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Make me a channel of your peace - APR Monthly Prayers – September 2026

In 2026 we are celebrating St Francis of Assisi, this being the 800th anniversary of his death. Our prayers this month reflect the central teaching of St Francis, that we should be people of peace.

Bible Reading – John 20:19-22 - Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with
the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them
and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.
The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be
with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed
on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit".

Reflective Reading – 'May the Lord give you peace' by St Francis

At the end of his life Francis wrote that 'the Lord revealed a greeting to me that we should always say: 'may the Lord give you peace' ', (Rule 1.126). It became the saint's greeting to everyone he met, and also he used the greeting in all of his sermons. He sent brothers out in 'holy activity' to preach 'peace and penance', (1.207). He used to tell them: 'As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts. Let everyone be drawn to peace and kindness through your peace and gentleness' (2.52). So, this apparently simple greeting of peace from the Lord became for Francis greater than a modest prayerful welcome. It pointed more deeply to peace as a way of being, as a spiritual attitude of heart, lovingly challenging and calling others to change by also becoming people of peace.

(*from* 'Becoming Prayer' *by Simon Cocksedge & Nicholas Worssam, Canterbury Press, 2026*)

Below are some Franciscan prayers for peace, for your use.

Franciscan Prayers for Peace

Gracious God, we join our cries today with all people who suffer violence, both around the world and in our own country, with those who have seen too much violence, too much war, displacement, mourning, we cry out for peace, stability, and healing. So, we turn in prayer toward our neighbours who are in great need. In solidarity with these sisters and brothers, we cry out to you: Let there be joy where there is mourning. Let there be hope where there is fear. Let there be stillness where there is violence. And let there be peace. A just and lasting peace. Lord, your grace abounds. May it rest upon us all, today and always. Amen

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Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani

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Lord, I don't always see or understand which steps to take in life.
It's much easier to look away from the pain in this world,
to ignore the darkness that lurks in the human heart,
to pretend that the fears and insecurities I hold aren't really there.
Grant me the courage, Lord, to face these challenges
and, in doing so, near myself
to your warmth, your love. Amen.

Great Source of Wisdom,
Give me an open mind, an open heart, and open will.
Still my voices of judgment, cynicism, and fear.
Fill me with your sacred light.
Breathe in me Your holy inspiration. Amen

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we
who are filled with good things from your open hand, may never close our hearts
to the hungry, the homeless and the poor.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Make me a channel of your peace, modern Franciscan hymn

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Make me a channel of Your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Source: Musixmatch
Songwriters: Sebastian Temple
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