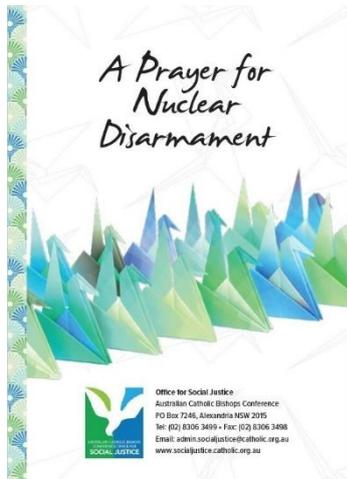


A Prayer for Nuclear Disarmament



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the [first nuclear explosion](#) and the atomic bombing of [Hiroshima](#) 6th August and [Nagasaki](#) 9th August. The Office for Social Justice has prepared a prayer to help the Australian Catholic community to mark the *Ten Days for Peace* in solidarity with the Church in Japan.

The *Ten Days for Peace* which the Catholic Church in Japan celebrates each year was the response of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan to [Pope John Paul II's appeal at Hiroshima on 25 February 1981](#). It was the first time that a Pope had visited Hiroshima. Pope Francis also visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki in November 2019. At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial [he declared](#) that the use of atomic energy for the purposes of war is immoral, and that the possession of nuclear weapons is also immoral.

We invite you to pray and share this prayer, especially from 6 to 15 August.

A Prayer for Nuclear Disarmament

Lord of all creation, make us instruments of your peace.

Let us learn the lessons of the past, and put an end to nuclear weapons.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

May our love for each other and for all of your creation

leave no place for making or owning weapons of mass destruction.

Where there is injury, let us be bearers of your healing and pardon.

May we create paths to dialogue, understanding and reconciliation.

Where there is doubt, let us foster faith in you.

May we let the weapons fall from our hands and know that you are God.

Where there is despair, let us hold up hope.

May our lives reflect your love in the face of violence,

knowing that love is stronger than death.

Where there is darkness, let us be bearers of your light.

May our choices show that peace is possible.

Where there is sadness, let us bring the joy of the Gospel.

Amen.