



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

I send my prayers on the inauguration of a peace stupa in Grafenworth, Austria. Indeed, a stupa has meaningful significance in Buddhist culture as it represents aspects of enlightenment. In general, they are sources of spiritual inspiration, as their function is to support the faith of the practitioners in their endeavours to become warm hearted and compassionate individuals. In Tibetan, stupas are known as *Choeten* (literally foundation for homage), they serve as objects of reverence and worship, as can be seen through the very many Buddhists who prostrate before or circumambulate stupas.

Given that the stupa is dedicated to peace, I urge visitors to think of how they can contribute towards a more peaceful world. Peace comes through action and not through prayers alone. Only through cultivating compassion and inner peace, can one spread peace in the world. Inner peace leads to a peaceful individual and then this peaceful individual can build a peaceful family, then a peaceful community, leading to a peaceful world.

May this stupa be an inspiration for people to think and act on the oneness of humanity, the basis of compassion and peace in the world.

With my prayers and good wishes,

12 May 2023