

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

20th January

“When king Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him”

(Mt 2:3)

The presence of Christ, turning the world upside down

Readings

- **Psalm 2:1-10** - Why do the nations conspire...?
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5** - But the Lord is faithful, he will strengthen you

Reflection

Christ's coming disturbs the ways of the world. He comes in humility, denouncing the evil of injustice and oppression that accompanies the ambition for power, wealth and status. Jesus calls for a change of heart and a transformation of life, which will bring liberation from all that dehumanises. This creates disturbance precisely because he rocks the boat of those who seek only their own interests and neglect the common good. But for those who work for peace and unity, Christ's coming brings the light of hope.

We are invited to commit ourselves to act constructively to make justice a reality, acknowledging where we have strayed from God's ways of justice and peace. Then the answer to our prayer for Christian unity becomes visible as others recognise in us Christ's presence in the world. We can bring the light of hope to those living in the darkness of political unrest, social poverty, and structural discrimination. The Good News is that God is faithful, always strengthening and protecting us, inspiring us to work for the good of others, especially the victims of oppression, hatred, violence and pain.

Prayer

Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus.

Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, justice and peace,

bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment.

Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love.

Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Lá 3

“Nuair a chuala Héaród rí an méid sin, bhí sé corraithe, agus Iarúsailéim go léir mar an gcéanna”

(Matha 2:3)

Láithreacht Chríost ag baint casadh as an saol

Léamha

- **Sailm 2:1-10** - Cad fáth a bhfuil na náisiúin ag beartú...?
- **2 Teasalónaigh 2:13-3:5** - Ach tá an Tiarna dílis agus treiseoidh sé libh

Machnamh

Cuireann teacht Chríost isteach ar shlite an domhain. Le humhlaíocht a thagann sé ach tagann sé chun cáineadh a dhéanamh ar an olc chomh maith agus ar an éagóir a bhaineann le huaillmhianta na cumhachta, an tsaibhris, agus an stádais. Iarrann Íosa athrú intinne agus athrú ar an saol, athrú lena saorfar ón dídhaonnú. Cuireann sé sin isteach ar chúrsaí mar go mbaineann sé creathadh as a mbád siúd nach bhféachann ach i ndiaidh a gcuid féin agus a dhéanann faillí ar an maith choiteann. Ach dóibh siúd a oibríonn ar son na síochána agus na haontachta, is solas an dóchais atá i dteacht Chríost.

Iarrtar orainn sinn féin a thiomnú do ghníomhartha fiúntacha, iarrtar orainn a admháil go bhfuilimid ar seachrán ó shlite Dé an chirt agus na síochána. Is léir ansin cén freagra atá le tabhairt ar ár bpaidir ar son na haontachta Críostaí, de réir mar a aithníonn daoine eile láithreacht Chríost ionainn ar domhan. Is féidir linn solas an dóchais a thabhairt chucu sin a mhaireann i ndorchadas an tsuaite pholaitiúil, na bochtaineachta sóisialta, agus an leithcheala struchtúrtha. Is é an Dea-Nuacht ná gur dílis é Dia i gcónaí, tugann sé neart agus cosaint dúinn, spreagann sé sinn le hoibriú ar son leas daoine eile, íobairtí an daorsmachta, an fhuatha, agus an fhoréigin agus na péine, go háirithe.

Paidir

A Thiarna, threoraigh tú sinn amach as an dorchadas nuair a thug tú dúinn dóchas i gCríost Íosa.

Aontaigh sinn trínár dtiomnú do do réimeas grá, cirt agus síochána a chur ar bun, tabharfar solas dóibh siúd a mhaireann i ndorchadas na díomá agus an éadóchais.

Lonraigh do sholas orainn agus bailigh timpeall orainn an goradh a thagann ó do ghrá.

Tóg sinn chugat, le go dtabharfaidh ár saol glóire duit,

in ainm an Athair, a Mhic, agus a Spioraid Naomh.

Áiméan