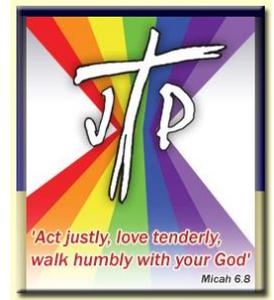




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

The Diocese of Portsmouth covers Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Isles and parts of Berkshire, Dorset and Oxfordshire



Justice Peace and Social Responsibility January 2017

Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Lk 2:14).

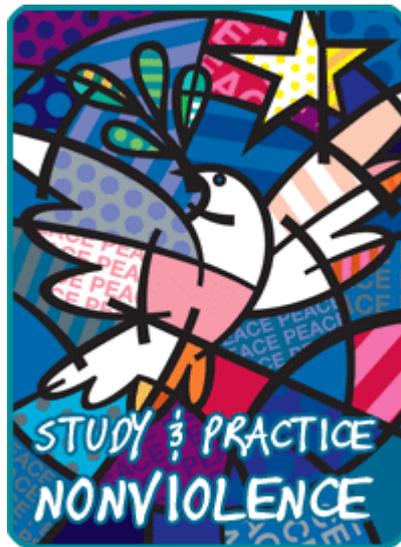
The Pope offers Peace throughout the world to many struggling groups including – *"Peace not merely the word, but a real and concrete peace – to our abandoned and excluded brothers and sisters, to those who suffer hunger and to all the victims of violence. Peace to exiles, migrants and refugees, to all those who in our day are subject to human trafficking..."*. - extract from Pope's Christmas day Sermon

Peace

1st January is World Peace Day and you can read the Pope's message on Peace on www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/World-Day-of-Peace

In it there is a call to action for all of us, to help bring peace in our families, our communities and so in the wider world. For he pledges *"the assistance of the Church in every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence... Every such response, however modest, helps to build a world free of violence, the first step towards justice and peace."*

As mentioned last month Pax Christi has resources to help and inform us, particularly on **Peace Sunday 15th January**. Apologies I spelt Pat Gaffney's name incorrectly.



Justice

For homeless Sunday Housing Justice are hoping to distribute 5000 prayer cards, so if you think your parish might support them please order cards to be distributed. <http://www.homeless-sunday.uk/resources/homeless-sunday-prayer/>

If you would like to further discuss homelessness you may wish to look at Bishop Nichols speech on Catholic bishops' website <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Homelessness>

Also included is the bishops' latest document on Prison reform, called **The Right Road**. This is very topical as we have seen all the unrest in prisons recently. In it are several suggestions to government which you may wish to share with your MP. <http://catholicnews.org.uk/the-right-road>

Social Responsibility

Ethical shopping: the new agreement between Cadburys, Fairtrade and Cocoa life. Many of you may have read with concern the fact that Cadbury's chocolate is changing from Fairtrade. However, as with everything, the market is changing and becoming more diverse. Be reassured that the Fairtrade Foundation are pleased with this deal which will mean that much more cocoa will be sustainably produced and a great many more farmers will benefit from secure futures.

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/media-centre/news/november-2016/cocoa-life-and-fairtrade-partnership>

Crossing Borders

The interesting theme for Christian unity week this year is influenced by migration, 500th anniversary of the reformation and inspired by *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, encouraging acts of repentance and reconciliation, because 'the Love of Christ compels us' (II Corinthians 5.14). Alongside the liturgies **Christian Aid** provides the **Go and Do** action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into important work of peace and justice. <https://ctbi.org.uk/goanddo>

The Holy land

Friends of the Holy land was the crib charity. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/

This suggested also, the work of Kairos (www.kairosbritain.org.uk) and the Amos Trust supporting justice for all the people of this troubled region. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Agreement. To mark this event there is an ambitious 100-day solidarity walk planned from London <http://www.amostrust.org/give/just-walk-to-jerusalem/>.

If you are looking for an area of focus this year, maybe, this could be a campaign area of learning, pray and action.

St Josephine Bakhita Day, 8th February

As we continue to support Modern Slavery Partnership locally Sharon Westby from the **Medaille Trust** has suggested that we act on St Josephine's feast Day. Maybe a pray vigil for people involved in trafficking or a coffee morning to share some information about how we might look out for and care for vulnerable victims: contact sharon.westby@medaille-trust.org.uk



Photo of St Francis de sales parish talk on Modern Slavery by Sharon Westby. Martha from the Parish Justice and Peace group reported that they found the talk interesting and were encouraged to look out for signs of trafficking in their own community.

Pray for Bamenda



Bishop Philip has requested that we respond to Archbishop Cornelius recent letter expressing his horror and distress over a recent outbreak of violence and unrest in the City of Bamenda – our twin diocese.

Bishop Philip writes that "Bamenda's pain is our pain – please pray the Memorare to Our Lady daily for the intentions of Archbishop Cornelius and the people of Bamenda."

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Details of history and problems of Cameroon

<http://www.cameroon-info.net/article/cameroon-bamenda-provincial-episcopal-conference-memorandum-to-president-paul-biya-on-the-current-situation-in-278001.html>

Please contact the team with ideas, actions and requests on jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Pray – Judge- Act – Celebrate