

# L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

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*Unicuique suum**Non praevalent*

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In a video message the Holy Father invites people to take part in a special novena

## Peace in the Holy Land

The Pope meets with relatives of Israeli hostages and of Palestinians from Gaza



Pope Francis released a video message calling for peace in the Holy Land and Ukraine, praying that wars might be resolved through dialogue rather than violence and death.

In the video he said that "what is happening in the Holy Land is very painful", and he expressed his sorrow for the suffering caused by war.

The Pope then invited everyone to

pray for peace in the Holy Land, and he expressed his wish that dialogue might prevail. "Let us pray that the difficulties resolve themselves in dialogue and negotiation and not with a mountain of dead on each side".

The Pope's video message was accompanied by a press release from the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, inviting people to take part in

a novena.

The "Peacemakers" novena seeks to unite Christians in prayer for "peace in the world, and for the Holy Land, Palestine and Israel".

Prayers and material can be found on the free smartphone app, "Click To Pray", which is known as the Pope's official prayer app.

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At the General Audience

## God chooses someone to reach everyone



At the General Audience on Wednesday, 22 November, the Holy Father continued his series of catecheses on apostolic zeal, reflecting on the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and its summons to proclaim "the joy of the Gospel". That joy is meant for everyone, since the risen Lord wishes to call all men and women to share in the fullness of life.

In fidelity to the mission we received in baptism, we have a duty to share the Gospel with all whom we meet, not excluding anyone, because Christ was born, died, and rose again for all.

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### THIS WEEK

60 years since JFK's assassination

The tale of Camelot

BELTRAMINI ON PAGE 8

Voices of Migrants

Prioritizing mental health

HERRERA-ESPALAT ON PAGE 15

Gospel Reflection

Solemnity of Christ the King

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## 'No' to war, remaining close to victims

By ANDREA TORNIELLI

For more than a century, the Holy See, with a *crescendo* of pronouncements prompted by the escalation of threats of war and the use of increasingly sophisticated and destructive weapons, has been strongly pronouncing its "No" to war. From Benedict XV's prophetic appeal against the "useless slaughter" of the Great War to Pope Francis' words, repeated at every opportunity, that war is a defeat for humanity, the magisterium of the Bishops of Rome has clarified that there are no "just wars" and that even the

right to self-defence must be proportionate, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches.

From the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and then again in recent weeks after Hamas' inhuman attack, with its

brutality against Israeli civilians, followed by the Israeli army's counter-offensive that razed to the ground so many homes in Gaza and killed thousands of innocent Palestinians, criticism has been levelled at the attitude of the Pope and the Holy See. It is an attitude that for a long time now has been mistaken by some as being "neutral", almost as if the Vatican, due to an excess of diplomacy, were unable to assess the wrongs and motivations of the conflicting parties.

It is therefore worth recalling,

Msg for World Day of the Poor

Poverty is a scandal

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