

Celebrating World Peace Day in your parish/community

From [Pax Christi UK](#)

The 50th World Day of Peace will be celebrated on 1 January 2017. The theme chosen by Pope Francis is *Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace*. The message is offered to the world and to the Catholic community in particular.

Checklist for making things happen

- Put the date in your parish/community diary/calendar now
- 1 January 2017, which also celebrates the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, falls on a Sunday so this creates much more opportunity for integrating the theme into the celebration of Mass on that day. The readings for the day are:
 - **Reading 1, Numbers 6:22-27** "So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."
 - **Psalm 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8, r. 2** "O God, be gracious and bless us."
 - **Reading 2, Galatians 4:4-7** "God sent his Son, born of a woman."
 - **Gospel acclamation, Hebrews 1:1-2** "At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son."
 - **Gospel, Luke 2:16-21** "They found Mary and Joseph and the baby. When the eighth day came they gave him the name Jesus."
- Speak with your parish priest, liturgist, children's liturgy team, about the opportunity and share some of the materials from this page for World Day of Peace.
- Offer to speak at Mass, unpacking the theme, giving examples of nonviolence in action. You could draw upon [The Courageous Nonviolence of Jesus](#) and the [Stories of nonviolence in action](#) resources listed on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative World Day of Peace 2017 page. Try to link what you say with local examples of peacemakers or good news stories of problem solving through negotiation or advocacy.
- If you want to give more time to the theme, arrange a peace-hour or vigil at some time on 1 January or during the following week. Resources listed [here](#) could provide core elements for times of reflection. This is also a time when local/national peace people can be celebrated and traditional peacemaking traditions shared.
- Engage children to act out [the two hands of active nonviolence](#). This is a living "visual aid" and people could be encouraged to use it themselves to think about the two aspects of nonviolence.
- Take key extracts from the message and reproduce them in parish newsletters or magazines or enlarge them and display in your church or community. You could also use some of the [Stories of nonviolence in action](#) from the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative website.
- Create a peace corner for the month of January with books, news stories, the [Appeal to the Catholic Church](#), peace prayers that people can borrow/take away. Each week, highlight one quote from the World Day of Peace message.
- Use World Day of Peace as a spring-board for taking the theme into the life of your parish/community for the whole year.

Use this chart to initiate discussion:

