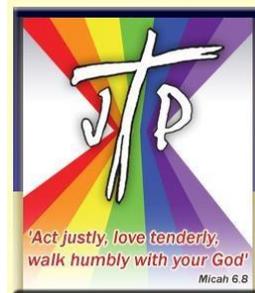




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility

Bulletin October 2017



No room for Poverty that denies anyone a Dignified life

Love of neighbour, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the particular Church and to the Church universal in its entirety. As a community, the Church must practise love. Love thus needs to be organised if it is to be an ordered service to the community. Pope Benedict Deus Caritas Est 20

Social Responsibility

The social mission of the church is often divided into “two feet” One of justice, working for social change, “kingdom building” a world where everyone is able to live in dignity and peace. The other is charity where through love we are called to act in response to people’s immediate needs. Although distinct there is often much cross over working closely together. This month **Caritas: Diocese of Portsmouth** is having a celebration to raise greater awareness of its work to encourage us all to get more involved not only as individuals but as worshipping communities in sharing the love of God. So, in this bulletin we will share information on social mission in “charity” Kevin Gallagher, the Director of Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth, shares some information on Projects currently going on in the diocese.

Holiday Club in Southampton

Setup at Holy Family Church in Southampton, this project offers a week of fun activities for children resident in the nearby area who might otherwise not have a holiday. The activity is enriched by drawing in participants from the multiple nationalities living in the area.

English Language Education for Immigrants

A church in Reading has setup an English language programme for parishioners whose mother tongue is not English. It has been identified that not speaking English at home can have an adverse effect in integration and particularly on children’s education, this project is of great benefit to families, it is run by parish volunteers one of whom is a qualified English teacher for non-native speakers.



Mental Health Drop-in Centre

Started over a year ago and fully run by volunteers this project offers a place of friendship, respite and hospitality one day a week in the Cathedral activity centre. It has been a great success with participating numbers increasing strongly and the need for expansion on the horizon.

Dragons Den Schools Project

Already into its third year this project operates among the Catholic schools in the diocese by encouraging school groups to get together and come up with a social action projects. Participating schools take part in a competition where they present their project either in person or by video for a prize. The projects presented cover a wide range from prayer gardens to I-pad training for the elderly in care homes.

Stella Maris Project for Seafarers

Soon to be launched this Caritas’s project will be based in a church hall near one of the dock gates in Southampton. With over 7,500 annual ship movements bringing in about 150,000 visiting seafarers there is a great need for a place of safety, recreation and hospitality Particularly they need good quality Wifi to contact relatives back home alongside refreshments, snacks, reading material etc and often pastoral support.

Can you Help

Kevin has been recruited to support and encourage all of us to be more involved in Christian action for all those in need. Hopefully these projects will be the beginning so he really needs to hear from parishes with ideas and a generous willingness to focus on the vulnerable and marginalised to call everyone into a dignified life. If you have an idea for your parish get in touch caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth Celebration Event on Friday the 13th October in Southampton to which you are invited. For more information please go to the following Eventbrite link where you can register to attend: <https://goo.gl/hsd8dp>



End Hunger UK 17th October

If you're working for food justice in your community, this will be very interesting. There will be high-profile speakers, policy discussion, and workshops to give you the skills you need to help build a powerful movement for food justice. Also a chance to learn about plans for the End Hunger UK campaign in 2018, and how to get involved in building cross-party support in Parliament for ending hunger in the UK <http://endhungeruk.org/conference/>

If anyone is able to go to this event we would really appreciate a report to share as I am sure all our churches would like to help end hunger in the UK. Please be in touch if you are going jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 8th October

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October CAFOD, Caritas and other charities will be lobbying Parliament of this day targeting new MPs - maybe some of you will be there.

Useful booklet when writing about poverty is the NJN guidelines for writing about poverty <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>



One World Week 22-29 October

<http://www.oneworldweek.org/>

Popes Prayer intention for October

Workers and the Unemployed That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good. for the unemployed.

Heavenly Father, we ask for your blessing as we celebrate Caritas in our diocese

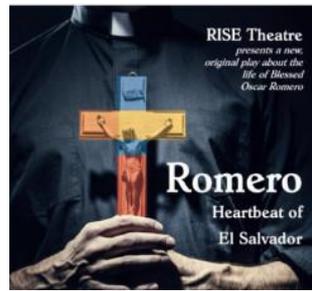
Let it strengthen us as we recognise our poverty of spirit, our humility and our desire to reach out to those who are poor, vulnerable and marginalised in our diocese.

Let your presence among us encourage us to be your disciples through Caritas's works of social action, as advocates for social justice and in offering reconciliation and peace.

Lord, forgive our apathy and lead us into radical discipleship. Forgive us for the times that we chose to ignore you, when we ignore those in need, and teach us how to truly love others.

May we never be numb to suffering or apathetic to injustice and inspire us into action. Lead us out from our comfort zones into the margins of our society where we know we will find you.

And may the courage of our co-patrons St. Josephine Bakhita and Blessed Oscar Romero inspire us to work with faith and integrity to end violence and poverty. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



Commemoration of Blessed Archbishop Romero

St John's Cathedral invite you to a Performance of Rise Theatre Play **Romero: Heartbeat of**

El Salvador

18th November at 7.30pm

Tickets CDC or online at www.ticketsource.com/risetheatre

St John's Cathedral Words Deeds Action Charity and volunteering Exhibition

The play has inspired an exhibition of Christian action coinciding with the Day of the Poor. This is an opportunity to celebrate lots of the work that Charities and groups are already doing to serve and help others and hopefully a chance for new people to get involved. Launching with a fair and refreshments before and after the play. Charities working in the diocese are invited along or to provide and free-standing display for the exhibition in the Cathedral for a week. Contact jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



World Day for the Poor

Linked with the end of the Year of Mercy Pope Francis calls on Christians around the world to serve the poor with concrete actions. To highlight this need he launched a World day of the Poor this year on 19th November. As well as at the Cathedral parishes across the diocese might wish to highlight local "good deeds"

Many people would like the poor to always say that it is God's will that they are poor.

It is not God's will for some people to have everything and others to have nothing.

This cannot be of God.

ARCHBISHOP ÓSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO

