

PENTECOST SUNDAY (John. 20:19-23)

JESUS GIVES A PEACE THAT THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE

The world cannot give us the true peace,
Our suffering or pain the world can't ease.
There's much sadness around us today,
Worldly peace can't last in any way.

You get no peace having a big name,
Nor will there be peace with wealth or fame.
Peace doesn't come from having big titles,
The peace the world gives us is little.

All people long for peace in their life,
Without peace life only brings us strife.
Sadly, peace eludes the modern man,
To find peace we need to seek God's plan

Peace is a gift only God can give,
Which, with gratitude we should receive.
Nobody can steal this peace away,
It'll bring us joy more than words can say.

The Giver of peace came to the world,
His coming the prophets had foretold.
He was the Light to lighten our path,
The way to peace is the narrow path.

Without peace we live our life in pain,
Our wealth and positions are in vain.
We may be able to conquer the world
Without peace our life we cannot hold.

QUESTIONS:

1. How do you deal with insecurity and uncertainty?
2. When things start to go bad, do you try to take control?
3. Where do you turn for peace?
4. What will give you a long-lasting peace that will never be disturbed?
5. Which stanza of this poem helps you the most?

REFLECTIONS:

Peace is a state of mind, an inner tranquility that you enjoy at any given time. Peace brings a certain calmness over your body, and your mind is free from being disturbed or troubled. There is an inner freedom that makes you look very peaceful. This is a state of mind that all long for but few find. This is because we are not prepared to walk the path of peace. We will find no peace if we look for it in the wrong places or with the wrong people. The way to peace is very hard and not many are willing to follow this path. As in many other cases, we often look for shortcuts to peace. The world offers many quick fixes to improve our lives. We are familiar with slogans that promise you better physical health, weight loss, mental health, better marriages and so on. We are constantly on the lookout for shortcuts to a happy marriage, healthy relationships or successful parenthood. All the time we are being seduced to buy products that only can offer short term solutions. Take a close look at your own life: realize how often you have fallen victim to these enticements. What is the result? Have they improved your life with long-lasting happiness and peace? Is your home today a sanctuary of peace? Are you a harbinger of peace in the family?

Modern man is not very patient and looks for quick solutions to his problems. He is in a hurry, moving from one schedule to another that makes him exhausted at the end of the day. He is constantly on the run doing one thing or another. He

MAY 24, 2026



**MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY**

experiments with different things hoping to find peace. The more he tries, the farther he gets from finding peace. Peace eludes modern man, who has a much more comfortable life today than his counterparts of the past. He has embraced materialism with the hope that material things will bring him peace. He tries to get the best and most of everything that the world can offer. He buys them hoping to find peace. There is no end to his craze to amass wealth, titles, power, and position. The more he has, the less he is peaceful. He is restless and sleepless because he is afraid of his possessions and power being stolen. He now has more fears and worries to deal with than the possessions he can count. At the depth of his heart, there is a nagging doubt whether the material things that he has amassed can guarantee him peace. The more he seeks peace the more peace runs away from him. An inner voice persistently tries to tell him that he must change his direction and focus on finding lasting peace elsewhere. Being drowned by too many promising voices of the world, he continues to seek peace in the wrong places. This is especially the story of the rich and influential people of the world. They refuse to accept the fact that at the bottom of their hearts there is an acute loneliness, fear, and restlessness. They are a bunch of unhappy men and women who put on masks to cover the horrendous state of their inner selves. The expensive clothes they wear and rich lifestyles they follow are some of the things they use to attempt to hide their inner miseries. They are in constant fear of being exposed to the world.

Look at the world for a while. If materialism could give us peace, Americans should be the most peaceful people on the planet since they have every material blessing. Unfortunately they are not. There is so much unhappiness in the lives of people. Depression has pervaded too many lives of both young and old Americans. This should be a wakeup call for us to slow down and make an evaluation of our lives. Self-examination is the key to our healthy living. This will open our eyes to see that peace is not possible away from God. God alone is the Giver of peace, and following God's way is the key to a life of peace and joy. We may be able to have the best and the most of everything that the world offers but peace does not come from the possession of these things. These material things are like grass in the fields which withers in the scorching sun. We may try very hard to live in peace but without God our efforts are wasted. How many years have we to pray before a mango tree starts producing apples instead mangoes? How many more years do you want to pray for peace without God? Inasmuch as a mango tree will never produce apples so also our seeking for peace without God will never bear fruit.

Every time Jesus appeared to the apostles after the resurrection, He always greeted them, "Peace be with you." Jesus, the Prince of peace, had suffered at the hands of cruel men who crucified Him. At His death, the apostles lost all hope. They counted their days in fear that they would also meet with the same fate as their Master. They were troubled, anxious, and afraid when Jesus came to them with the greeting of peace and love. Initially they thought He was a ghost. Jesus had to rebuild their confidence and trust because they had begun to think that everything was lost. They even failed to recognize Him. But when they did recognize Him, they had no more fears, worries or anxieties. When we, too, recognize Jesus as our Savior, there will be peace and hope in our lives. More and more people are beginning to experience an inner emptiness, meaninglessness, and uselessness. Living conditions and standards have improved considerably but the quality of living has not made any improvement. As a matter of fact, it is getting worse every day. This is reflected in the suicide rate that has skyrocketed during the last fifty years, as well as in the rates of broken families and divorces, which is at an all-time high at the moment. Take a look around to see how many single parents are raising children. Who can replace the emptiness and vacuum that has been created in the hearts of children because their parents are separated? If Jesus is in their lives, they will handle their problems differently, and peace will be their choice. If Jesus is at the center of their families, He will be the Pillar of unity and harmony.

We say, "Home is where the heart is," meaning that home is the place where we live with loved ones, a place where we love and are loved in return. Home is where they know us best and love us anyway. We can paraphrase this by saying, "Peace is where God dwells." Jesus promised us a place where we love and are loved in return, both here and in heaven. It is quite a promise. Home is where we are with the Lord, and we are with the Lord now and will be with the Lord forever. Today we can see the futile struggle of man looking for peace without God. In his heart, every Christian knows that there is no peace without God but blinded by materialism, he is unable admit it. He is groping in darkness, unable to open his eyes to find peace with Jesus. Jesus clearly says, "He who doesn't love me doesn't keep my words." If it is true that those who love Jesus will keep his word, the converse is also true. Those who do not love Jesus will not keep his word, will not obey His new commandment and will not love others. Finally Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you." This is Jesus' last will and testament. He had little to leave. Even his clothes would soon be the property of the crucifixion squad of soldiers. But there was one thing He could give, "Peace!" a mighty gift indeed. By contrast, Christ offers real peace. We see it in the lives of those who have entrusted their lives to Christ. We envy their calm strength. Their creed is, "In God alone we have our peace." They enjoy this peace which no one can steal from them. What about you? Do you enjoy a true peace in your life? Peace is in your choice of Jesus, the Prince of Peace!