

Pope Leo's condemnations of war and calls for dialogue for peace

From Pope Leo's homily on Palm Sunday (29 March 2026)

"Brothers and sisters, this is our God: *Jesus, King of Peace*, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war. He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them, saying: 'Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood' (*Isaiah 1:15*)."

Holy See: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2026/documents/20260329-palme.html>, accessed 11 April 2026.

From Pope Leo's Urbi et Orbi Message on Easter Sunday (5 April 2026)

"The power with which Christ rose is entirely nonviolent."

"Brothers and sisters, this is the true strength that brings peace to humanity, because it fosters respectful relationships at every level: among individuals, families, social groups, and nations. It does not seek private interests, but the common good; it does not seek to impose its own plan, but to help design and carry out a plan together with others."

"We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Indifferent to the repercussions of hatred and division that conflicts sow. Indifferent to the economic and social consequences they produce, which we all feel."

"On this day of celebration, let us abandon every desire for conflict, domination, and power, and implore the Lord to grant his peace to a world ravaged by wars and marked by a hatred and indifference that make us feel powerless in the face of evil. To the Lord we entrust all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give. Let us entrust ourselves to him and open our hearts to him! He is the only one who makes all things new (cf. *Rev 21:5*)."

Holy See: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/urbi/documents/20260405-urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html>, accessed 11 April 2026.

Message of Pope Leo, signed by the Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, to the inhabitants of the village of Debel in Lebanon on 6 April 2026

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV is glad to be able to express to you, on this Easter Day and amidst the tragic circumstances you are facing, his paternal closeness and affection. He extends his message of consolation and compassion to all Christians in southern Lebanon and to all those suffering the consequences of the war. Today, we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection. May you, amidst your feelings of sorrow, anguish and mourning, experience today in your hearts a deeper joy: Jesus has gloriously triumphed over death. It is a joy that comes from heaven and which nothing can take from you. In your misfortune, in the injustice you suffer, in the sense of abandonment you feel, you are very close to Jesus. You are close to Him too on this Easter Day when He conquered the forces of evil, and which resonates for you as a promise of the future. So do not lose heart! None of your prayers, none of your acts of solidarity, none of the sighs of weariness you utter are lost: Our Lady of Lebanon keeps everything in her heart and brings it to her Son. Pope Leo XIV imparts the Apostolic Blessing to each one of you, and to all your loved ones.

Holy See: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/pont-messages/2026/documents/20260406-messaggio-parolin-libano.html>, accessed 11 April 2026.

Pope Leo's statement to reporters on 7 April 2026

In a post to Truth Social on Tuesday 7th April 2026, US President Donald Trump threatened, "A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again."

On the evening of the same day, speaking in Italian to reporters outside Castel Gandolfo, Pope Leo gave the following statement:

"Today, as we all know, there has also been this threat against the entire people of Iran. And this is truly unacceptable! There are certainly issues of international law here, but even more, it is a moral question concerning the good of the people as a whole, in its entirety."

"We have a worldwide economic crisis, an energy crisis, and a situation in the Middle East of great instability, which is only provoking more hatred throughout the world."

"Come back to the table. Let's talk. Let's look for solutions in a peaceful way."

"Let's remember, especially, the innocent: children, the elderly, the sick, so many people who have already become, or will become, victims of this continued warfare – and to remind all that attacks on civilian infrastructure are against international law, and that they are also a sign of the hatred, division, and destruction that the human being is capable of."

"We all want to work for peace. People want peace. I would invite the citizens of all the countries involved to contact the authorities – political leaders, congressmen – to ask them, to tell them, to work for peace and to reject war and violence."

Vatican News: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-04/pope-leo-xiv-appeal-to-journalists-castel-gandolfo-7-april-2026.html>, accessed 11 April 2026.

Pope Leo's social media post to his official @Pontifex X account on 10 April 2026

"God does not bless any conflict. Anyone who is a disciple of Christ, the Prince of Peace, is never on the side of those who once wielded the sword and today drop bombs. Military action will not create space for freedom or times of #Peace, which comes only from the patient promotion of coexistence and dialogue among peoples."

X: <https://x.com/Pontifex>, accessed 11 April 2026. This post repeated a statement which Pope Leo made this same day when he met with bishops of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq, who were in Rome to elect a new Patriarch. For this, see America: <https://www.americamagazine.org/news/2026/04/10/pope-leo-war-iran-criticism/>, accessed 11 April 2026.
