

Synopsis of Message for World Day of Peace – 1st January 2025.

In his Message for the World Day of Peace on New Years Day at the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Hope,

- Pope Francis highlights how earth is exploited, how our neighbours are oppressed and calls us to make changes to restore justice in our world to ensure that the goods of the earth are for everyone.
- Pope Francis is asking us to recognise that God is our Creator, to be grateful to God, to be inspired by a spirit of solidarity and interdependence to forgive all debt, especially that of poor countries.
- We must realise that we need each other, according to Pope Francis, and forgive others as God forgives us so as to offer each other hope.

Specifically, Pope Francis, makes three proposals, that we

- Cancel all the debts that are crippling poorer countries,
- Protect human life from the moment of conception, eliminate the death penalty and
- Use a fixed percentage of money earmarked for arms production to eliminate hunger in poorer countries.

Pope Francis is asking us to support these proposals to hold out hope for young people into the future. He is calling us to follow the example of Jesus, to engage in “**the job of disarming hearts**” so as to offer hope and build peace for the future.

Finally, the prayer of Pope Francis with good wishes to all leaders and to every person of good will is,

Forgive us our trespasses, Lord,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

In this cycle of forgiveness, grant us your peace,

the peace you alone can give

to those who let themselves be disarmed of heart,

to those who choose in hope to forgive the debts

of their brothers and sisters,

to those who are unafraid to confess their debt to you,

and to those who do not close their ears to the cry of the poor.

+ Martin Hayes, Kilmore.