

PROPHETS & THE LOVE OF GOD
4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 30 JANUARY 2022

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Last Sunday, Pope Francis, after his pastoral instruction at the Angelus, invited all people of good will to pray to God for peace in Ukraine.

He had already included Ukraine in his [New Year address to the Diplomatic Corps](#) earlier in the month.

Last Sunday he declared Wednesday January 26th as a *Day of Prayer for Peace for Ukraine*. It was mentioned by major media outlets in the world as well. Then, on Wednesday at his weekly public audience, he spoke and prayed for peace. On that day in one of the churches in Rome, [Archbishop Gallagher from the Vatican spoke at a special peace service for Ukraine](#).

Due to the urgency for prayer, there was little time to organise prayer meetings, especially during the Covid-19 surge at present in Australia.

Our Tuesday 9am parish Mass was offered for the Pope's peace intention. A [parish prayer](#) was composed and offered to anyone interested.

Thank you to members of our parish and others online for taking up the invitation of prayer for peace on Wednesday, our Australia Day public holiday. We presented the prayer on our Webpage, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media outlets, and connecting the intention to our virtual candles online.

Thank you to Adrian and his team in the Archdiocese of Brisbane for presenting the prayer on the Archdiocesan Facebook page.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference also retweeted the prayer.

Our parish sent a message to the [Ukrainian Catholic Diocese in Australia](#), offering our prayer for Ukraine and for their families.

We continue our prayer for peace throughout this week ahead.

The prayer and Light a Candle are at the following two links:
[Day of Prayer for Peace for Ukraine - 26 January 2022](#)
lightacandleatstjosephsbrackenridge.com



PROPHETS & JUSTICE

In our understanding of prophecy in social justice teaching,
God calls us to be prophetic and God will show us the way forward.

Advocacy for justice for us is **not** an addiction to adrenaline.
It is **not** an advocacy to make us feel superior to others.
It is **not** us pretending that we have all the answers.

Our understanding of working for social justice is based on love.
It is founded in the commandments to love God and to love our neighbour.

Love shows us the way forward in respecting and advocating for **human dignity**.
Love highlights the need for **solidarity, subsidiarity and the common good**.
Love of God and neighbour draw us into prayer and humility.

FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:31-13/13

Six years ago on this Sunday, we reflected upon God's love for us as an unfolding love story.
[*Story of Love & Healing* <https://bit.ly/Homily31012016>]

In the Old Testament, over the centuries, people came to know more about the richness of
God's love for them.

In the New Testament we hear this love

- described in words,
- illustrated by images and symbols,
- lived out through Jesus in his birth, his ministry,
his forming a community of believers, his suffering,
his death on the cross, his resurrection and ascension.
- lived in the early Christian communities as they faced the challenges of their day.

God's love keeps inviting us through the Holy Spirit to be lovers of God and neighbour.

Today's Second Reading to the Corinthians is about love.

*"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends."*

We are invited to pause now and reflect on the passage above.

How does our work for justice and a better world reflect this passage on love?

[pause and reflect]

We are now invited to take our reflection to God in prayer

[pause and pray before God]

JEREMIAH 1:4-5, 17-19

Within this context of love, we turn to the First Reading today from Jeremiah. Even though active love can be challenging, God is with us. God said to Jeremiah *"I am with you"*. God reminded Jeremiah to *"brace yourself for action"*.

Loving involves action, being prepared to make a difference because we love and are loved. Jeremiah discovered that to love that deeply, he needed courage. God lovingly inspired him to be courageous. In our work for justice today, God inspires us to be courageous.

GOSPEL OF LUKE 4:21-30 | JESUS LOVE IS COURAGEOUS

The love of Jesus is courageous. Following on from Last Sunday's Gospel about his mission, today we hear Jesus challenge his own home town community, which he had known for 30 years.

Jesus challenges all of us to be truthful, to speak up, even when it means we will be rejected by some or many. Jesus calls us to be courageous in unconditional love.

He preached about Elijah being sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. He preached about the cure of the Syrian, Naaman. Jesus deliberately challenged his hearers, then and now, to ponder God's love for the outsiders in the world.

As we show our Christian concern for God's justice and mercy, our concern for justice and study and discussion and action is in the context of our wider mission of following Jesus.

In 2022 where is Jesus calling us?

With the challenges of the ongoing COVID pandemic, and the present Omicron surge in Australia, how do we find creative ways to support the vulnerable?

As lovers, we know that we need God's healing within us.

We are called to love, to be part of the love story of God, to love courageously.

To make a difference, not on our own, but by being uplifted by God's love.

Let us pray

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/013022.cfm>

Image attributed to www.LumoProject.com



*"Love is patient;
love is kind..."*

1 Cor 12:31—13:13

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FATHER GERRY HEFFERAN