

Promotion of Peace / Dialogue – Pentecost

Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace.

We can feel helpless in the face of the enormity of war promulgated by people who have lost sight of the oneness of humanity – our shared dignity, our creation in the image and likeness of God.

And so, we turn to prayer. People of faith seeking enlightenment, solace, hope and peace.

*Lord Jesus, send forth your spirit, the breath that gives life and reconciles,
that turns adversaries into brothers and sisters.
May the madness of war cease. Hear us, Lord of life.*

Prayer is refuge. But counts for very little unaccompanied by our active response to the change of heart it engenders.

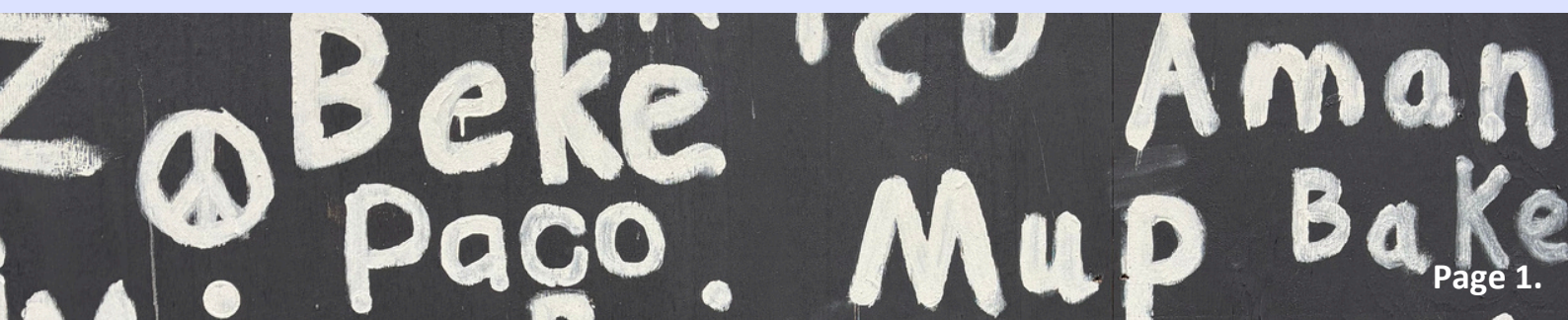
*Prayer teaches us how to act. In prayer our limited human possibilities are joined to
the infinite possibilities of God.*

Prayer calls for our personal involvement in the making of peace.

What will serve life in this circumstance?

As we pause to consider this question we become more inclined to respond for the greater good. To listen. To empathise. To let go of our uncritiqued certainties. To appreciate our shared humanity. Our communion.

Italics from Pope Leo XIV Homily Prayer Vigil for Peace 11 April 2026.
Personal photo by Christine Clarke. Used with permission.



April 2026



After dinner one night in March 2021 - fresh fare of shawarma, felafel, shakshuka, salad and more, my companion pilgrims and I were ushered into a side room of the St George Hotel, up the street from the Old City of Jerusalem. No photos. All ears. And eyes. Curious. Trepidations.

We had come into the presence of two recently bereaved mothers - each had lost a child in the ongoing Israeli- Palestinian conflict. And they shared their stories. We listened. They listened. One, the mum of a baby refused entry at the security crossing from the West Bank to East Jerusalem, going there for essential medical treatment. Her babe died in her arms. The other, a mum of a teenage boy shot at point blank range while fighting in battles against Hamas.

*One mum a Palestinian. One mum an Israeli. They are part of Parents Circle - Israeli and Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace. They share their human experience of grief and loss committed to lasting reconciliation and peace through listening and dialogue. In communion by their shared humanity. Seeking life and hope together. **

“There is ... a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter”.

Pope Francis Letter Fratelli Tutti, 225.

Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace.

Personal photo by Christine Clarke. Used with permission.

*Shared with permission, by member of pilgrim group from Brisbane, 2021.