



SAINT ALBAN'S NEWSLETTER

Chester Road, Macclesfield SK11 8DJ

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29th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Year A

18th October 2020

Mass Schedule

In person Masses are scheduled below schedule Please note, times marked in blue require advanced booking and are subject to change in line with government guidance and volunteer availability. Check website and social media for updates. Book your seat for Mass or Prayer online using this link: [Church Attendance](#) or by telephone on 07783 350 014 between 10.30am – 1.00pm Monday to Friday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 11.00am-11.45am

Please note there is NO 6.30pm Mass on a Sunday until further notice.

At St Alban's	Monday	Tues	Wednes	Thurs	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MASSES	9.30am Live Stream only	9.30am Booking required for in person worship Also live stream	7.00pm Booking required for in person worship Also live stream	9.30am Booking required for in person worship Also live stream	9.30am Live Stream only	12 noon* 6.30pm* Vigil *Booking required for in person worship Also live stream	9.30am* 11.00am* *Booking required for in person worship
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament			6.00pm-7.00pm Live Stream			11.00am-11.45am Live Stream	
Sacrament of Reconciliation						11.00am – 11.45am	

Please note that to keep our Clergy and members of our Parish family safe we are insisting that face coverings are to be worn whilst inside the church. The government's guidance is being kept under review and as soon as we can relax this restriction we will do so.

St. Edward's is open for Mass: **Sundays 10.30am (preferably book ahead)**

Wednesdays 11.00am. Details on the parish website newsletter

www.st-edward-macclesfield.org.uk



CAESAR & GOD – The Question of Taxes – When he went hunting, Louis XIV never wore gloves, even in the coldest weather. One day two French peasants paused from their work in the fields to watch the king ride past in the hunt. One voiced his surprise that the king took no precaution against the cold. “Why, his hands must be freezing,” he said. The other replied: “Why should they be freezing? *He always has his*

hands in our pockets.” In today’s Gospel the issue is about Caesar’s right to have his hand in Jewish pockets. Two groups come to confront Jesus with the question; they are members of the Pharisees’ sect and the Herodians. The Pharisees resented paying taxes to a foreign king as an infringement of the divine right of God. The Herodians, on the other hand, were supporters of Herod the Great and his family, so favouring collaboration with the Romans and paying taxes to Caesar. These two groups were unnatural associates. If as Shakespeare noted, “*Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows*”, the same could be said of hatred. The Pharisees and the Herodians are united in their common desire to eliminate Jesus. Fearing for their own reputation, which has already suffered in open debate with Jesus, they now try to entrap him. Jesus has already shown that he is not intimidated by the religious authorities into a necessary agreement with their practices; they now test him to see if Caesar’s imposed rule has intimidated him into agreeing to pay the annual poll tax. If Jesus refuses he could be charged with treason. Failing that, if Jesus answers affirmatively, he will alienate the majority of his fellow countrymen. Either way, it appears that Jesus will lose. Jesus does not answer the original question, but makes an announcement which seems rather vague: “*Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God*”. It is tempting to interpret the reply as a teaching on temporal and religious obligations, and argue that Jesus is acknowledging the need to pay taxes to Caesar, while stressing one’s primary duty to God: one must pay tribute to Caesar and God, in recognition of one’s dual citizenship. Jesus does not specify the things that belong to Caesar, for Caesar does not possess anything *independently* of God; he does not need to specify the things that belong to God, since everything does! Since God has dominion over the whole of creation, *Caesar’s relative power is subservient to the ultimate power of God*. All authority and power have to be evaluated in the light of God’s plan. In his reply Jesus gives a teaching: it is for the people to evaluate whether, in demanding tribute, Caesar is reflecting the things of God. This evaluation continues in every political community. The political arena is not a territory protected from religious evaluation and criticism. If Caesar is subservient to God, then his laws are open to Christian evaluation. *In the world of politics nothing is sacred.*

Morning Prayer and all Masses are continuing to be livestreamed on:
<http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/stalbanslivestreamhtml>

St. Paul's Parish Live Broadcast

St Paul's Church Poynton: Please join St. Paul's Church
Wednesday, 21st October 9.15am for Prayers & 9.30am Mass
FOLLOW <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Poynton-198491870726932/>

SUNDAY MASS: We would remind parishioners that at present there is no obligation to attend a Sunday Mass.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE MASS BOOKINGS: At present the guidelines for church attendees at any Mass at St Alban's Church is at 60 people. Please would all parishioners and their visitors note that it is very important that a booking has been made for the Mass they wish to attend - if the church has reached its capacity, you may not be allowed to attend the service.

