

CALLED TO PEACE

— no peace without justice —



Jesus taught so much, leading by example. Are you ready for the challenges Jesus calls us to?

Pope Francis has shown empathy for those most marginalised and those victimised by our society. On his first papal visit in 2013, Pope Francis visited an Italian island, Lampedusa, where many who fled war-torn countries landed after crossing the Mediterranean. Some lost their lives on the journey. Here Pope Francis wept for the dead and made migration a pro-life issue.

In Pope Francis' letter to young people, *Christus Vivit*, he calls us not to be bystanders – but to *'Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander.'* He makes clear that it's not enough to simply go about our lives, even if we know ourselves to be good people. We are called to 'fight apathy' – meaning we must challenge indifference. We cannot live comfortably knowing that there is evil happening. We are called to stand in solidarity with others and uphold the dignity of all.



How can I get more involved with issues of justice?
How can we challenge injustice in our world?
How can we help others to become agents of change?

“ Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! ”

-Pope Francis CV #1

Discussion Questions

Christ is alive, here and now! What is it that He is calling us to do?

What has He called you to do?

What does Pope Francis mean when he asks young people to 'continue to fight apathy'?

What does the revolution of 'charity and service' look like?

*Hours before Jesus was going to his death, by crucifixion on the cross, He gave a message of peace to his disciples (John 14:27-31). He is clearly concerned with the joy, peace and wellbeing of his followers. He wants us to have faith, and in turn **genuine peace**. How was it that Jesus lived His life exposing injustice, caring for the marginalised and needy, risking and ultimately sacrificing his life, but still had inner peace? What can we learn from Him?*

Activity

See if you can contact anyone in a movement of your choice (perhaps something that is directly affecting your own community) - do they have a website, social media pages, any contact details? See if you can get in touch with them and ask for an interview. Perhaps you could then write a blog or article for your local newspaper, school or parish. Help raise awareness of the issue they are facing, amplify the voices of those marginalised in your own community and think: how might we be able to get involved to help their cause? You might choose an issue that is happening overseas or one closer to home.

A note on mental health and wellbeing

Your health and well-being is very important. While working with these units we must remember that living our Christian lives and challenging injustice can be difficult, perhaps even stressful. The aim is not to feed anxiety or have a negative impact on wellbeing, but to face reality and actively work for change.

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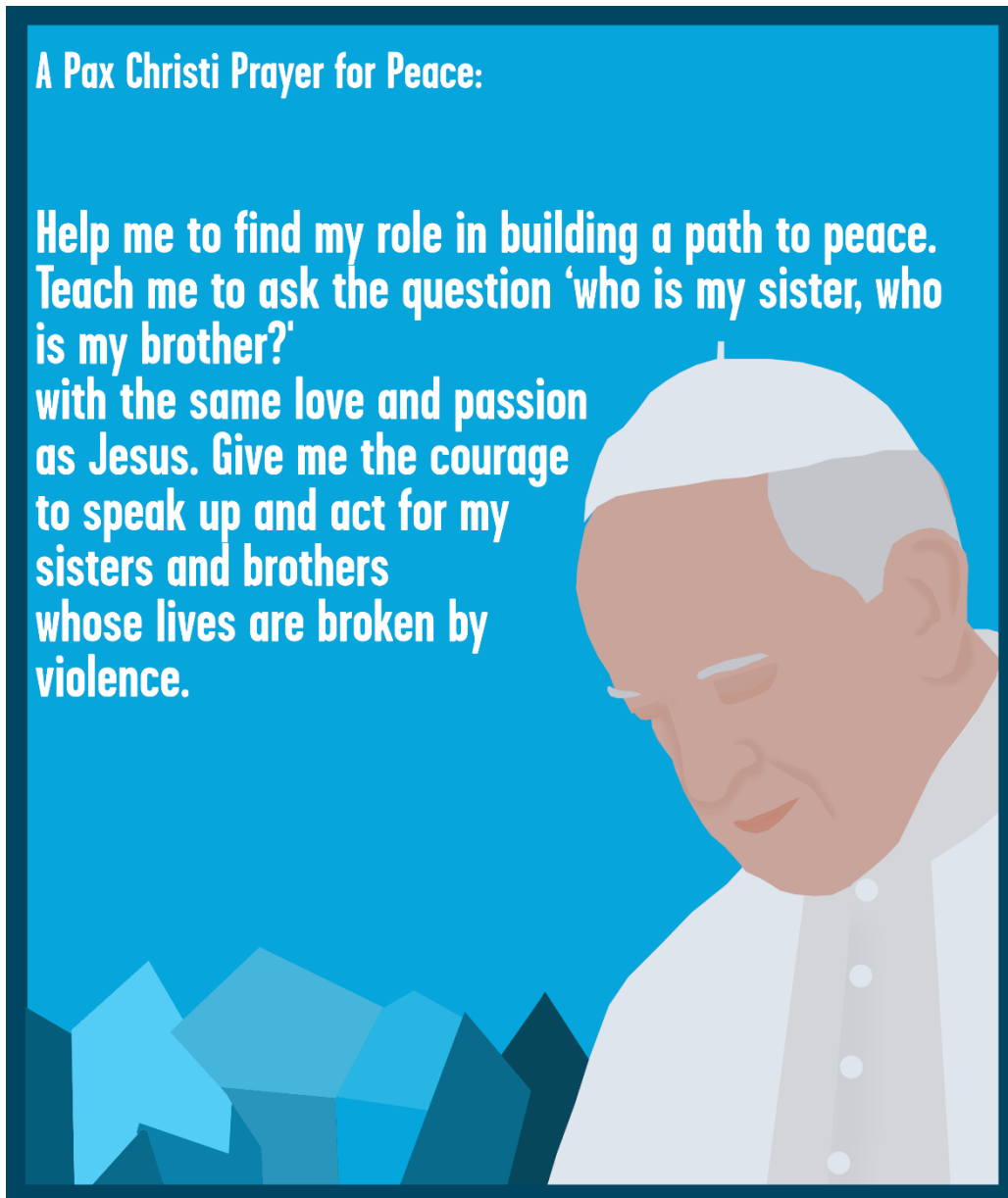
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IT'S TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our two-thousand-year-old tradition has a wealth of resources and practices to draw upon to sustain people in their service of others and action for the common good. This is why this series of resources began with meditation, prayer, daily spiritual practice and discernment, to help you navigate the challenges of life aware that you can hand over their struggles to God, leaning on Him in times of need.

A Pax Christi Prayer for Peace:

**Help me to find my role in building a path to peace.
Teach me to ask the question 'who is my sister, who
is my brother?'
with the same love and passion
as Jesus. Give me the courage
to speak up and act for my
sisters and brothers
whose lives are broken by
violence.**



Find more here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Prayers-for-Peace.pdf>