



A School Act of Collective Worship

Week 3: Theme – Peace with justice, resilience and well-being – the Priests of the Diocese

This is the third of five outlines for Collective Worship written to help schools pray, offer love and hope and encourage giving towards The Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call 2024. The Lent Call supports our brothers and sisters in Christ in our link diocese – The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East and in our link dioceses in Zimbabwe.

Bible passage: Amos 5:24

Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Gather/song

I, The Lord of Sea and Sky. '[Songs of Praise](#)' from the Isle of Wight.

Engage

This week in our journey through Lent, we are thinking some more about one of our link dioceses, the Diocese of Jerusalem and especially the priests who minister there.

Think about your priest, chaplain at school or church. What do they do as a priest or chaplain? They could be interviewed about their role.

Why is it good to have a priest? How do they make a difference to who and where they minister to?

Resources to explore the role of a priest can be obtained from the '[Thank your Vicar Week](#)' [website](#).

Being a vicar is much more than a job – it's a calling, a vocation. Clergy care for and nurture their parish and its people 24/7 and are available to all, in times of great happiness and sadness.

The current war in Gaza and Israel is a time of deep sadness, particularly for the people who live there. This is The Holy Land where Jesus, the greatest peacemaker lived, but it is currently one of the most unpeaceful places in the world. Our link Diocese of Jerusalem covers five different countries in the Middle East: Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. So, our Christian brothers and sisters in The diocese of Jerusalem

are all either in, or very close to, areas of war and conflict.

Faiths are very important to many people in the Holy Land. Christians there turn to their priests and their churches, both individually and as Christian communities. They are looking for comfort, for assurance in their faith and for hope, to help them through this shocking time of war.

Priests in The Diocese of Jerusalem are doing a wonderful job in trying to pastorally look after people who are suffering in the worst of times and to bring them the hope of Jesus Christ. However, the priests there will also be worried, and experiencing trauma themselves. They will be witnessing horrible things from the war, including, possibly, loved ones who have been killed in the war.

We can support the priests in The Diocese of Jerusalem as they support their parishioners, by especially praying for them this Lent, for their wellbeing and that they are able to minister to all those in need, whilst keeping the faith.

Respond with a prayer

Almighty God, our Creator and Support, we ask you to aid all those suffering and disheartened in times of distress and hopelessness.

Guide us to reflect your compassion, enabling us to be a support to all who are around us.

Amen.

(Written by the clergy of The Diocese of Jerusalem.)





Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem. By James Tissot (1836-1902). © Brooklyn Museum/FreeBibleimages.org

A Reflection

The painting above shows Jesus praying in The Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem. This was on the night before he died. In the worst of times, Jesus was putting his trust in God.

- **How might this be inspiration for priests in The Diocese of Jerusalem, experiencing the worst of times today?**
- **Why are priests so important for the people of The Holy Land, especially at this time?**
- **How can priests help the people living in The Holy Land today to keep the Christian faith?**
- **What is your prayer for the priests of The Diocese of Jerusalem?**

