



Dear Father,

### **Peace Sunday 2024**

When I wrote to promote Peace Sunday 2023, I said that 2022 had been a year of war and rumours of war. As we approach the end of 2023, the last twelve months have been no different. The war between Russia and Ukraine continues, as do conflicts around the globe. As I write this, the conflict in Palestine and Israel has erupted once more into terrible violence and suffering with thousands dying, injured and displaced.

Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is a part of the ongoing work of Pax Christi, alongside building a culture of nonviolence, campaigning against war, nuclear weapons and the arms trade. Supporting its members and the church, Pax Christi produces resources on peace and nonviolence issues, organises events and vigils, represents the Catholic church in the peace movement and works with young people in both schools and churches.

Each year Pax Christi makes resources available for churches and groups to mark Peace Sunday which, in 2024, will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. With this letter you will find some of the resources that have been produced for 2024 which I hope you will be able to use as you plan for mass that Sunday.

The theme for Peace Sunday is Pope Francis' theme for the World Day of Peace - 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. I am sure you will agree that it is a highly relevant theme as Governments across the world, including our own, wrestle with the ethics and consequences of significant and potentially dangerous developments in technology. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict.

Finally, Peace Sunday is an important opportunity for Pax Christi to raise funds. Our small team of staff and volunteers are highly dedicated and work hard to support and encourage us all in working for peace. I greatly appreciate the support our parish communities give through collections and donations and would ask that you take this opportunity to support us this year.

With every blessing,

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP  
National President of Pax Christi England and Wales