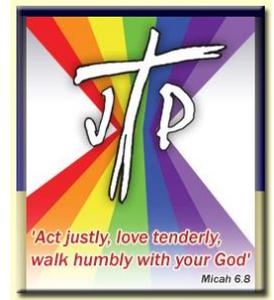




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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 February Bulletin

Merciful like the Father

On Wednesday's general audience the Pope explored further the links between mercy and justice.

"God as infinite mercy, but also as perfect justice "How can the two be reconciled? They may appear to be contradictory, but this is not the case, as it is precisely God's mercy that leads us to achieve true justice.... only by responding with good can evil truly be conquered"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTocQMCBZo4> 3rd February

Go Green for St. Valentine's Day

Midway through *Laudato si'*, we find this question: *"what kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" LS160*

The Charities from the Climate Coalition have taken up this call for Valentine's Day - showing our love for creation with two films. **What I wish for you**, written by Michael Morpurgo with Jeremy Irons and the Shakespeare sonnet **Shall I compare thy to a summer's Day** - they are delightful - share them around.

Their aim is to keep up the momentum from the climate talks. Governments agreed to some challenging targets - now we need to keep up the pressure and see action.



Why not send your MP a green heart card for Valentine's - maybe with a copy of *Laudato Si'* or at least a few quotations.

As well as holding governments to account we need to be thinking about our personal impact on creation and that of our Church. If you are looking for resources to help with reflection and action on this, there is much available but you may find these organisations helpful.



Columban Missionaries

A Catholic missionary order with a special commitment to Asia and South America and a vocation for justice. You will find resources on their website or you can subscribe to their quarterly newsletter. (www.columbans.co.uk)

Typically their Australian colleagues have put together some Lenten resources to reflect on a heightened sense of place in the natural world linked to the Sunday readings called **The Grace of Place**. (www.columban.org.au)



Operation Noah

This ecumenical organisation has also put together a Lenten course on climate change and the purposes of God on their website www.operationnoah.org.

Green Christians

This group may also be of general interest - they have a good magazine and some useful leaflets

www.greenchristian.org.uk/



Live simply Award

If you are looking for a project to not only green your Church but to really get justice and peace embedded into your parish, consider the CAFOD Live Simply Award - it offers a great planning framework with ideas to get different people involved.

“Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society” LS 91



Turn on the Taps

In this special Year of Mercy, we're reminded to 'give drink to the thirsty' one of the corporal acts of mercy.

650 million people (about 10 times the population of the UK) do not have clean water to drink. CAFOD

aim to help our partners 'turn on the taps' so that more of our brothers and sisters can access what are essential to the realisation of all human rights; safe drinking water and sanitation. Please support CAFOD by fasting on the 19th February and donating to this appeal.

All parish resources, including the short talk to give at Mass and a new set of Stations of the Cross can be downloaded from cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parishfundraising/Fast-Day or cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources

Fairtrade Fortnight



29th Feb -13 March

Many of the farmers and workers who grow the food we take for granted don't earn enough to feed their

families. **Is this fair?**

Is your Church a Fairtrade Church? If it is then an event in Fairtrade Fortnight is a requirement. If your church is not, then maybe this is the moment to start -maybe by holding a Big Fairtrade Breakfast!

Dates for your diary

4th June 2016 follow up Conference on Modern Slavery

2nd July Diocesan Justice and Peace and Caritas Day for volunteers

Prayer for slaves

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free Amen



When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. www.fairtrade.org.uk

Modern Slavery

Looking for resources and action to continue pressure against modern slavery remember these are highlighted by **Caritas Portsmouth** and **Medialle Trust**. Also look at **Walk free** movement. Currently they have a campaign asking us to write to the UK government.

Call the Home Office to account by demanding implementation of all the recommendations in the Ewin Report to protect overseas domestic workers in the UK from slavery.

The Minister of Modern Slavery, Karen Bradley MP, said that, "the intention is that whoever is in government...will implement the review's recommendations'. Let's hold her to it! www.walkfree.org/uk-domestic-slavery/

Updates News

Thank you for the encouraging response to the message in the Diocese in support of **Life Charity**. The local parishes in Fleet and Farnborough are keen to keep their houses open. LIFE HQ is strongly supportive. There seem to be people in Portsmouth who

are already interested and active to make the nucleus of a LIFE group there. If you would like to offer support, please contact Dominica Dominica.roberts@gmail.com



Pray –Judge- Act –Celebrate