



# National Day of Prayer for Myanmar

## Sunday 28 November 2021

### Peace and New Hope for Myanmar

*“For the great human family, it is necessary to renew always the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope!” (Pope Francis 2016)*

**Pax Christi and friends** invite you on Sunday 28th November and beyond, to pray for peace and new hope for Myanmar. We offer this prayer resource for use in families, schools, groups, or communities, or for private prayer and reflection. For example, you could use some of the intercessions at church services, mass, print extracts in your newsletter or bulletin, or simply say the closing prayer alone or with others.

### Gathering

L. As we gather today from different walks of life and differing persuasions, let us unite our hearts and minds and pray for the people of Myanmar. This time of internal conflict, imposed by the military regime is heightened also by the impact of Covid 19. Heavy mantles of indescribable pain, suffering, and loss of life and violations of human rights have been inflicted on the people.

As we pray, we recall the hope for a just peace for all:

All present to add the names of people and communities in Myanmar

**L. We now sing or pray this prayer for peace by St. Francis of Assisi**

v.1

Lord make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon Lord.

Where there is doubt, true faith in you.

v.2

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light.  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

v.3

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

v.4

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.  
In giving to all that we receive.  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## L. We listen now to the Word of God

### Scripture

Isaiah 25.6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

7

And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

8

He will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.

9

It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;  
Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

10

For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

## Reflection

Time for silent reflection, with an option to read the following reflection.

Let us plead today to the God of justice to intervene on behalf of these our brothers and sisters and bring them the solace of the knowledge that we, here today are united with them in this time of deep pain and suffering. Let us reflect on the plight of those who are being hunted into the hills, those who have been wounded in conflict, imprisoned, and detained, let us call to mind those who have died in the cause of justice and those who have died from Covid 19, having been deprived of medical assistance and oxygen.

As Cardinal Bo said in his reflections, when he appealed for faith in action “The world becomes our altar, the street becomes holy ground, and we continue to break the bread of peace, reconciliation, and human development.” Addressing thousands of pilgrims during the Angelus in St. Peter's Square in Rome on Oct. 3, the Pope implored from God “the gift of peace” for this Southeast Asian nation which has suffered through so much pain in recent months, that “The hands of those who live there may no longer wipe away tears of pain and death but may join to overcome difficulties and work together for the coming of peace.”

In this season of Advent, a season of hope and new life, let us pray to our God, lover of peace and justice, to intervene for the people of Myanmar. Today each one of us is called to be a light to the nations. We are called today to be a voice for justice; to bring comfort and support to those who are also on a journey; to be united in our stand for justice. Jesus put it this way: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, give sight to the blind, set the oppressed free, and announce the year of the Lord.” (Luke 4:16–19). May our presence and prayer today send waves of support to these suffering brothers and sisters!

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**L. Let us place our longing for peace and a new horizon of hope before God.**

For the Church, that we may become a community of peacebuilders in and for our troubled world,  
In peace let us pray to the Lord saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For peace from on high and for our salvation:  
**R. Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world especially for Myanmar in this time of crisis.  
**R. Lord have mercy.**

For peace among the leaders of the nations, and those in authority in Myanmar, we pray:  
**R. Lord have Mercy.**

For our deliverance from all evil, strife and need, let us pray to the Lord.  
**R. Lord have mercy.**

For peace in all the cities, towns, and villages of Myanmar, and for those who live in them  
In faith and hope we pray:  
**R. Lord have mercy.**

For all those working for a just peace for Myanmar we pray:  
**R. Lord have mercy.**

**Lighting of candles** (A song or music played while candles are lit)

**L. Let us bring forward a candle of hope.**

The candle represents our personal prayers for peace and hope for family and friends and justice for the people of Myanmar.

**L. Let us join with all people of faith in prayers for peace in Myanmar and comfort and hope to all people.**

L. Forgive the violence we do to your Creation, and toward each other, your children. We think of those caught in conflict in Palestine, Afghanistan and Myanmar which has brought sorrow to many, and bring sorrow to us.

Lead us from Darkness to Light, From Falsehood to Truth

Lead us from Despair to Hope, From Fear to Trust

Lead us from Hate to Love, From War to Peace

Let Peace fill our hearts, our world, and our universe. (Adapted from the Upanishads)

Guide us to live by what our faiths teach us.

L. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. (Hanukkah)

L. Blessed are the peacemakers, for God will call them his children. (Jesus Christ)

L. O Lord,

Increase light within me, and give me light

And illuminate me. (Muhammad)

L. For hate is not conquered by hate: hate is conquered by love. This is a law eternal. Many do not know that we are here in this world to live in harmony. Those who know this do not fight against each other.

from the Buddha. The Dhammapada.

and/or

May all beings be well and happy. May all beings be free from suffering. May they know the joy of generosity and love. May they be safe and protected, and live with ease of well-being. May they know peace.

From the Metta Sutta of loving kindness.

## Closing Prayer

L.

Jesus, Prince of Peace,  
banish from our souls  
whatever might endanger peace.

Transform us into witnesses  
Of truth justice and love.

Enlighten the minds of rulers  
that they may care for their peoples  
and guarantee them the gift of peace.

Inflame our desires  
to break through the barriers that divide us.  
to strengthen the bonds of mutual love,  
to learn to understand one another,  
to pardon those who have done us wrong

Jesus, Prince of peace,  
through your power and inspiration,  
may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts  
as sisters and brothers.  
and may the peace they long for  
ever flower and ever reign among them.

**AMEN**

An Advent Prayer for peace by Sandie Cornish, adapted from *Pacem in Terris n 171*