

PRAYING FOR LASTING PEACE

Dutch bishops' call to pray for lasting peace in Gaza and Israel
and all other war zones



Brothers and sisters,

"I am deeply saddened by what is happening in Gaza: may there be an immediate ceasefire! Let humanitarian aid be provided to the affected civilian population and let all the hostages be freed," Pope Leo XIV said in his first Sunday prayer on May eleventh.

We join the appeal of Pope Leo XIV. Medical aid and food supplies must get underway immediately. The hostages must be released. Then the reconstruction of Gaza can begin, and a just and lasting peace agreement can be sought that guarantees the security and well-being of Palestinians and Israelis.

Pope Leo XIV also spoke in his Sunday prayer on May eleventh about the war violence in Ukraine and flaring violence between India and Pakistan. He called on world leaders to commit to end all these wars: "Start talking to each other and ensure a lasting solution to these conflicts."

At the end of the inauguration Mass on Sunday the eighteenth of May, the Pope reiterated his call for peace in war-torn parts of the world. "In the joy of faith and communion, let us not forget our brothers and sisters who are suffering from war," he stressed. We also think of civilians in Sudan and South Sudan.

With you, we pray for the people of Gaza and Israel and for all those around the world affected by war. We also pray for those who carry power and responsibility in their efforts for peace. We continue to believe in a just future for all. With you, we continue to hope for peace.

With Pope Leo XIV, we ask you to pray the rosary for peace in the month of May.

We invite you to pray a novena for lasting peace prior to Pentecost.

Baarn, 23 May 2025

The Roman Catholic bishops of the Netherlands