Peace Paper Chains

A reflective craft activity

Ask the children what the word 'peace' means. Some definitions include:

- Peace is the absence of war
- Peace is a state of quiet or calm
- Peace is when people treat one another with justice and dignity

Next ask why peace is important. Prompt responses, e.g. peace allows people to feel safe and happy. Explain to the children that there are many places in the world where there is no peace. There might be countries fighting wars, or arguments that set communities apart. This is very hard for the people living there, especially for the children. Explain that, because peace is so important, God asks all His children to be peacemakers. Jesus showed us how to do this, through his words and actions. Can the children remember any words and actions of Jesus that build peace between people, and in people?

Some words of Jesus:

- "Do not be afraid."(John 6:20)
- "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34)
- "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)

Some actions of Jesus

- Jesus forgave people and asked us to forgive others too.
- He welcomed everyone, especially those who were left out or treated unfairly.
- He healed the sick and comforted those who were suffering.

During mass there is a moment when we are reminded to be peacemakers. This is when we make the sign of peace. What other signs of peace can the children think of? Signs include: peace dove, olive branch, the peace flag. Tell the children that today their class will make their own special symbol; a Peace Paper Chain.

Activity instructions

1. Provide each child with a paper strip (if possible provide different coloured strips to create an eye-catching paperchain). On their strip, the children are to write how they will build peace e.g. by forgiving others, by working as a team, by praying for peace in the world.
2. Invite younger children to draw signs of peace e.g. a dove, and/or write their name.
3. Link the strips together to form a paper chain. Use this as a colourful Christmas classroom decoration, as a prompt to pray for peace and as a reminder of how we need to join and work together to create peace in our school, homes, communities, and our world.