

BEING a PEACE MAKER-the challenges!

The polarizing yet very effective American General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) made many profound statements during his career one of them was; *“Finding inner peace comes from conquering the old struggle of listening to the roar of the crowd in one ear and then listening to the voice of conscience in the other ear. A tough decision is often needed!”*

It is so much easier in life to be a *peace lover* in relating with other people, definitely the harder option is to be a *peace maker*. Jesus of Nazareth deeply believed this and that is why he said in his famous instruction *The Beatitudes* these words; *“Blessed are the peace makers for they will be called children of God.”* (Matthew Chapter 5, verse 9) For most adults being a *peace maker* starts with how they nurture their children in the family unit. It is so often the constant challenge of getting the tension right in giving children sufficient freedom but not excessive freedom that if neglected leads them into trouble. Then imposing sufficient parental control while at the same time not stifling their natural enthusiasm and initiative. It can so often be a tough call!

For anyone at the end of their life to be remembered as a *peace maker* is a magnificent legacy to be remembered by. Yet as General MacArthur said the challenge first of all is to possess and cultivate genuine inner peace before being a true peace maker! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*