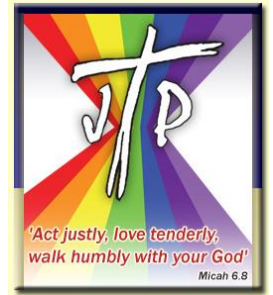




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility

Bulletin March 2018



Our time of renewal, take courage and be the light shining in the darkness

The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. ⁷ Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives. (Isaiah 58 Good News Bible)

Lent

Traditionally we look to fasting, almsgivings and prayer for our spiritual renewal. This is not an inward looking exercise, but, to help us be more like Christ, playing our part in bringing love to the world.

There are a great number of daily programmes to encourage us along the way

Justice and Peace in Shrewsbury diocese
<https://jpshrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/lenten-journey-2017.pdf>

Christian Aid Count your Blessings
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/lent-easter/lent-calendar> CAFOD
<http://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-Calendar>

And with more of an emphasis on acts of kindness there is the challenge of 40 acts
<https://40acts.org.uk/>

Human Dignity

3rd March is Women's World day of prayer, and 8th March is international Women's day so without trying to imply in any way that exploitation is worse for one gender than another this maybe an opportunity to look at how we can speak out particularly this month for women.

If you have not looked before at National board of Catholic Women's resource on **Women and Poverty** this could make a good study document based on Catholic social teaching.

<http://www.nbcw.co.uk/publications.html>

Portsmouth University has a public lecture for International Women's Day,

Women and Violence: the local and the global by Dr Tamsin Bradley, Reader in International Development Studies.

www.port.ac.uk/events/#public-lectures

18-19th March you may be interested to visit the Anti-Slavery Gift Box in Gunwharf Quays Portsmouth and this will also be in Southampton and Winchester in May.



Knit for Peace

If you prefer a little quieter action have a look at some of these many practical knitting projects in solidarity with women worldwide to share your talent with those in need- please send us a photo of what you make.

<http://www.knitforpeace.org.uk/>



Dignity of Work

As mentioned last time we are in Fairtrade Fortnight and hopefully you are already out promoting and buying Fairtrade, making those links between trade and poverty. Maybe you could show your support by becoming a Fairtrade Parish
<http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/More-issues/Fairtrade>. Also with this CAFOD have produced a new document on trade Justice.

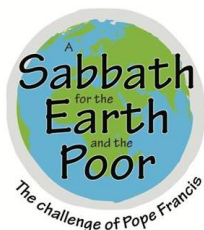
Trade Justice and the Common Good

One of the results of Britain leaving the EU is that we will be responsible for setting our own trade policy. This is an opportunity for the government to embed poverty elimination into all our global trading.

Together with the Fairtrade Foundation, Traidcraft, Christian Aid and Oxfam, CAFOD are encouraging people to email their MPs to ask International Trade Secretary Liam Fox to make sure that the UK uses its trade policy to benefit the world's poorest people.

Thinking Ahead

As you renew during lent it may be time to think ahead to summer conferences. It would be great to have a group going from the diocese, so if you are planning to go along, please, let us know and maybe we can get together.



A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor: The challenge of Pope Francis is the National Justice and Peace

Network Annual

weekend

Conference. 21 -

23 July 2017

Speakers

include: Dr. Ruth Valerio, Fr.

Peter Hughes, and Kathy

Galloway.

Event in partnership

with Church Action on Poverty,

CAFOD, Caritas Social Action

Network, Vincentians in

Partnership, Operation Noah, Columbans

JPIC. At The Hayes Conference Centre

Swanwick Derbyshire for details

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



GREENBELT 2017

THE COMMON GOOD

25 - 28

August 2017 - The annual ecumenical arts,

faith and justice summer festival in

Northamptonshire. Greenbelt has adopted **The Common Good** as its 2017 theme. (early bird rates before April 2017). Great for the whole family

<http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>

World water Day 22nd March

Just this week Pope Francis has spoken at an international seminar on the human right to water and warned we could be moving towards "a major world water war for water" he urges everyone to do what they can for "The right to water is essential for the survival of persons and decisive for the future of humanity," <http://www.wateraid.org/> Water aid has information and a Jars for change lent appeal for water.

Israel Apartheid Week

This awareness week looking at peace and justice in Israel takes place at the end of the month. apartheidweek.org/

The close of Pope Francis Message for lent

"I encourage all the faithful to express this spiritual renewal also by sharing in the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Church organisations in different parts of the world, and thus to favour the culture of encounter in our one human family"

Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter."

Heavenly Father

During this Lenten Season, nourish each of us with Your Word of life and make us one with You in love and prayer.



Fill our hearts with Your love and keep us faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give us the grace to rise above our human weakness as we receive new life by Your Sacraments

Father, our source of life, we reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let us walk more readily in Your ways. Guide us in Your gentle mercy, help us to open the doors to the weak and the poor, the courage to speak up for justice and act for peace. So, we may look forward to sharing the full joy of Easter Amen.