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR MASS ON 07565 216 484 OR 07783 350 014-
MASKS MUST BE WORN OVER NOSE & MOUTH**

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH - SUNDAY MASS @ 6.30pm – Please note that the 6.30pm Mass on a Sunday evening has been suspended until further notice.

VOLUNTEER EUCHARIST MINISTERS AND STEWARDS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED: *If you are able to volunteer please sign up using the Mass attendance link in the newsletter:*
<https://stalbanscatholicchurch.setmore.com> Ideally we need Eucharistic Ministers for each weekday Mass & 3 Stewards for each Mass if possible. If anyone is willing to help clean the church after Mass please do not hesitate to contact Jane Cole via email: jmfc@hotmail.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE – THE CLOCKS GO BACK BY ONE HOUR ON AT 2.00AM ON 25TH OCTOBER 2020



The Holy Rosary and The Divine Mercy Chaplet are prayed daily in the Parish live on Zoom. If you would like to join other parishioners in these Prayers please contact us for information and details of how to join us on Zoom.

Monica Meah 01625 428951 or
Sheila Lake 01625 613040
Email: jmjamen@yahoo.com

ZOOM COFFEE - Sundays at 10:30am

New Zoom link – email Anna Hughes on aga_hughes@lineone.net for the link. Invite your friends, bring your coffee and have a chat. Starts after 9:30am Sunday Mass every week.

2020 THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

That the Laity would embrace and live out their mission to the Church

OCTOBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

- **Sunday 18th October – A collection for World Mission**

Your generosity for the above collection would be very much appreciated.



First Saturday Devotion @ St Alban's Church

7th November 2020 @ 10:30am. The time slot will be 30 minutes and will include, the Rosary, the Consecration prayer and Reparation prayer.

Adoration and confessions will follow on at 11am. **Please note that due to the current restrictions only 6 people will be allowed to attend and those wishing to attend must book either on-line or through Jeannette on 07565 216 484.**

A MESSAGE OF REASSURANCE REGARDING ST ALBAN'S MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND THE DYING:

A question was raised recently by someone working in a care home regarding the availability of priests to minister to the sick and to the dying. Fr Peter and Fr Paschal would like to assure all parishioners that, within the guidelines provided for safety, they will always be available to minister to the sick and to the dying.

URGENT - WHAM NIGHTSHELTER THIS WINTER – CAN YOU HELP

We have delayed making plans and organising training for WHAM (Macclesfield Churches' Winter Nightshelter) as long as we can, while awaiting Government advice and developments in the COVID crisis.

The core team met with the Cheshire East Rough Sleepers Team and Homeless Officers last week to establish the situation in Macclesfield. In short: all their hostel beds are full, despite having some increased capacity. During lockdown they were unable to move people on to rental accommodation (of which there is shortage anyway), and this is taking time to resolve. They are therefore concerned that when cold weather hits us, they will be unable to accommodate all rough sleepers and would be very grateful if we can offer some sort of support. There is no funding available to increase their own service short term.

The WHAM team would like to be able to continue to share Christ's love in this very practical way, but have to consider safety of guests and volunteers alike. Is a guest more at risk of dying as a result of spending a night outside in the wet and cold, or indoors with others?

We are considering options in the light of government guidance and have proposed the possibility of offering "sit-up" spaces in a single venue. Our ability to offer this is dependent on:

- a) Being able to find a single, large enough, venue in the town centre which can be dedicated to the shelter for the winter. We can work to make this as safe as possible for guests and volunteers. The team are working on finding a suitable space.
- b) AND having sufficient volunteers willing to offer to cover overnight shifts.

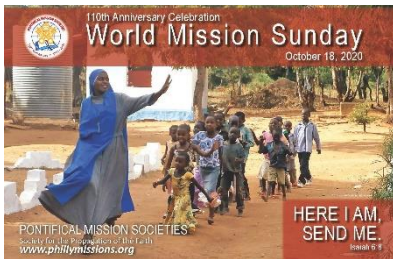
Many of our dedicated team of volunteers will be, understandably, unwilling to offer themselves this year and we do not want folk to feel under pressure to do so if they are not comfortable with this. We will be contacting all volunteers on our database directly. However you may be able to consider volunteering this year for the first time, or the first time for a few years. We would like to hear from you if you would:

- Do a full overnight shift (10pm to 7am) any day Friday to Sunday
- Do a full shift Friday or Saturday (not Sunday)
- Do an emergency overnight shift any day very cold weather is predicted
- Do part of a shift (10pm-2am, or 2am to 7am, for example)

Please contact Richard Ainley, the volunteer coordinator, on maccnightshelter@gmail.com or 07874 852762.

