

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 11th October 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Peacemakers part 2

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God"

But, what is peace? The first thing that comes to many of our minds, might be the cessation of hostilities. This certainly would be the starting point in any conflict, which in the case of Israel and Gaza would include the immediate safe return of all hostages.

However, in the bible, peace means a lot more. Peace here, touches on wholeness, harmony, mutual prosperity, health and fulfilment. The key is good relationships - our relationship with God, with our inner self and with the world at large. Peace therefore is not just the absence of conflict, but the active experience of a harmony that promotes total well being for all.

What creates that harmony? This is the task of the peace-maker. Martin Luther King Jr said - "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."

Justice involves holding people to account for their actions and that which creates true harmony. Central to this, is the sense that the stranger in a different part of the world is my sister, and my brother, and their wellbeing and health is essential to mine. It requires hard work and courage to help make that happen. It's well worth reading the whole paragraph in which the quote about being a peacemaker comes from.

Jesus said:

- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

**9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of
evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Matthew 5:3-12

This then is the task Jesus calls us to.