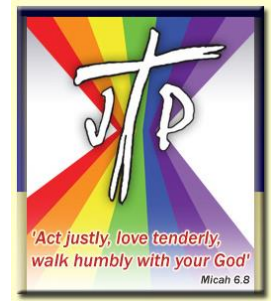




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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 April Bulletin

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

"Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. ...It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But ... Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history. Values always tend to reappear under new guises, and human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelize are instruments of that power."

(Evangelii Gaudium #276)

Let this Easter inspire and drive our life of faith and our work for justice and peace.

Statement from Commission for Justice and Peace (Belgian), Pax Christi and Magma

They had the blood, they will not have hatred

"By striking at Zaventem and in the heart of Brussels, the terrorists not only wanted to bring death: they also intend to sow hatred. It belongs to all of us not to offer them what they want.

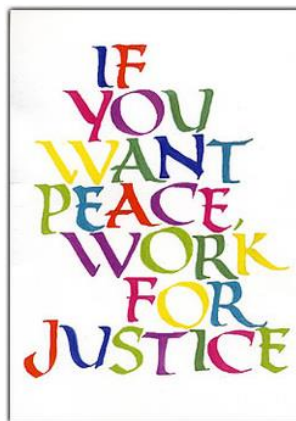
To live up to what happens to us is to refuse rage and withdrawal. Is to continue tirelessly weaving a "we" both fragile and fundamental. This is not only a moral imperative but the best long-term guarantee of security.

Hitting the centre of a cosmopolitan capital, the bombers would lead us to believe in the impossibility of coexistence; meeting for mutual enrichment. We do not offer them this success. Our resistance to terrorism will increase to the contrary, by additional meetings, discussions and reflections.

We invite everyone to solidarity with the victims and brotherhood with all. Every thought, every act of openness and peace will be a defeat of terror and a victory for the future".

Global day of Action on military Spending

On the 18th April campaigners will call for military spending to be shifted towards social and environmental needs- the world spends \$1.75 trillion annually the on military (UK Budget is £45 billion). With so much violence and death in the news it's a challenge, but reflect on the paragraph above and the response from Belgian is this something you could support? www.demilitarize.org.uk/day-of-action/ This day is also a reminder that Parliament will decide soon on Trident renewal. **Pax Christi** is supporting a meeting in Parliament on April 21st to brief MPs on the **ethics** of nuclear weapons before they commit us to another 35 years of weapons that threaten the earth. This is an open meeting contact Martin Birdseye to attend. info@nuclearmorality.com



The meeting will introduce the **Nuclear Morality Flowchart** - a logical decision tree of the moral and practical questions that are necessary for a personal decision on the ethics of nuclear deterrence <http://nuclearmorality.com/interactive/interactive.html>

ACTION: Maybe you could organize to discuss the flow chart in your parishes, pray for peace, and use the opportunity to contact your MPs to let them know your opinion. Or perhaps you could organize parishioners to join our Bishop Philip in signing up to the Rethink Trident statement. <http://www.rethinktrident.org.uk/>



Keeping faith in the EU?

A topical one-day conference in Winchester to discuss the votes in the EU referendum, if you are finding much of the debate too narrow or if you are wondering if Christian values are still relevant this is a opportunity to hear a number of political and theological thinkers. Organised by T4CG's Andrew Bradstock who is Director of the Centre for Theology and Religion in Public Life at the University of Winchester on 9th April 10.30-4.30pm £12 contact tripl@winchester.ac.uk to book. www.winchester.ac.uk/faithintheEU

Modern slavery Meeting

On Sunday 4th June Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth has organised a follow up day on modern slavery with Pippa Morton (Anglican Diocese of Derby) and Mike Emberson (Medialle trust) The event will focus on moving forward to practical help. Contact Caroline if you would like to be involved. CVirgo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



March for Life

This is a national event taking place in Birmingham on the 14th May. A march to give voice to the voiceless with the strap line “**Life from conception, no exception**”. A day with speakers and prayer, even if you can't go there is some interesting information for discussion on the website. www.marchforlife.co.uk

Charity for the Year of Mercy

The charities and outreach team are organising a morning event at St Bede's in Basingstoke on the 2nd July details next month.

Thought provoking pray for this Year of Mercy

*Pray for those who are **hungry**...Pray harder for those who will not feed them.
Pray for those who **struggle** each week to pay their bills...Pray harder for those who do not care.
Pray for those who cry out for **dignity**...Pray harder for those who do not listen.
Pray for those who are **homeless**...Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.
Pray for those **oppressed** by unjust wages...Pray harder for those who exploit them.
Pray for us as we seek God's justice in our community.... Pray harder for our own transfiguration, that we may become the change we seek in the world. Amen.*

Written by Rebecca Sutton -Global Women's Exchange for 2013 Just Economy Prayer Service



Justice, Power and Responsibility: How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference

The annual National Justice and Peace Network Conference, Swanwick, Derbyshire from the 15-17 July. Keynotes from Jon Cruddas MP, T4CG's Jenny Sinclair, Caritas Harare's Takura Gwatinyanya. The Conference Chair will be Christian Aid's, Christine Allen. There will be least 10 workshops (including: Church Action on Poverty—local empowerment; Working with local councillors; Positive Money; Progressio—empowering women; NJPN Environment Group— community action on sustainable food, fracking; Media; Pax Christi; Housing Justice; Catholic Social Teaching; Europe and democracy) as well as a large marketplace with over 30 organisations represented. Individuals, groups and Families welcome with young people's, teen's, and children's programme.



This weekend away would be a great opportunity to build up our Diocesan network for justice, peace and social responsibility to get to know and support each other to become a clearer voice to “become the change we seek in the world”.

Save the Date 12th November Bishop Philip will introduce an open meeting on **Care of our Common home. Details to come**

If you have any questions, ideas or campaigns to share, please contact us on jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Pray-Judge-Act- Celebrate