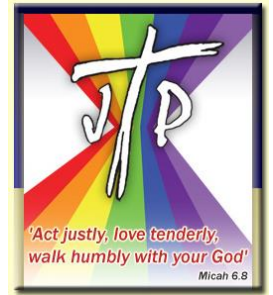




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility
Bulletin November 2017



Let us love, not with words but with deeds

*I invite the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters, created and loved by the one Heavenly Father. This Day (World day for the Poor) is meant, above all, to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter. God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded. **Pope Francis***

WORLD DAY FOR THE POOR 19th November

At the close of the Year of Mercy Pope Francis called for the institution of this new World Day, one that would express "Jesus preferential love for the poor". In his pastoral letter, quoted above, Pope Francis explains how involvement in acts of solidarity and justice go much deeper than charity but help us to a greater understanding of discipleship and closer encounter with Jesus too. He cites Saint Francis, who discovered greater joy and peace in a life of simplicity, a way of looking at our daily struggles with fortitude. We are all encouraged to follow his example. The Pastoral letter can be found on the Vatican website World Day for the Poor. Also CSAN have produced Materials to support parishes.

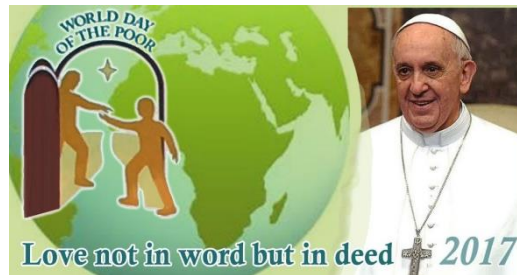
<http://www.csan.org.uk/worlddayofthepoor>

Love-Deeds-Action Exhibition

In support of this day at St John's Cathedral from the 18th November there will be an exhibition of Catholic and local Charities work encouraging volunteering opportunities. It will open on Saturday with a social evening from 5.30-9.30pm, then continue in the Cathedral for the week. If you have a charity or justice campaign you would like to share, contact jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to have a stand.

Romero: Heart Beat of El Salvador

The highlight of the evening of the **18th November** will be **Rise Theatre Company** performance of a Play about Archbishop Romero at **St John's Cathedral**. Romero's life is an example of the courageous work of the gospel, speaking out against injustice, involving and befriending the persecuted. Suitable for adults and children 11+, tickets are being sold at the special reduced price adults £5 and £2 for under 18s. Available at the Discovery Centre, online www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre by phone, Maureen 01243 377411 or on the door Please come.



End Hunger UK A campaign seeking to make sure everyone has access to good food and no one should go to bed hungry. They are inviting Churches and all groups concerned about food justice to sign a pledge to commit to do what we can to end hunger locally, and to call on the UK government to play its part in ending hunger throughout the UK.

This would be a great thing to do on the World Day for the Poor, the Pope asks us to share our food with those in need on this day. Maybe the parish making a pledge and finding out more about how we can work together to provide what is needed locally. <http://endhungeruk.org/>

Centenary of Balfour Agreement

This commemoration of the agreement that set up a Jewish homeland (2nd November) has drawn attention to the continuing problems in Israel, it might be a good topic to look at in justice groups for action this month. **Pax Christi** has some resources. Also, it might include considering supporting **Friends of the Holy Land** as a charity for advent or Christmas or including Fairtrade Palestinian goods in Christmas sales.

Over the last few months campaigners from the **Amos Trust** have been doing a "just walk" to Jerusalem from the UK to arrive



in Jerusalem to commemorate this anniversary and call for full equal rights for everyone who calls Israel/ Palestine their home. You're too late to join these walkers but there is to be a rally in London **Make it right in Palestine** on 4th November lots of groups are getting together for this www.palestinecampaign.org/ to seek peace and justice for all. Please continue to prayer for peace in this troubled region and for tolerance among people for faith.

Something To say – 26th November

This is the theme for Youth Sunday this year some great resources hopefully available shortly on www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk



And praying for peace on earth.

In this month of Remembrance let us remember all who have suffered and sacrificed and look forward, seeking peace

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations.

Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war.

Hear my voice when I beg You to install into the hearts of all human beings the wisdom of peace, the strength of justice, and the joy of fellowship.

Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace.

Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace.

O God, hear my voice and grant unto the world Your everlasting peace. Amen

Peace prayer by Pope John Paul II

Inter faith week 12-19th November

Having just completed action in our communities for **One World Week** perhaps this week of action is another opportunity to build bridges to get together with our neighbours. There are resources and ideas for activities for this week on the www.interfaithweek.org. The aim is to strengthen good interfaith relations, increase awareness of distinct faiths and their contributions to society as well as looking for opportunities to dialogue with all people to increase understanding of different faiths.

Persecuted Christians

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

The interfaith week is followed immediately with a week of action for Persecuted Christians **Aid to Church in Need** is calling us to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their peacefully held beliefs particularly on **#RedWednesday the 22 November**.

Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today's world and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ's message of peace and love.

<https://acnuk.org/campaign/redwednesday>