Training will be provided. **We would be grateful if you could let us know THIS WEEK (by 19th October) if you are considering it, so that we can make a decision.**

There will be other opportunities to volunteer if we go ahead, but without being able to cover night shifts and find a venue, there will be no emergency nightshelter this winter, so you will hear about those later.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER - October is the month of World Mission! With World Mission Sunday on the horizon, what better time for all of us to think more about how God is calling us? World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement. It is celebrated on the penultimate Sunday of October every year. It was created by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as the day of prayer for missions. Closely related to Society for the Propagation of the Faith. ***Please pray and share what you can with those most in need around the world.***



The Next Healing Mass will be on **Sunday 24th October - Further details to follow nearer the time.**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: CHRISTMAS VIGIL & MASSES

Christmas is now only 9 weeks away! The Parish Council and the clergy are investigating the feasibility of holding in-person Vigil and Masses over the Christmas period. In-person services are only possible if we have enough volunteer stewards and cleaners to keep everyone safe at each Mass, therefore, we need your help. If you feel that you are able to help over the Christmas period please contact Jane Cole via email to let her know your availability: jmfc@hotmail.co.uk

FOR YOUR DIARY:

BAPTISM 25th OCTOBER 2020 – A Baptism will take place during the 11.00am Mass. Please therefore ensure, that if you wish to attend the 11.00 Mass, you book your place. If the numbers for the Mass exceed 60 you will not be able to come into the Church.



Tuesday October 27th October - **Your Invitation from St Alban's Justice & Peace Group.** Helping local families put food on their tables.- A Briefing on the work of Silklife Foodbank, Macclesfield - The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the number of our neighbours living in food poverty. Foodbanks have been increasingly busy over the years of austerity. Silklife Foodbank was established in December 2010 in response to Macclesfield's growing need for on-the-spot emergency food boxes. Nationally the picture is of dramatic growth in demand this year so far, and of alarming growth in the coming months. What about Macclesfield? We invite you to a Zoom Meeting to hear about the work of Silklife Foodbank from its manager Dan Blackman Manager

on **Tuesday 27th October** ■ **Doors open at 7.15 - 7.30 to 8.15 pm**

For information or to register for the meeting contact

Keith Taylor (01625-429915) email: SKeithTayl2@outlook.com

TUESDAY 17th November – Live-streamed Mass at 7pm, Parish Meeting on Zoom from 7:30pm - Further details and meeting link will be available shortly

SATURDAY 21st November – Day of Recollection for Ministers of Eucharist and Ministers of Word – This will be livestreamed and further details will follow.

SATURDAY 28th November – Festival of light - Holy Hour will be between 8.00pm and 9.00pm, Live-streamed only. Further details to follow

SUNDAY 13th December – Christingle – This will possibly be held on Zoom or Live-streaming in the afternoon and further details will follow once arrangements have been confirmed.

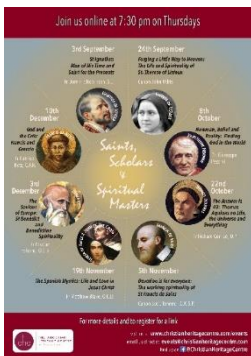
Free e-book for your computer/tablet/phone:

John Henry Newman on the Sense of God in the Conscience

This e-book may be downloaded free of charge to a computer / tablet / phone. It offers an account of the thought of **Saint John Henry Newman** on a topic central to his life, namely the Conscience as involving a sense of God. There is also available with it an accompanying free ebook, which is an appendix containing several of Newman's early manuscript sermons. These e-books may be passed on for downloading to friends or acquaintances as desired.

John Henry Newman on the Sense of God in the Conscience may be accessed at this URL:

www.catholic-thoughts.info/johnhenrynewman



THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE: Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters – Join us on Line a@ 7.30pm Thursdays

22nd October – The Answer is 43: Thomas Aquinas on Life, The Universe and Everything. Fr. Richard Conrad, O.P

5th November – Devotion is for everyone: The working Spirituality of St Francis de Sales – Cannon Scott Tanner, I,C,K,S,P

19th November – The Spanish Mystics: Life and Love in Jesus Christ- Fr Matthew Blake O.C.D.

