

# Weekly Theme

# W/C 16th January 2017



## “Serving Others”

## **John 1:29-34**

*John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptising with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

To provide a reference for somebody is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on what it says about the person for who it is written.

John the Baptist took it upon himself to be a referee for Jesus. His reference for Jesus tells us exactly who Jesus is. John tells us that Jesus is more than a prophet or teacher. John wants people to understand just who Jesus really is. He wants everyone to know that Jesus is the 'Lamb of God', the 'chosen one of God'.

He is the one on whom God's Spirit descends and remains.

In the scriptures we are told that the "Lamb of God" will take away the sins of the world. Twenty-one centuries later there is still violence and hunger and exploitation in our world taking place on a massive scale. The work of the Lamb of God is never finished God's work is never finished. Witness to that is part of the legacy Nelson Mandela has left to our world.

Today we are called to carry on the "Work of the Lamb" through our service to others.

**Jesus, in the waters of the Jordan, you were consecrated as God's  
Beloved, and now we pray,  
Spirit of God, fill us with zeal.  
You call us to be people of courage,  
Jesus, send forth your spirit of freedom.  
You call us to consecrate ourselves to the poor,  
Jesus, send forth your spirit of love.  
You call us to bind up the wounds of the broken hearted,  
Jesus, send forth your spirit of healing.  
Amen**

Form Tutor

The aim of this week's theme:

This week we think about what it means to be a peaceful person through serving others.

## **Day1**

### **Tutor**

Read the Scripture

### **Student Prayer**

Today Lord, let me be at peace with everyone I meet.

Amen

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

## **Day 2**

Think about: The society in which we live.

### **Tutor:**

Today we want you to think about why people seem to resort to violence to get their own way?

### **Student prayer**

Lord, make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring love.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Day 3**

Think about: The world in which we live

#### **Tutor:**

Think about the people who are peacemakers in our world today? For example how Nelson Mandela brought about peace and reconciliation in South Africa. What can the Leaders of our world today learn from his and others example?

#### **Student Prayer**

Loving Father, help us to follow the example of others to help bring peace into our troubled world.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Day Four**

Think about our college community

#### **Tutor**

Sometimes we think that the only way to settle a dispute is through violence. How in a practical ways can we be a community that promotes peace and reconciliation?

#### **Student Prayer**

Peace, perfect peace is a gift from God above. Today loving Father, bless our community with your peace.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

## **Day Five**

Think about our families

### **Tutor**

Sometimes it is so easy for us to fall out with those we love. Home is the place that we can be really be ourselves. Today let's say thank you to God for those who love us, with all our faults and failings

### **Student Prayer**

Loving Father, today bless all those who love me.

Amen.

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

### **Other Prayers you may like to use**

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January was Peace Sunday**

**Sow Peace** *based on the writings of St Francis of Assisi from Pax Christi*

Praised be You, my Lord,  
for our Sister, Mother Earth,  
who nourishes us and teaches us,  
bringing forth all kinds of fruits  
and coloured flowers and herbs.  
Praise to you, my Lord, for those  
who forgive one another in Your love,  
and who bear sickness and trials.  
Blessed are those who endure in peace,  
for they will be crowned  
by you, Most High!

Amen

## **Peaceful presence**

God of love and goodness  
in our world of violence, war, terrorism and hatred  
you breathe your peaceful presence.  
Help us to live as sisters and brothers,  
as friends, not enemies.  
This day, teach us not to hold grudges  
or to be bitter or angry,  
but instead to shine with happiness and love  
for one another.  
And let the peace of this place  
radiate into our wider world.

Amen.

*This week marks a week of prayer for Christian Unity. We pray that people of all faiths will work together in sharing their values and beliefs.*

God of all people, times and places,  
of all names, faiths and beliefs,  
bring our society together as one.  
Heal any divisions and conflicts that threaten us,  
especially those caused in the name of religion.  
Help us to see that our differences are strengths  
that bring richness and variety to our world.

Amen.

God our Father, you call each of us by name, as though nobody else exists in the world.  
Inspire us to respect and value each person that we meet today, regardless of their race or colour or creed.

Amen.

Support and encourage others,  
Rejoice with those who are happy,  
Be sad with those who are in sorrow.  
Never look down on another person, but always be positive in your attitude to others.

Be concerned for those who can do nothing for you in return, as for those who are very close to you.  
Break the cycle of evil – conquer it with goodness. Amen.  
There is one Lord, one faith and one baptism,  
One God, one father of all, who is over all, the one working through all and the one living in all.

Amen.

### **Prayer of Thomas Merton**

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me  
Nor do I really know myself,  
And the fact that I think I am following your will  
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you  
Does in fact please you.  
And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this,  
You will lead me by the right road  
Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though,  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.

Amen.

Teach us, Good Lord,  
To serve you as you deserve;  
To give and not to count the cost;  
To fight and not to heed the wounds;  
To labour and not to ask for any reward,  
save that of knowing that we do Thy will.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord,

Amen.

