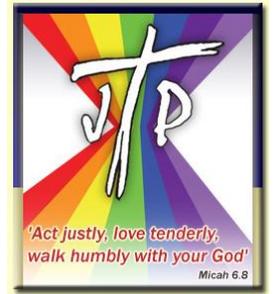




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Bulletin April 2017



Called and Gifted

"Whoever has received from the divine bounty a large share of temporal blessings, whether they be external and material, or gifts of the mind, has received them for the purpose of using them for the perfecting of his own nature, and, at the same time, that he may employ them, as the steward of God's providence, for the benefit of others.

He that hath a talent," said St. Gregory the Great, "let him see that he hide it not; he that hath abundance, let him quicken himself to mercy and generosity; he that hath art and skill, let him do his best to share the use and the utility hereof with his neighbour." Rerum Novarum, 1891(22)

Charity and Justice



The visit of the Bishop last month to the tomb of the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, inspired a look back. This young man worked to help the poor in charity by sharing his money and possessions and in justice by supporting workers' rights to just pay and in his

career choice as an engineer, all founded on a deep commitment to the Eucharist.

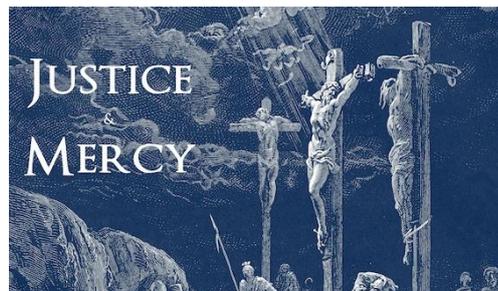
This is a model we see in the Church and Catholic charities, sometimes expressed as the two feet of Love - charitable works and social justice working together. Neatly our diocesan JPSR team met last week and were pleased to welcome Kevin Gallagher the new director of Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth to our meeting and here his approach to collaboration.

If you would like to look at this as a group there is a great resource from the US Bishops from 2012 called the **Two Feet of Love in Action** and more recently the Caritas Westminster have produced a whole parish resource

<http://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/love-in-action.php>

Reading

This look back also inspired a reading of what is often referred to as first of the Catholic Social Teaching documents written in 1891 by Pope Leo XIII, see quotation above. Some of the language and issues reflect the time of writing, but it also offers much wisdom. The main topics are about natural right to property ownership, the obligations of employers and workers to just agreements, the need for charity when people are in poverty, government responsibilities and workers need to form associations to defend their claims for justice.



All Catholic social teaching documents are available on

www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles/documents/ and if you are interested in study it links to Newman University virtual learning <http://www.virtualplater.org.uk/>



Human dignity and Living Wage

With April's new living wage coming in, we too, might like to take a more up to date opportunity to consider the Churches teaching a "just" or living wage. Dr Anna Rowlands has an interesting talk on Catholic Bishop's website [http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Christian-Responsibility-and-Citizenship/Living-Wage/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Christian-Responsibility-and-Citizenship/Living-Wage/(language)/eng-GB) and Dr Austen Ivereigh video then goes to give ideas about action to support a just wage.

CAFOD MP correspondents

A way to consider holding governments to account is to speak regularly with your MP. CAFOD is currently looking for more MP correspondents, who with CAFOD's support write regularly to MPs with the option to occasionally visit locally and in Westminster.

<http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-campaign/Get-to-know-your-MP>

Action by Christians Against Torture

This group aim is for the abolition of torture worldwide supporting individuals and organisation that are imprisoned or suffering persecution. We can offer our support and influence the authorities by sending cards and messages. They currently have their Easter list ready to at <http://www.acatuk.org.uk/>

Please contact us to share your news and concerns. Also, we are looking for more support with our Diocesan Team we meet 4 times a year, network with local and national groups and hold an annual conference - Do you have a calling to contribute. jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Kairos Britain

Campaigns for justice in Palestine and they too have an appeal for messages of hope in solidarity to support Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza during lent this year. This may seem like a small thing but the organisations that receive the messages say they make a difference to those that feel forgotten. <http://www.kairosbritain.org.uk/category/resources/lent-easter/>

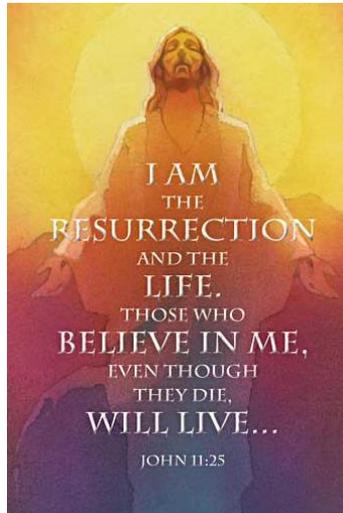
Aid to church in Need

Easter is always a good time to remember in prayers and action all persecuted Christians. Prayers and funds are always needed. Maybe look at their shop or consider supporting a poor priest by making a Mass offering. <http://www.acnuk.org>

Pope's Prayer intention

This month's prayer intention is that young people will respond to the vocation to the priesthood and the religious life.

This links well with the April 6th, the birthday on Pier Giorgio Frassati, he died aged only 24. Bishop Philip has asked us to join Christians worldwide to pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary on this day. <http://frassatiusa.org/birthday-celebration-2015>



Lord of Love and mercy,

You call us to be your people, you gift us with your abundant grace.

Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of your love.

Form us into a community, a people who care, expressing your compassion and justice

Remind us day after day of our baptismal call to serve, with joy and courage.

Teach us through this Easter Season to grow in wisdom, grace and joy in your presence.

Through Jesus and in your Spirit, we make this prayer Amen