

Thought for the day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Let us pray for all those affected by the terrible events in Sidney, and also for peace in our world, specially in the Middle East at this time. When we were asked to share our hopes and fears at last December's Nativity pay, the major fears we had were wars and conflicts. And so, let us pray for the peace makers of all nations and on all sides. In the midst of terrible and alarming news, let us remember the words of Jesus, "27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" - John 14:27.

This is not a shallow peace in an imaginary world without conflict, but peace in the midst of the storm. It is not downplaying the seriousness of the storms, but 'up-playing' the power of the risen Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of it. It is not an escapism that justifies inaction, but an inner calmness that is essential for meaningful action.

### **BIBLE VERSES:**

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

He said:

<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,

for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 5:1-10