

Prayer Guide for the week 29 January to 4 February

“In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death.”

Anne Frank



On January 27, 1945, the largest of the Nazi death camps (Auschwitz-Birkenau) was liberated. In honour of the approximately 6,000,000 Jews and 5,000,000 others murdered during the Holocaust, the United Nations General Assembly resolved in 2005 that henceforth this be an International Day of Holocaust Remembrance. It seems to be appropriate that this past Saturday was the commemoration of the Holocaust, coming so soon after the International Court of Justice ruled on South Africa's charge of violation of the Genocide Convention signed in 1948. Despite the many signatories to the convention, there have been many cases of genocide or near genocide within nations or between nations, such as happened in Serbia and Rwanda.

We can only hope and pray that the ruling of the court will be adhered to by both Israel and Hamas, and that an equitable peace agreement can be reached. While the taking of, maltreating and killing of hostages by Hamas can never be condoned, neither can some of the acts of aggression by Israel be condoned.



Lord, we pray for

- † Peace in the Gaza-Israel conflict; that both sides recognise the right of existence of the other.
- † The Israeli hostages in Gaza; for their wellbeing and release, for prisoners taken by Israel to be returned home.
- † For the care workers in Gaza, working under terrible conditions, particularly in the hospitals.
- † Peace in the almost forgotten war between Ukraine and Russia.
- † Peace in the middle east, where the Houthi rebels control the 30km wide entrance to the Red Sea, through which so much of the world's oil needs to pass.
- † We pray for our own nation as we prepare for elections, for peaceful meetings and rallies, for the voters, that they may not blindly make their cross but by thoughtful decision making.

MUCH, MUCH MORE, IN 2024