

**NJPN Comment in the Catholic Universe - Aisling Griffin: Peace Sunday
17 January 2021**

These last few months have showed us many examples of people caring for others. This year, Pope Francis highlights in his 2021 World Peace Day Message, 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace', the need to care for each other as a key part of working for peace. Despite the goodwill that we see around us, we also still see inequality, injustice and violence. Pope Francis says, we must "combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time".

We are taken back to the biblical foundations of our faith. The prophets show how justice can be seen in how a community treats its weakest members. The teachings of Jesus show us the importance of justice and how to love, which mirrors the love of God for us. We are told that since the days of the early Church, caring for others has been at the centre of Church life. How can we ensure that this is still the centre of our witness today?

To care for others, we need to protect and promote the common good, dignity for all, compassion and reconciliation, as this will help lead us to peace. Pointing out that we live in a world where conflict and war are seen as normal, we are invited to consider our response. Pope Francis asks if the money that we spend on weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, could instead be spent to promote other things, such as peace and healthcare. He renews his call for a 'Global Fund' to be created, from money usually spent on militarism, to be used to help tackle injustice. He also sees education as essential in creating a culture of care- in families, schools, communities, and churches.

Pax Christi answers this call to educate and enable people to work for peace, particularly through promoting this message. This year we will do so on Sunday, January 17th and we invite churches, communities and families to join us in exploring the message, working for peace and organising a collection for Pax Christi. Resources – including liturgy notes - are available on our website at: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

And if you can't do it this weekend, promote the message on a date that works for you!

All are welcome to join a Peace Sunday reflection zoom on 16th Jan at 6-7pm – The registration link is: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peace-sunday-2021-national-liturgy-tickets-133225849101>

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