

**Prayer to End Gun Violence offered on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey
by
James J. King, Executive Director
June 2, 2022**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you burdened and grieved by the evil and destruction of gun violence that plagues our society. Confident in your infinite love for us, we entrust to You all the innocent victims of these horrific crimes.

O God, Father of all consolations, who consoles us in our every affliction, comfort the families and friends of each victim, give solace to grieving communities, and bring peace to their aching hearts.

O God, the Good Shepherd, pour out your gracious blessing on first responders, teachers, medical personnel, social workers, clergy, and all who are called upon to place the lives of others before their own. Help them to remain committed to work that brings safety, healing, and peace to those most impacted by these tragedies.

O God, Author of all knowledge and wisdom, grant our elected officials the ability to rise above political divisiveness, so they can work together in humility to enact just laws intended to prevent this senseless violence and protect the dignity of all people.

O God, Source of all peace, we humbly implore that you grant us, your daughters and sons the strength to become true peacemakers. Through the help of your grace, may we courageously undertake the crucial steps necessary for unraveling the root causes of violence that is being woven into our national life with alarming frequency.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life. Amen

Prayer given at Multifaith Prayer Gathering for Seeking Empowerment to Stop the Surging US Epidemic of Gun Violence, June 2, 2022