



*A message from the archbishop for the month of October*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

'Peace be with you!'

With these words the Holy Father Leo XIV greeted all people of goodwill as he first greeted the world following his election. My first words to the Church of Liverpool were the same when Archbishop Malcolm introduced me as his successor as shepherd of the archdiocese. This greeting echoes the words of risen Christ to all people through the power of his life-changing Resurrection. He invites them to be filled with His peace and calls us to share the peace of Christ with every person in every corner of creation. Peace is a quality for which we pray and something we need to create and cultivate by active steps of love which lead to the authentic human flourishing of all peoples no matter their race, colour, or religious belief.

At the end of his general audience on 24 September, the Holy Father noted that October was approaching and that with the 7 October, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Catholic Church traditionally dedicates the whole month to praying the rosary in a more intense way. "I invite everyone to pray the rosary every day during the coming month – for peace – personally, with your families and in your communities," he said. In particular, he invited everyone to St. Peter's Square on 11 October to pray the rosary.

So as the community of the archdiocese, I invite each and all of you to pray the Holy Rosary each day during the month of October, for your families and your parish communities and for the gift of peace in the world. I hope that each of us will be especially united with the Holy Father on 11 October in his prayer for peace, and so I invite your priests to arrange a time to pray the Holy Rosary in the afternoon/evening of 11 October in your parish churches.

The Pope and other Christian leaders have called for a lasting peace and a two-state solution <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-joins-church-leaders-in-calling-for-an-end-to-the-war-in-gaza/>

May Our Lady, Queen of Peace intercede for peace.

Yours fraternally in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name "John Slevington". The script is cursive and fluid.

*Archbishop of Liverpool*