

May 2025

As a result of the ongoing review of our formation services, Mercy Moments will move to a monthly reflection from June 2025 and will be released on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

“Peace be with you all!”

These first words of Pope Leo XIV have resonated profoundly amongst people in all parts of our globe including the 1.4 billion Catholics who have greeted our new leader with great joy and hope. There could hardly be a more apt greeting for a people aghast as we are in a world where violence is so prevalent.

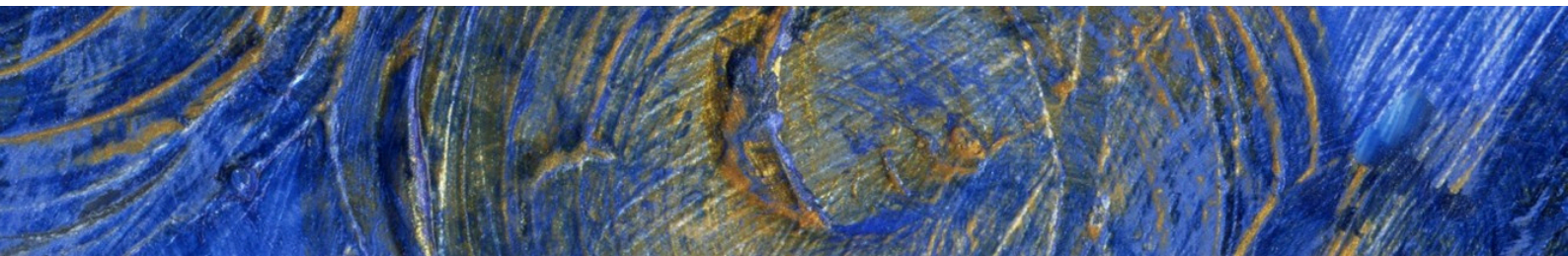
There is much cause for despair, for anger, for the kind of overwhelming paralysis that manifests as anxious inaction. Stop for a while and consider the facts - some of them*:

- 21 Asian Armed Conflicts – Afghanistan, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, The Philippines, India and Pakistan, India and China
- 7 European Armed Conflicts – Ukraine and Russia, Russia in Crimea, Transdnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, two non-international armed conflicts in Ukraine
- 6 Latin American Armed Conflicts – Mexico, Columbia

Sobering to say the least. Other descriptors though are likely more apt – horrifying, unconscionable, out of control, dire.

And then, we are jolted by the presence of a new leader amongst us who recognises our shared unease. And who, by his presence, his words, his love, gently and unequivocally draws us back to the heart of our faith and our humanity. God is ever present. Calling us to solidarity, “to be a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.” **

There we have it – hope prevails. Our new Pope reassures us, reminds us, and calls us to peaceful encounter that deepens to lived wholeness.



May 2025

Here, in Australia, we have shown in this moment that we get it too. Our prime minister gifted Pope Leo a painting by South Australian Ngarrindjeri artist, Amanda Westley, titled Raukkan. Raukkan is the name of the Aboriginal community on the southeastern shore of Lake Alexandrina. Raukkan means “meeting place”. It represents connection among spirit, culture and land. It represents peace and communion. Pope Leo’s message without the words.

There is much cause for hope, for joyful anticipation, for the kind of friendship and solidarity that seeks” to create for every situation the conditions for experiencing the healing, liberating, and life-giving mercy of God”.***

With Pope Leo XIV, we are called to offer God’s love to everyone. Peace be with you.

How are we to be the peace of God in our world?



Painting Raukkan by Amanda Westley, Canberra Times, 23 May 2025.

*From Geneva Academy of International Law and Human Rights, accessed 23 May 2025.

** Pope Leo XIV Homily Inauguration Mass 18 May 2025.

*** Mercy Partners Theological Framework, p21, Mercy Partners, 2016.

