

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group June 2017

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3: 1

I'm writing this prayer letter on June 8th, voting day for the UK General Election and it seems to me that recent times have been a season for elections. This is the fourth election to be held in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; a time for making important choices.

We are told in Ecclesiastes 3:7 that there is, "a time to keep silence and a time to speak."

Perhaps the silence referred to is the time for listening. We are living through troubled times and we need to listen and reflect and be informed on the important issues of our times. As refugees continue to seek safety in Europe we are called to show solidarity and courage in the defence of the vulnerable who seek to escape war and persecution. Having kept silence, then we are called to speak in the defence of justice and truth.

There is always the risk of not speaking, of turning away from the stranger, of leaving it to someone else. The risk summed up by WB Yeats,

*The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

I pray today that the Holy Spirit fill us with passionate intensity to transform our world and to make God's Kingdom of peace and love and solidarity a reality for all in 2017.

Let us pray that

- We do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers
- We recognise the value of every person in our community and that each is made in God's image
- We embrace peace
- We speak boldly and persuasively for justice and truth

Contributed by Patricia Carty