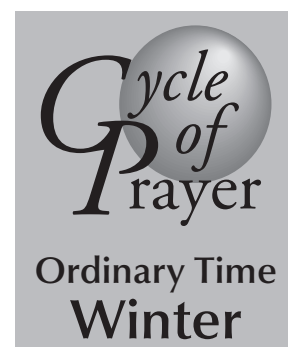
- Take copies of the parish bulletin to those who are sick and housebound.
- Ask the sick and the housebound to pray for the needs of the parish, maybe those preparing to receive Sacraments.
- What support is offered those who visit the sick and housebound?
- How can the parish through volunteers support the work of the local hospital and other healthcare centres.

Links

- Message of the Holy Father for World Day for the Sick
[www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/sick/index_en.htm]
- Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers
[www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/hlthwork/]
- Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship - Healthcare Information
[www.catholic-ew.org.uk/citizenship/CRCInfo-Healthcare.htm]
- The Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics
[www.linacre.org]
- Catholics in Healthcare
[www.catholicsinhealthcare.com]
- *When someone is ill* - a guide to Pastoral Care of the Sick
[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Rites/PCSGuide.pdf]

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The Unemployed

especially on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

Background

The Day of Prayer for the Unemployed was organised by Church Action on Poverty. They have recently renamed their day as Poverty Action Sunday. Caritas-Social Action is the agency in the Catholic Church which acts an umbrella for many diocesan and local organisations concerned with poverty and other social issues.

Prayer of the Faithful

one of the following may be used or adapted according to local needs

- For all seeking work or unable to work through disability and illness; may they place their trust in the God of hope and new beginnings.
- For politicians and all who work with the economy; may they always remember the poor and those who have least.

Prayer

*O God,
the source of human dignity,
in your image
every person is fashioned
and by your Son
all people are redeemed.*

*Make us honour
the work of your hands,
that we may reverence you in those whom
the world considers least
and serve you
in all whom society neglects.*

Liturgical Texts

Opportunities and Challenges

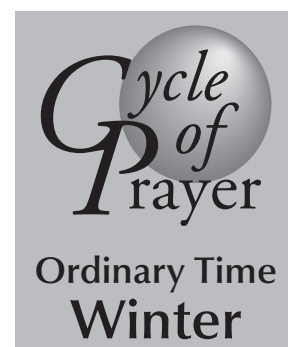
- Learn about Catholic Social Teaching — Find about the *livesimply* project.
- Make use of Caritas' Faith Reflections

Links

- Caritas-Social Action [www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk]
- Church Action on Poverty [www.church-poverty.org.uk]
- The Common Good — Bishops' Statement [www.catholicchurch.org.uk/citizenship/CRCInfo-CommonGood.htm]
- *livesimply* project [www.livesimply.org.uk]

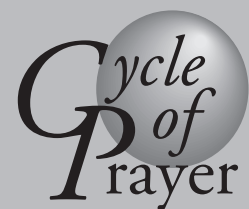
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Cycle
of
Prayer

Ordinary Time
Winter