3rd December – The Saviour of Europe: St Benedict and Benedict Spirituality – Fr Cassian Folsom, O.S.B.

For more details and to register for the link:

www.christianheritagecentre.com/events

email: events@christianheritage.com



RED MISSIO BOXES: This is the time that the collectors would normally come to your house and empty your boxes, counting the money in your presence. Sadly because of coronavirus this is not possible this year. However there are 2 alternatives:

- **Empty your own box** (remove the label from the base of the box and entry to the box is under label). Make a cheque out for the amount and send to: **Missio 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU**. Cheques need to be made payable to **MISSIO**. Write to Missio, phone or email and request a form to make a standing order for whatever amount you wish to give annually and then you have no need for a red box. **Tel: 020 7821 9755** or email: aft@missio.org.uk

FILM GROUP/BOOK CLUB: As the coronavirus situation is still with us and likely to be for some considerable time it has been discussed as to whether parishioners would like to join a film or book club via the Zoom meetings. If you are interested in either or both of the groups please will you contact Joan Hughes on joan.hughes47@ntlworld.com and she will be pleased to speak to you so that she can compile a list of suitable dates and times.



iPADS & CARE HOMES - Up to 11,000 iPad tablets will be distributed to care homes across England to reduce the risk of infection from people going into homes as coronavirus cases continue to rise. Care homes will be 'eligible' for one or two free iPads, depending on the number of devices they currently have to the number of beds. Priority will be given to care homes that don't have enough modern devices or struggle

with their internet connection. **'The gateway for many residents to connect'**

Matt Hancock said: "With coronavirus cases rising the need for infection control measures and social distancing is more important than ever for those living and working in care homes. "However I know how challenging the current situation is staff, residents and families, particularly when loved ones can't visit. "These tablets will be the gateway for so many residents to connect with loved ones, and allow staff to quickly access digital NHS services and information, to help stop Covid-19 outbreaks in their tracks." The government says Apple's iPads were selected because 'they are the only tablet device that will enable care home staff to access their residents' summary care records'. Minister for Care, Helen Whately said: "We've set out our plan to make sure social care has what it needs throughout winter to keep coronavirus at bay and provide the care so many rely on. But we know one of the hardest things during the pandemic has been the restrictions on visiting, keeping families away from their loved ones. "I have heard from many people about the pain of not being able to visit, not being able to hug or even hold the hand of their husband or wife, father or mother. I know iPads won't solve this problem and connecting via a device doesn't work for everyone, but it will help some families stay in touch". The rollout of the iPads will come with new government guidance for care home staff to order regular medications for care home residents online, which would reduce the administrative burden on general practice and pharmacy. Matt Hancock's announcement follows discounted broadband deals being offered to care providers to improve their connectivity. The government's social care winter plan outlines infection prevention and control measures to enable visits to continue safely but areas listed as an 'area of intervention' must immediately restrict visiting to exceptional circumstances only - such as for the end of someone's life.

Martin Green, chief executive of Care England, said: "Communicating with families and with other professionals is vital during this difficult period and we welcome the distribution of iPads, which should enable care providers to have better access to NHS support, and also enable people to keep in contact with their relatives."

To apply, care homes can complete an [order form](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/social-care/ipad-offer-care-homes/) before the 23 October deadline - www.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/social-care/ipad-offer-care-homes/



What is Fratelli tutti (in English: All brothers) – it is the third encyclical of Pope Francis. What is an encyclical? An encyclical is a pastoral letter addressed by the pope to the whole Church. Encyclical letters generally address matters of faith or morals, encourage a particular commemoration or pious devotion, or deal with matters of Church discipline which are to be universally

observed. The encyclical has the subtitle of "on fraternity and social friendship". As he signed the encyclical, at the end of Mass on 3rd October 2020 in Assisi, the Holy Father said that coronavirus had served as a wake-up call for many in the world, highlighting the gross inequalities that many suffer. The central thrust of the encyclical is how to build a world that Jesus would wish to see.

Fratelli tutti' – A Short Summary

Fraternity and social friendship are the ways the Pontiff indicates to build a better, more just and peaceful world, with the contribution of all: people and institutions. With an emphatic confirmation of a 'no' to war and to globalized indifference.

What are the great ideals but also the tangible ways to advance for those who wish to build a more just and fraternal world in their ordinary relationships, in social life, politics and institutions?

