

Lord Mabelle...
(Name 1⁵)

Any time, there are wars and rumours of wars, strife & conflict between people and nations — any time of the year is time to pray and work for peace, understanding and reconciliation. But the beginning of a new year, when people make some effort, or at least feel that a fresh page is being turned for them — maybe this is a special time to think of peace, to look again at what we can do for peace, and to pray. That, anyway, was the desire of the late Pope Paul 6th when 12 years ago he designated a day at the start of a new year as a day of prayer for peace, inviting all of us to join with each other in prayer and reflection on this special need of the world and its people. Each year since then, Pope Paul approved a particular theme for each annual day, and produced a message to the world on this theme. The theme for this year's day of prayer was also chosen and approved by him, one of his last acts (in fact) before his death in August — 'to reach peace, teach peace'. The papal message this year, however, has come from Pope John Paul II, himself a former teacher and with personal experience of the realities of conflict, wars and divisions in his own homeland. He has made some interesting points for reflection in his message, and I'd like to take some of them up for comment later. Here in HK, yesterday was, in our churches, that day of prayer for peace. I don't think too much use was made of the papal message: not did it get much press coverage when it was published a few weeks ago — for one reason or another that seems to be the fate of papal ~~messages~~ ^{letters} even the best of them. For today, then, I thought to let you hear some of what Pope John Paul has had to say about teaching peace, in his

recent letter. A few, slightly adapted, extracts

QQ. TABLET 6.1.79 p17 ff.

For a little interval now, in music and prayer, here's a song of peace, written by the singer for the occasion of the wedding of two of his friends — 'Give us the Peace'

MUSIC (Bogard... 12)

PRAYERS

A little more from Pope John Paul's Peace-Day message...

QQ.