

United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross
Diocesan Centenaries Commemoration
and Reconciliation Project

Assembly for Armistice Day



Assembly for Armistice Day

Option 1

Led by senior classes.



Some of the material is based on Follow Me Term 1 Lesson 8 Fit for Life: Peace.



Suitable hymns/ songs are

Church Hymnal 499 When I needed a neighbour,
507 Put peace into each others' hands,
503 Make me a channel of your peace,
525 Let there be love

or

Junior Praise 217 Shalom my friend.



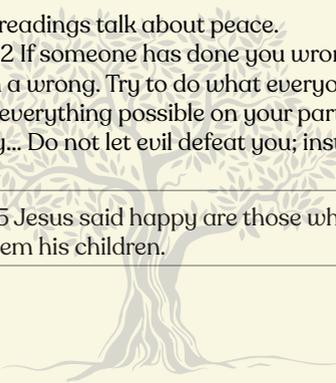
**Visuals of dove / olive branch / World War 1 memorial from
parish church (if present) would be useful.**



The Olive Tree

Narrator 1	What images come into your mind when you hear the word 'peace'?
Narrator 2	Two common examples are the dove and the olive branch.
Narrator 1	Did you know the Hebrew word for peace is Shalom?
Narrator 2	Shalom means completeness and well being.
Narrator 1	It is good to be at peace, to be complete, to be well.
Narrator 3	Sadly this is not always the case.
Narrator 4	In the world today there are many wars including these places, in each of which more than 10,000 people have died in the last two years – Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.
Narrator 3	100 years ago this month, on the 11 November 1918, World War I ended.
Narrator 4	At 11 o'clock on 11 November (the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month) people will stop in many places, including at St Fin Barre's cathedral. There, at 4 minutes to 11, four minutes of silence will start, one for each year of the First World War. The cathedral bells will ring once at the end of each minute. At 11 o'clock there will be 2 minutes silence as there will be in many different places and countries. Then the cathedral bells will ring out joyfully as bells did 100 years ago across Europe to mark the end of the war.
Narrator 3	What do people do when there is silence?
Narrator 4	People will be silent to remember those who served in the First World War. Some of those people died serving their countries, some were severely injured, others came home and were disturbed for the rest of their lives by the memories of what they had seen.
Narrator 5	Why did people even go to fight?
Narrator 6	It's a hard question to answer but for most people they fought because they wanted there to be peace in the world and to make the world a safer and better place.
Narrator 5	The world was completely changed at the end of the war.

Narrator 6	Many of the places where there is still war today, including in the Middle East, can trace the beginnings of the conflicts to the events of 100 years ago.
Narrator 7	We are going to think about one of the symbols of peace - the olive branch.
Narrator 8	The phrase 'to extend the olive branch' is often used to explain a way of ending a fight or argument. One person involved in the argument makes the first move to say 'Let's be at peace'.
Narrator 7	Did you know that earlier this year the singer Katy Perry sent an actual olive branch to the singer Taylor Swift as a sign that they were no longer fighting?
Narrator 7	Why an olive branch?
Narrator 8	Olive trees grow slowly, they take time to grow. Peace takes time to grow too. There are lots of legends about why the olive tree is a symbol of peace and friendship.
Storyteller 1	In ancient Greece there was a battle between Athena and Poseidon for the control of Athens. Athena won by giving the people of Athens an olive tree.
Storyteller 2	In Ancient Rome people sent olive branches as signs of peace.
Storyteller 1	In early Christian art, peace is often shown by the dove holding an olive branch in its beak.
Storyteller 2	Olive branches are seen in flags of some countries, on the United Nations flag which shows the world encircled by twin olive branches and on many police badges in different countries.
Storyteller 1	Did you know Neil Armstrong left a golden olive branch on the moon as a symbol of peace?
Bible Reading 1	Our Bible readings talk about peace. Romans 12 If someone has done you wrong, do not repay them with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody... Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good.
Bible Reading 2	Matthew 5 Jesus said happy are those who work for peace. God will call them his children.



Narrator 1	We have an olive tree in our school now. When we look at it we will remember...
Narrator 2	We will remember that 100 years ago on 11 November 1918 the world came to a time of peace at the end of the war.
Narrator 3	We will remember the nearly 40 million who died in that war and the millions whose lives were affected.
Narrator 4	We will remember the 4,400 people from Cork city and county who died in the war, especially those from our parish. Some of them are remembered in our towns and city and in our churches and in our graveyards
Narrator 3	We will remember that we should work for peace in our families, our schools, our communities, our country and in the world.
Narrator 6	We will choose peace instead of war.
Prayer 1	<p>Dear God</p> <p>As we look at the olive tree, our symbol of peace we remember those who fought for peace in the past, particularly those who fought in the First World War.</p> <p>We also remember those who are fighting in wars in different parts of the world and we pray for their families. We pray for world leaders and governments that they would choose peace instead of war.</p> <p>Please help us to be peaceful and caring people.</p> <p>Help us to think of others and to work at keeping the peace.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
Prayer 2	<p>Make me a channel of your peace</p> <p>Where there is hatred, let me sow love,</p> <p>Where there is injury, let there be pardon,</p> <p>Where there is discord, union</p> <p>Where there is doubt, faith</p> <p>Where there is despair, hope,</p> <p>Where there is darkness, light</p> <p>Where there is sadness, joy. (St Francis of Assisi)</p>
Blessing	If the rector is present s/he may say a blessing to end the assembly; The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord... and the blessing...

