



## **PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE IN MANIPUR**

*(To be conducted in Parishes or SCC groups)*

**OPENING HYMN:** *(Any appropriate Hymn of praise and worship.)*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Dear friends, we are gathered here as part of the body of Christ, joining hands with our brothers and sisters of Manipur who are suffering due to the devastating ongoing violence between the Meitei (*Largely Brahmin Hindus*) and the Kuki (*largely Tribal Christians*) We earnestly pray for peace and reconciliation between the conflicting communities. This unprecedented violence have shattered the lives and dreams of common people, leaving more than 100 dead and over 400 wounded. Villages torched and over 249 Churches (*Report of the Archdiocese of Imphal*) burnt to Ashes. Over 50,000 people have been displaced and sheltered in some 300 camps struggling even for basic needs. Normal life has been strangled, as schools and colleges are shut, basic necessities and medication runs short even at an escalating price, internet services suspended and indefinite curfew is on.

Manipur which has lived in peace with its particularly diverse ethnic, cultural and religious diversities for thousands of years is witnessing the darkest moment in its history. We bring to the Lord the cries of parents who mourn the dead of their children and children whose life will never be the same without their parents and siblings. We pray that the united efforts of common people who love peaceful coexistence may overpower the scheme of the fundamentalists, in resolving their differences amicably. We also pray for peace in Ukraine and Russia and wherever there is conflict and unrest.

### **PENITENTIAL ACT**

**PRESIDER:** Brothers and sisters let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves to enter into this sacred time of prayer. O God, who created and loves all people, we come before you today confessing the sin of disunity in our homes, neighbourhood, Churches and Nation. Forgive us for our part in it, for the ways we have contributed to the oppression of others whether knowingly or unknowingly. (*Brief silence*)

**ALL:** I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. (*Striking the breast*) Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

**GOSPEL READING:** **Jn 17: 6, 8, 10-12, 14 - 21** (*Jesus Prays for His Disciples*)

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. , for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I

have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

*(Pause .....in Silence for brief Personal Reflection)*

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 91** *(Sing or recite)*

*Blest be Lord, blest be the Lord,  
The God of mercy, the God who saves,  
I shall not fear the dark of night.  
Nor the arrows that flies by day.*

1. He will release from the nets of evil ones  
He will protect me from their wicked hands  
Beneath the shadow of his wings, I will rejoice  
To find a dwelling place secure.

2. I need not shrink before the terrors of the night,  
Nor stand alone before the light of day,  
No harm shall come to me, no arrows strike down  
No evil settle in my Soul.

3. Although the thousands have fallen at my side,  
I'll not be shaken with the Lord at hand.  
His faithful love is all the armour that I need,  
To wage my battle with the foe

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**Response:** Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for our national and world leaders that they may address effectively the deep causes of war, poverty, and injustice and work towards peace, harmony and development to all, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and ethnicity. **R/**

We pray for children who are traumatised from violence in which they have no part, but which rob them of their childhood, education and at times of life itself. May our prayers and the help of all people of good will, bring hope to the victimised children of Manipur and in war torn nations worldwide especially Ukraine and Russia. **R/**

We pray for a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation among peoples and communities that share a history of mutual mistrust and hatred or the peace loving common people who easily give way, to the divisive scheme of the radical group. **R/**

For those in our military or paramilitary forces who risk their lives in the service of our nation, that they might be protected from harm and that in turn, they may be vigilant and impartial in their duty of protection to all. **R/**

We pray for the human right activists who strive to protect the lives and rights of all and we pray that we begin to see every individual as a child of God, regardless of the race, language or culture, in our diversely rich nation and the world at large. **R/**

**Prayer for Peace in Manipur** *(To be prayed by all)*

*God of the Universe, you desire that all peoples everywhere live in harmony and peace. You desire that we beat our sword into ploughshares, and our spears into pruning hooks. You desire that nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall we learn war any more but that the only religion that the whole humanity lives out is the religion of love. You desire that the nuclear weapons we possess be used for construction and not destruction.*

*Keep us open to the wisdom and strength which you give us to realise that hate, anger, division and strife will keep dividing us. We want to be united Lord, not just as a country but as the whole humanity.*

*We pray that your Kingdom of justice, peace and love which is what you intend for our world will become a reality soon through the efforts that each of us will make. We make this prayer to you whom we call by different names and yet who are ONE. – Fr Errol Fernandes SJ*

**HYMN: Lord we pray for golden peace**

Lord, We Pray For Golden Peace,  
Peace All Over The Land,  
May People Dwell In Liberty,  
All Walking Hand In Hand.

Keep Us All For Ever One,  
One In Love And In Grace.  
And Wipe Away All War And Strife,  
Give Freedom To Each Race.

Banish Fear And Ignorance,  
Hunger, Thirst And Pain.  
Banish Hate And Poverty,  
Let No-One Live In Vain,  
Let No-One Live In Vain.

Let Your Justice Reign Supreme.  
Righteousness Always Done.  
Let Goodness Rule The Hearts Of All  
And Evil Overcome.

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Let us pray ... O God, giver of all that is good, beautiful and noble, whose will it is that all your children live together in peace, grant that all prejudice and animosity will no longer poison our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**-Commission for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay.**