



Current Issues in Prayer

January 2020

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.**



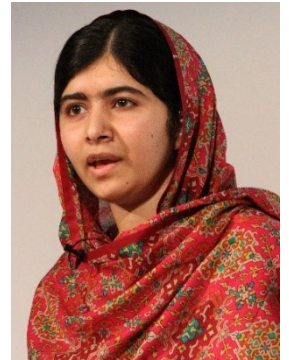
Getting started:

I find a quiet place and think about injustice caused by conflict. I pray God for giving us the ability to see right from wrong, and the strength to change it.



Short story:

Malala Yousafzai was born in Mingora, Pakistan, in 1997. Having a baby girl was not always a cause for celebration in Pakistan. Her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, was a teacher and ran a girls' school in their village. He was determined to give Malala every opportunity a boy would have. In 2008, when Malala was 11 years old, the Taliban took control of the town where she lived. Everything changed. The extremists enforced harsh punishments for those who defied their orders, and stopped girls from going to school. Owning a television and playing music were banned.



Malala became a target when she spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and their right to learn. In October 2012, while she was on a bus on her way home, a gunman shot her on the left side of her head. She woke up ten days later in a hospital in Birmingham, England. After months of surgeries and rehabilitation, Malala joined her family in their new family home in the U.K. Malala chose to make the most of the new life she had been given.

With the support of her father, Malala founded a charity dedicated to giving every girl an opportunity to achieve a future of her choice. In recognition of this work, she became the youngest-ever Nobel laureate in December 2014. Every day she fights to ensure all girls worldwide receive 12 years of free, safe, and quality education.



Time to reflect:

How many times I stood indifferent to conflicts happening around me? It is easier to give up power by thinking you do not have any, than standing up and change the things you do not wish to see.



Let us pray:

Lord help us care about others as much as we care about ourselves. Give us your peace so that we can do the peace you wish to see in this world.



Inspiration:

There can be no peace without justice and respect for human rights.

Irene Khan



Hands on:

I involve my family and friends and keep them informed about social justice issues and human rights. We discuss these subjects and take a stand in favour of human rights.