

A Day of Reflection | 21 June

a day to reflect upon the conflict in and about Northern Ireland
and the future that is before us.

Christian Liturgy for the Day of Reflection

A time to reflect on the present

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

Take a moment to sit quietly and to rest in God's presence.

A time to reflect on the past

*For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
(Romans 3:23)*

Take a moment to reflect on your thoughts, your words and your actions in relation to the conflict in and about Northern Ireland. How have you 'fallen short'...

- in acknowledging all the deep hurt and loss caused by the conflict?
- in remembering those who still live on a daily basis with the consequences of the conflict?
- in maintaining or nurturing attitudes that have the potential for negative impact on others and society?

A prayer

Loving and gracious God, I have often failed you and others, with my attitudes, my words and my actions. I humbly ask for your forgiveness. Help me to see, hear, and act, with your love and compassion for all your creation. Amen

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 46

¹ *God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

² *Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea;*

³ *though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult..*

⁴ *There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

⁵ *God is in the midst of the city; it shall
not be moved;
God will help it when the morning
dawns.*

⁶ *The nations are in an uproar,*

the kingdoms totter;

he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ *The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

⁸ *Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on
the earth.*

⁹ *He makes wars cease to the end of the
earth;*

*he breaks the bow, and shatters the
spear;*

he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ *"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."*

¹¹ *The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Take a moment to reflect on the words of this Psalm. Consider how this Psalm is relevant to your own personal attitudes, actions and experiences?

New Testament Reading – Luke 10: 25-37

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Take a moment to reflect on this parable from Jesus.

- How is this parable relevant to your own personal attitudes, actions and experiences?
- Who is your neighbour?
- Who has been left by the roadside?
- Who has passed by on the other side?
- How could you respond to Jesus' words at the end of the parable?

A time to reflect on the future

Take a moment to pray

- for all those you know who have suffered deep hurt and loss caused by the conflict
- for those who still live on a daily basis with the consequences of the conflict
- for those who provide support and care to those most adversely affected by the conflict
- for those who are able to publicly influence attitudes and actions: politicians, the media, teachers, community leaders, faith leaders
- for those who work to uphold and enhance all other people's right to life and quality of life

The Lord's Prayer

A Prayer for the Day of Reflection

Loving and gracious God, I offer to you all my thoughts and reflections. I humbly ask that you will empower me to be a source of strength to those most affected by the conflict; challenge me to continue to reflect on the past and its consequences; increase my understanding of other people's hurts; transform my attitudes that could perpetuate conflict; and help me to make a positive contribution to healing those hurts and the hurts of our society. Amen