

# FRANCIS

## The Peacemaker



### Creation mirrors God

St Francis recognised creation as a manifestation of God's beauty, goodness, and benevolence. He had a deep affinity with animals and nature, he preached to the birds, befriended wolves, and composed a hymn reflecting his love of creation. Inspired by the poverty of Jesus's birth to a family welcomed only by humble farm animals and signs in the heavens, he created the first Christmas crib.

No wonder he's best known as the patron of ecology and animals, but he is also the patron of merchants and Italy.



St Francis is well known for his commitment to poverty, simplicity and peace. During the fifth crusade, he travelled to the holy lands spending considerable time in dialogue with the Sultan of Egypt. This famous prayer first appeared during the First World War however, scholars do not believe that St Francis wrote it. It was found written on the reverse of a holy card of St. Francis by an anonymous author, hence its association with the great Saint of Peace.

### The Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to  
eternal life.

Amen.