This is mainly the question that Fratelli tutti is intended to answer: the Pope describes it as a "Social Encyclical" which borrows the title of the "Admonitions" of Saint Francis of Assisi, who used these words to "address his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel". The Encyclical aims to promote a universal aspiration toward fraternity and social friendship. In the background of the Encyclical is the Covid-19 pandemic which, Francis reveals, "unexpectedly erupted" as he "was writing this letter". But the global health emergency has helped demonstrate that "no one can face life in isolation" and that the time has truly come to "dream, then, as a single human family" in which we are "brothers and sisters all".

Chapter One: dark clouds cover the world

In the first of eight chapters, which is entitled "Dark Clouds over a Closed World", the document reflects on the many distortions of the contemporary era: the manipulation and deformation of concepts such as democracy, freedom, justice; the loss of the meaning of the social community and history; selfishness and indifference toward the common good; the prevalence of a market logic based on profit and the culture of waste; unemployment, racism, poverty; the disparity of rights and its aberrations such as slavery, trafficking, women subjugated and then forced to abort, organ trafficking. It deals with global problems that call for global

actions, emphasizes the Pope, also sounding the alarm against a “culture of walls” that favours the proliferation of organized crime, fuelled by fear and loneliness.

Chapter Two: strangers on the road

To many shadows, however, the Encyclical responds with a luminous example, a herald of hope: the Good Samaritan. The second chapter, “A stranger on the road”, is dedicated to this figure. In it, the Pope emphasizes that, in an unhealthy society that turns its back on suffering and that is “illiterate” in caring for the frail and vulnerable, we are all called – just like the Good Samaritan – to become neighbours to others, overcoming prejudices, personal interests, historic and cultural barriers. We all, in fact, are co-responsible in creating a society that is able to include, integrate and lift up those who have fallen or are suffering. Love builds bridges and “we were made for love” (Par 88), the Pope adds, particularly exhorting Christians to recognize Christ in the face of every excluded person.

Chapter Three: vision of an open world

The principle of the capacity to love according to “a universal dimension” is also resumed in the third chapter, “Envisaging and engendering an open world”. In this chapter Francis exhorts us to go “‘outside’ the self” in order to find “a fuller existence in another”, opening ourselves up to the other according to the dynamism of charity which makes us tend toward “universal fulfilment”. In the background – the Encyclical recalls – the spiritual stature of a person’s life is measured by love, which always “takes first place” and leads us to seek better for the life of the other, far from all selfishness. The sense of solidarity and of fraternity begin within the family, which are to be safeguarded and respected in their “primary and vital mission of education”.

The right to live with dignity cannot be denied to anyone, the Pope again affirms, and since rights have no borders, no one can remain excluded, regardless of where they are born. In this perspective the Pontiff also calls us to consider “an ethics of international relations”, because every country also belongs to foreigners and the goods of the territory cannot be denied to those who are in need and come from another place. Thus, the natural right to private property will be secondary to the principal of the universal destination of created goods. The Encyclical also places specific emphasis on the issue of foreign debt: subject to the principal that it must be paid, it is hoped nonetheless that this does not compromise the growth and subsistence of the poorest countries.

Chapter Four: heart open to the world

To the theme of migration, the latter, entitled “A heart open to the whole world”. With their lives “at stake”, fleeing from war, persecution, natural catastrophes, unscrupulous trafficking, ripped from their communities of origin, migrants are to be welcomed, protected, supported and integrated. Unnecessary migration needs to be avoided, the Pontiff affirms, by creating concrete opportunities to live with dignity in the countries of origin. But at the same time, we need to respect the right to seek a better life elsewhere. In receiving countries, the right balance will be between the protection of citizens’ rights and the guarantee of welcome and

assistance for migrants. Specifically, the Pope points to several “indispensable steps, especially in response to those who are fleeing grave humanitarian crises”: to increase and simplify the granting of visas; to open humanitarian corridors; to assure lodging, security and essential services; to offer opportunities for employment and training; to favour family reunification; to protect minors; to guarantee religious freedom. What is needed above all – the document reads – is global governance, an international collaboration for migration which implements long-term planning, going beyond single emergencies, on behalf of the supportive development of all peoples.

