

Prayers for 20th September 2020

I wonder what 'peace' means to you? Now that the children are back at school we often hear mums saying 'now I can have a bit of peace'. They probably mean some quiet and relaxation – with a spot of rest thrown in!

Of course 'peace' means different things to different people – to some it means the end of fighting and war, a time when there are no hostilities. We also think of a time when illness, pain and suffering end and we are resting in peace when we die. We also think of our Lord Jesus as the Prince of Peace – one of his many titles.

I am thinking about this because next week on Monday 21st is the International Day of Peace (as well as the patronal day for St Matthew). I have found a very short prayer from an Arabic hymn which I would like to share with you, so let us pray:

O God of peace and safety,
Pour your peace on us,
O God of peace,
Grant peace in our hearts

We pray for the recently departed and for all who are ill or may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We include in our prayers all who are tortured with mental illness, especially those driven to suicide. We pray also for those whose anniversary occurs this week. Amen