

Prayer for Peace, Hope and Justice

All life is sacred.

Are some lives more sacred than others?

I feel for the babies dying and who have died, and their families, in Gaza. Doctors and healthcare staff desperately working in the midst of war. Trying to heal comfort and give hope. There are inadequate facilities, diminishing resources, unrelenting need, and constant fear.

All life is sacred. All cannot be saved.

I feel for the family of yet another student knifed to death by someone close to her. Gender based violence again & again.

Are some lives less sacred? Human violence diminishes all of humanity.

We have amazing God given minds and we have a cognitive ability that responds instantaneously for our pursuit of daily life. Yet that same ability allows us to be able to be negative too. To judge others, to share negative views, to ridicule or denigrate, to judge that the other whoever, and wherever, near or far, is less worthy in our view..

Our upbringing, education, peer groups, family, social groups all help to feed that negativity. So, we determine a value of the human beings we meet or even live with and even sit alongside in church. We struggle to be impartial, fair, non-discriminatory. O yes, we do have great flushes of love, care and charity and are commended for it. But, sadly for some the negativity is expressed in violence. whether it be interpersonal, group, gang or even state violence that ultimately is embellished in war.

All life is sacred, are some lives are more sacred than others?

Let us pray.

Lord of all of creation, forgive our foolish ways. Create in us new hearts and new minds in Christ, to see, believe and know that all life is sacred.

We mourn the deaths of so many innocent victims of violence. Singly, or en masse. Forgive our ability to rationalized; to ignore. We want to be faithful Lord, we want to care, to love, to be a true neighbour for all as your commandment proclaims. Heal the possibility of violence in me lord. In thought, in word and in what I do and what I am capable of. Help me to confront what can be. Heal our violence lord. Heal our nation's violence. Heal our world's violence. Merciful parent God, we pray for the souls of all the babies whose lives were crushed by human violence. They will never experience life in all its fullness. They will never be able to pray as the psalmist: "God, you created my inmost being; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

Dear Lord, thank you. All life, is sacred. Amen.