



Scripture

Old Testament: "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern." Proverbs 29.7 (NIV).

New Testament: "If you plant in the field of your natural desires, from it you will gather the harvest of death; if you plant in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit you will gather the harvest of eternal life." Galatians 6:8 (GNB).

Catechism

"Merciful forgiveness – the mercy that we show to others and the mercy that we ourselves seek – is indivisible. If we ourselves are not merciful and do not forgive one another, God's mercy will not reach our hearts." YOUCAT #524

Comment

As the terrible events in the Holy Land continue to be uncovered – the initial terrorist atrocities against Israeli civilians and the huge military response against Gaza by Israel – we are reminded of the words of Pope Francis from the Wednesday General Audience of October 11th in which he expressed the following:

"Terrorism and extremism do not help to reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence, and revenge, causing suffering to both sides... The Middle East does not need war but peace, a peace built on justice, dialogue, and the courage of fraternity."

Organisation of the month

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is the official overseas aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Its website – www.cafod.org has a designated page entitled 'Emergency Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal' whereby donations may be made online to support those in most need due to the conflict.

Pray, Think, Act

Pray: that God the Father of mercies, through His Beloved Son Jesus Christ, may, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, bring justice and a lasting peace to the Holy Land. Please continue to pray for peace in the region, perhaps by praying the Rosary, the Memorare, Salve Regina, or the prayer for peace by St. Francis of Assisi.

Think: "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." St. Paul's letter to the Romans (12:21) adapted from the Breviary. How could this apostolic teaching be applied in the current situation in the Holy Land?

Act: Visit www.cafod.org for more information about how you can make a difference.

*"Do as much as you can. God will do what we ourselves cannot do."
St John Bosco, Letter to Cagliero, November 13, 1875*