

The Community of the Cross of Nails is a worldwide network of over 235 churches, charities, peace-building centres, and educational and training organisations, inspired by the Coventry story of destruction, rebuilding and renewal, and active in reconciliation in their own ways.

Members may focus on political, racial, religious, social or economic reconciliation; they may address war and violent conflict, post- conflict restoration or healing; their work can have far-reaching national or regional consequences, or it can make a significant difference to local communities and individual people's lives.

The Community of the Cross of Nails has members in 45 countries. The greatest numbers are in Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and there are significant numbers in South Africa, the Netherlands and Central and Eastern Europe. Over 40 of these members are International Cross of Nails Schools (ICONS), providing opportunities for children and young people to creatively explore issues of truth, justice, peace and mercy.

Members of the Community of the Cross of Nails support one another, pray for one another and share with one another. All members adhere to the three guiding principles of the Community of the Cross of Nails:

- Healing the wounds of history
- Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity
- Building a culture of peace.

They are guided by the words 'Father Forgive', and regularly pray the Litany of Reconciliation which is prayed at noon on weekdays in Coventry Cathedral and in the Cathedral ruins on Fridays. The Litany was written by Canon Joseph Poole in 1958. It is framed around the seven deadly sins and serves as a reminder that when we pray about the problems of the world around us, we need to begin by acknowledging the roots of those problems in our own hearts

#### The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

FATHER FORGIVE

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

FATHER FORGIVE

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

FATHER FORGIVE

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

FATHER FORGIVE

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

FATHER FORGIVE

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

FATHER FORGIVE

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

FATHER FORGIVE

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

