



PRAYERS IN TIME OF TRAGEDY

Following the devastating loss of life and injuries in the attack of 22nd May, the following are some suggested resources that may help us find the right words to pray for all caught up in the attack, and for peace.

1 SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION OR USE IN PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the Lord."

Isaiah 65:17-21

No more will the sound of weeping be heard.

Thus says the Lord: For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Isaiah 59:6-10;14-16

His own arm brought him victory.

Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they rush to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity, desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths. Their roads they have made crooked; no one who walks in them knows peace. Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us; we wait for light, and lo! there is darkness; and for brightness, but we walk in gloom. We grope like the blind along a wall, groping like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among the vigorous as though we were dead. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter. The Lord saw it, and

it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him.

Lamentations 3:17-26

It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, 'Gone is my glory, and all that I had hoped for from the Lord.' The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Apocalypse 21:1-7

There will be no more death.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

Psalm 79

Let your face shine on us that we may be saved.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;
it sent out its branches to the sea,
and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.

Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right
hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Psalm 84

Justice and peace have embraced.

Lord, you were favourable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation towards us.
Will you be angry with us for ever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their
hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear
him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Romans 8:31-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Philippians 2:6-11

He was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Peter 1:17-21

The ransom that was paid to free you was paid in the precious blood of a lamb without stain.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

James 3:13-18

Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

He learnt to obey through suffering.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to the people: 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 11:25-30

I am gentle and humble of heart.

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Mark 15:33-39

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry

and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Luke 6:27-38

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

Jesus said: 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

Luke 9:18-24

The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously.

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?' They answered, 'John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.' He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, 'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.' Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.'

John 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through Him the world might be saved.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who

do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

John 15:9-12

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

Jesus said to his disciples “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

2 POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER

for peace and for an end to violence and terrorism (*World Youth Day 31.07.2016*)

O almighty and merciful God, Lord of the universe and of history,
All that You have created is good
and your compassion for the mistakes of mankind knows no limits.
We come to You today to ask You to keep in peace the world and its people,
to keep far away from it the devastating wave of terrorism,
to restore friendship and instil in the hearts of Your creatures
the gift of trust and of readiness to forgive.

O Giver of life, we pray to You also for all those who have died
as victims of brutal terrorist attacks.
Grant them their eternal reward.
May they intercede for the world
that is torn apart by conflicts and disagreements.

O Jesus, Prince of Peace, we pray to You for the ones who have been wounded
in these acts of inhuman violence:
children and young people,
old people and innocent people
accidentally involved in evil.
Heal their bodies and hearts;
console them with Your strength and, at the same time,
take away any hatred and a desire for revenge.

Holy Spirit Consoler, visit the families of the victims of terrorism,
families that suffer through no fault of their own.
Wrap them in the mantle of Your divine mercy.
Make them find again in You and in themselves
the strength and courage to continue to be brothers and sisters for others,
above all for immigrants, giving witness to Your love by their lives.

Touch the hearts of terrorists so that they may recognise the evil of their actions
and may turn to the way of peace and goodness,
of respect for the life and for the dignity of every human being,
regardless of religion, origin, wealth or poverty.

O God, Eternal Father, in Your mercy hear our prayer
which we raise up to You amidst the deafening noise and desperation of the world.
We turn to You with great hope, full of trust in Your infinite Mercy.
We ask for the gift of peace
and of the elimination from our midst of the sore of terrorism.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3 A PRAYER BY ALDEN SOLOVY

Author of life,
Grant peace and consolation
To the victims and the injured
After the attack in Manchester,
Where youths, teens and their parents were murdered
In an act of calculated terror.

Source and Creator,
Grant a perfect rest under your tabernacle of peace
To the victims of this attack,
Whose lives were cut off
In an act of witless aggression.
May their souls be bound up in the bond of life,
A living blessing in our midst.
May they rest in peace.

Remember the survivors of this horror.
Grant them shelter and solace,
Comfort and consolation,
Blessing and courage.
May their healing —
And the healing of this nation —
Continue with devotion and courage.

Heavenly Guide,
Hand of love and shelter,
Put an end to anger and hatred,
Bigotry and fear.
Let terrorists put down their weapons
To discover a new path.
May the victims of all violence
Find hope and renewal.
Lead us to a time when no one
Suffers or dies at the hand of another.

עוֹשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ,
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

*Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu,
V'al kol Yisraeil, v'al kol yosh'vei teivel, V'imru, Amen.*

May the One who creates harmony above, make peace for us,
For all Israel, and all who dwell on earth. And say: Amen.

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4 COLLECTS IN TIME OF CONFLICT OR TERROR

O God, merciful and strong,
who crush wars and cast down the proud
be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst
and to wipe away all tears,
so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children.
Through Christ our Lord.

O God, author and lover of peace,
to know you is to live, to serve you is to reign;
defend against every attack those who cry to you,
so that we, who trust in your protection,
may not fear the weapons of any foe.
Through Christ our Lord.

O God, who have revealed that peacemakers
are to be called your children,
grant, we pray, that we may work without ceasing
to establish that justice which alone causes true and lasting peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

O God, who show a father's care for all,
grant, in your mercy,
that the members of the human race,
to whom you have given a single origin,
may form in peace a single family
and always be united by a fraternal spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

O God, Creator of the world,
under whose governance the design for all nations unfolds,
be attentive, we pray, to our petitions
and grant to our times tranquillity and peace,
that we may exult with unceasing joy
in praise of your great mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

5 A LITANY FOR PEACE

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Jesus, innocent Lamb of God
Jesus, pure victim on the cross
Jesus, holy sacrifice that purifies all our sin
Jesus, God who became truly human
Jesus, who wept with Martha and Mary
Jesus, who prayed aloud and in silent tears
Jesus, in agony in Gethsemane
Jesus, abandoned on Calvary
Jesus, laid in the tomb
Jesus, risen to new and endless life

From all violence and warfare
From all sin and selfishness
From all cruelty and terror
From all prejudice and hatred
From all that threatens the safety of the innocent
From all that destroys the harmony of communities
From all that undermines trust and friendship
From all bigotry and extremism
From all anger and intolerance
From all pride and arrogance
From all actions that endanger human life
From all words that breed hostility and fear
From all thoughts that generate hatred

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world

Christ, hear us.
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Let us pray.

O God of peace, who are peace itself and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and be healed. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

**Bestow on us the gift of hope
Bestow on us the gift of hope**

**Deliver us, O Lord.
Deliver us, O Lord.**

**Have mercy on us
Hear our prayer
Grant us your peace**

**Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.**

6 THE PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is offense, let me bring pardon.
Where there is discord, let me bring union.
Where there is error, let me bring truth.
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
O Master, let me not seek as much
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,
for it is in giving that one receives,
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

7 THE CELEBRATION OF MASS

When not prevented by a Solemnity or Feast of the Lord, it would be opportune to celebrate a Mass for the particular intentions of those killed in the attack, the bereaved, the injured, their families and friends, emergency services, and all affected. It would also be suitable to pray for peace and justice, for harmony, and for the progress of peoples.

Mass or Office for the Dead may be celebrated whenever permitted.

Among the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions are:

- Mass 15 (**Missal p.1332**) For Promoting Harmony
- Mass 29 (**Missal p.1358**) For the Progress of Peoples
- Mass 30 (**Missal p.1360**) For the Preservation of Peace and Justice
- Mass 31 (**Missal p.1362**) In Time of War or Civil Disturbance

In addition the Second Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation (**Missal p.798**) and the First Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions (**Missal p.804**) are helpful.