Extension Work for the classroom

1. Find out if there is a memorial in your church/ graveyard. Make a list of the names of the people and any information you can discover about them.
2. Find out where olive branches are used on flags and signs.
3. Research the story behind the United Nations flag.
4. Find out about the Quakers and their teachings on war and peace.
5. Research recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.
6. Write prayers on the theme of peace and display these in the school/ Assembly space. Use the prayers in assembly/ RE during the month of November.
7. Read books set in current areas of conflict – *The Kites are Flying* by Michael Morpugo is set on the West Bank. Very useful teacher's resources are available online to engage with the book with a senior class.



Assembly for Armistice Day

Option 2

led by teacher/ principal or clergy.



Some of the material is based on Follow Me Term 1 Lesson 8 Fit for Life: Peace.

Suitable hymns/ songs are Church Hymnal

499 When I needed a neighbour,

507 Put peace into each others' hands,

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or

Junior Praise 217 Shalom my friend.



Visuals of dove / olive branch / World War 1

Memorial from parish church (if present) would be useful.



The Olive Tree

We received a gift from Bishop Colton. The gift was of an olive tree. Olive trees are in fact native to Mediterranean countries where they are very important as their fruits (olives) make olive oil which is very important in cooking.

Why then did the Bishop give us an olive tree? It is not so we will make delicious Mediterranean food if the fruits grow – it is as a symbol, a memory marker or image of peace.

Olive trees and branches have been symbols of peace and friendship since ancient times. There are legends found in ancient Greece and ancient Rome about olive branches.

There are also stories in the Bible where olive trees are mentioned. One of the most famous is the story of Noah's ark where the bird is sent out from the ark to search for land and it comes back with an olive branch in its beak. Early Christian art also shows doves with olive branches as signs of peace and the work of the Holy Spirit.

In more recent times you can see the olive branches on the United Nations flag and on the flags of some countries (such as Cyprus) and on badges/ symbols worn by police in many parts of the world. A gold olive branch was left on the moon by Neil Armstrong as a wish for peace for all humankind.



Why are we thinking about peace now?

100 years ago on 11 November 1918 World War I ended. About 40 million people had died, soldiers and civilians. 4,400 of these came from Cork city and county. Every year since then people have paused on 11 November, Remembrance Day, to think about what happened during the four years of the war and the effects it had on the world then and continues to have today. Some of the current conflicts in the Ukraine and the Middle East can trace their history back to the world history set in motion by the First World War.

This year 2018 is being marked in a special way as it is 100 years since the end of the First World War. Our diocesan cathedral, St Fin Barre's cathedral, has a Heroes column and book where names and stories of people who died have been compiled over the past four years. Many of these names and stories have never been recorded before so this has been a very special and important project.

On 11 November at 4 minutes to 11 there will be four minutes of silence, one for each year of the First World War, each minute marked by the tolling of a cathedral bell. Then at 11 am there will be 2 minutes silence. People will pause and remember

those who died, those who were injured and those whose minds and lives were deeply affected by the war. Following the silence, and just as happened in 1918, the bells will ring out joyously to remember the end of the First World War and the hope for peace.

There are lots of Bible verses which talk about peace. Here are two. One is part of a letter written to churches in Rome. It is good advice about getting on with other people.

Romans 12v17 If someone has done you wrong, do not repay them with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody... Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good.

Jesus also praised those who work for peace. He said: Happy are those who work for peace. God will call them his children. (**Matthew 5**).

Our olive tree is a symbol... a memory marker... a visual aid to help us think about the importance of 11 November 2018, a hundred years since the end of World War One.

- ❖ We will remember that 100 years ago on 11 November 1918 the world came to a time of peace at the end of the war.
- ❖ We will remember the nearly 40 million who died in that war and the millions whose lives were affected.
- ❖ We will remember the people from our city, county and parish who died in the war. Some of them are remembered in our churches and in our graveyards.
- ❖ We will remember that we should work for peace in our families, our schools, our communities, our country and in the world.
- ❖ We will choose peace instead of war.

Let us pray

Dear God

As we look at the olive tree, our symbol of peace, we remember those who fought for peace in the past, particularly those who fought in the First World War.

We also remember those who are fighting in wars in different parts of the world and we pray for their families. We pray for world leaders and governments that they would choose peace instead of war.

Please help us to be peaceful and caring people.

Help us to think of others and to work at keeping the peace. Amen.

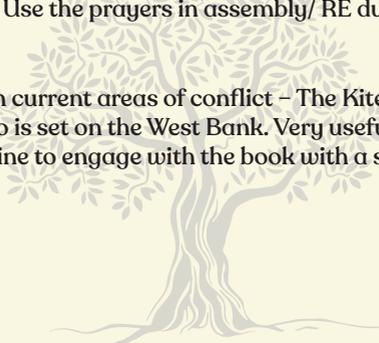
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Where there is sadness, joy. (St Francis of Assisi)

If the rector is present s/he may say a blessing to end the assembly:

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts
and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus
Christ our Lord... and the blessing...

Extension Work for the classroom

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To the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund

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1918 – 2018

