



*This marks the end of the conflict in the European theatre of World War II. It was to be marked by great celebrations across the country, and the May Bank holiday was moved to accommodate this. There is still to be a two minute silence at 11am following which Cardinal Vincent will broadcast a livestream Mass from Westminster Cathedral. While we still face the challenges of the CoronaVirus crisis, we need to remember this significant moment in our history, when so many people rejoiced because an end to their crisis was in sight. There was an end to the bombs but the country had still to return to what we are also now calling a “new normal”. In some ways we can see similarities to what was happening then as we face our world here today. As we give thanks for the peace achieved then we can look forward in hope for ourselves. We pray also for all who suffer from war and conflict in our world today, while also facing the danger of CoVid.*

### **Prayers for peace from the Roman Missal – pp 1361,1362, 1332**

O God, who have revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant, we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace.

O God, who show a father’s care for all, grant, in your mercy, that the members of the human race, to whom you have given a single origin, may form in peace a single family and always be united by a fraternal spirit.

O God, Creator of the world, under whose governance the design for all the ages unfolds, be attentive we pray, to our petitions and grant to our times tranquility and peace that we may exult with unceasing joy in praise of your great mercy.

O God of peace, who are peace itself, and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed.

O God, who have taught your Church to keep all the heavenly commandments by loving you and our neighbour, grant us a spirit of grace and peace, so that all your family may be devoted to you wholeheartedly and united in purity of intent.

### **Lections from the Roman Lectionary – p.593f**

Isaiah 9:1-6 *Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end*

Isaiah 32:15-18 *Integrity will bring peace*

Isaiah 57:15-19 *Peace to far and near*

Philippians 4:6-9 *May the peace of God guard your hearts and your thoughts*

Colossians 3:12-15 *May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts*

James 3:13-18 *Peacemakers, who work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness*

Matthew 5:1-12 *Happy are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God*

Matthew :5:38-48 *I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance*

John 14:23-29 *Peace I bequeath to you*

John 20:19-23 *Peace be with you*



## Resources from the VE Service planned for Westminster Abbey

*for more details see – [churchofengland.org/VEDay](https://churchofengland.org/VEDay)*

### An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew  
to the service of God and our fellow men and women:  
that we may help, encourage and comfort others,  
and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace,  
for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

O Lord our God, as we remember, teach us the ways of peace.  
As we treasure memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the sacrifices of the past,  
help us to make your future in this world, until your kingdom come. Amen

### For those who served and died in World War II

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service,  
particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

### For those who serve today

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm  
to strengthen and protect our service men and women. Support them in times of conflict,  
and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty;  
and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### For the peace of the world

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace;  
that the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows  
and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## St John Henry Newman's prayer

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
until the shadows lengthen,  
and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.  
Then in your mercy,  
grant us a safe lodging,  
and a holy rest,  
and peace at the last.