Chapter Five: better politics

The theme of the fifth chapter is “A better kind of politics”, which represents one of the most valuable forms of charity because it is placed at the service of the common good and recognizes the importance of people, understood as an open category, available for discussion and dialogue. This is the populism indicated by Francis, which counters that “populism” which ignores the legitimacy of the notion of “people”, by attracting consensus in order to exploit them for its own service and fomenting selfishness in order to increase its own popularity. But a better politics is also one that protects work, an “essential dimension of social life”. The best strategy against poverty, the Pontiff explains, does not simply aim to contain or render indigents inoffensive, but to promote them in the perspective of solidarity and subsidiarity. The task of politics, moreover, is to find a solution to all that attacks fundamental human rights, such as social exclusion; the marketing of organs, tissues, weapons and drugs; sexual exploitation; slave labour; terrorism and organized crime. The Pope makes an emphatic appeal to definitively eliminate human trafficking, a “source of shame for humanity”, and hunger, which is “criminal” because food is “an inalienable right”.

The politics we need, Francis also underscores, is a politics centred on human dignity and not subjected to finance because “the marketplace, by itself, cannot resolve every problem”: the “havoc” wreaked by financial speculation has demonstrated this. Hence, popular movements have taken on particular relevance: as true “torrents of moral energy”, they must be engaged in society with greater coordination. In this way – the Pope states – it will be possible to go beyond a Policy “with” and “of” the poor.

Another hope present in the Encyclical regards the reform of the UN: in the face of the predominance of the economic dimension, a task of the United Nations will be to give substance to the concept of a “family of nations” working for the common good, the eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights. Tireless recourse “to negotiation, mediation and arbitration” – the Papal Document states – the UN must promote the force of law rather than the law of force.

Chapter Six: dialogue and friendship

From the sixth chapter, “Dialogue and friendship in society”, further emerges the concept of life as the “art of encounter” with everyone, even with the world’s peripheries and with original peoples, because “each of us can learn something

from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable". Then, of particular note, is the Pope's reference to the miracle of "kindness", an attitude to be recovered because it is a star "shining in the midst of darkness" and "frees us from the cruelty ... the anxiety ... the frantic flurry of activity" that prevail in the contemporary era.

Chapter Seven: renewed encounter

The value and promotion of peace is reflected on in the seventh chapter, "Paths of renewed encounter", in which the Pope underlines that peace is connected to truth, justice and mercy. Far from the desire for vengeance, it is "proactive" and aims at forming a society based on service to others and on the pursuit of reconciliation and mutual development. Thus, peace is an "art" that involves and regards everyone and in which each one must do his or her part in "a never-ending task". Forgiveness is linked to peace: we must love everyone, without exception – the Encyclical reads – but loving an oppressor means helping him to change and not allowing him to continue oppressing his neighbour. Forgiveness does not mean impunity, but rather, justice and remembrance, because to forgive does not mean to forget, but to renounce the destructive power of evil and the desire for revenge. Never forget "horrors" like the Shoah, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, persecutions and ethnic massacres – exhorts the Pope. They must be remembered always, anew, so as not to become anaesthetized and to keep the flame of collective conscience alive. It is just as important to remember the good.

"Just War"

Part of the seventh chapter, then, focuses on war: "a constant threat", that represents "the negation of all rights", "a failure of politics and of humanity", and "a stinging defeat before the forces of evil". Moreover, due to nuclear chemical and biological weapons that strike many innocent civilians, today we can no longer think, as in the past, of the possibility of a "just war", but we must vehemently reaffirm: "Never again war!" The total elimination of nuclear arms is "a moral and humanitarian imperative". With the money invested in weapons, the Pope suggests instead the establishment of a global fund for the elimination of hunger.

Death penalty

Francis expresses just as clearly a position with regard to the death penalty: it is inadmissible and must be abolished worldwide. Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity" – the Pope writes – "and God himself pledges to guarantee this". There is emphasis on the necessity to respect "the sacredness of life" where today "some parts of our human family, it appears, can be readily sacrificed", such as the unborn, the poor, the disabled and the elderly.

Chapter Eight: religion and fraternity

In the eighth and final chapter, the Pontiff focuses on "Religions at the service of fraternity in our world" and emphasizes that terrorism is not due to religion but to erroneous interpretations of religious texts, as well as "policies linked to hunger, poverty, injustice, oppression". a journey of peace among religions is possible and

that it is therefore necessary to guarantee religious freedom, a fundamental human right for all believers.

The Encyclical reflects, in particular, on the role of the Church: she does not “restrict her mission to the private sphere”, it states. While not engaging in politics she does not, however, renounce the political dimension of life itself, attention to the common good and concern for integral human development, according to evangelical principals.

Lastly, Francis quotes the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together”, which he signed on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, along with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyib: from that milestone of interreligious dialogue, the Pontiff returns to the appeal that, in the name of human fraternity, dialogue be adopted as the way, common cooperation as conduct, and mutual knowledge as method and standard.



Glory be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**