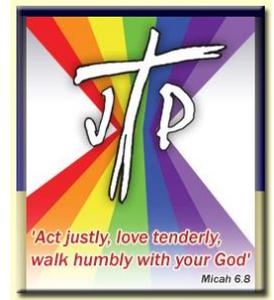# Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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
September 2016

'Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God'
Micah 6.8

IN CORDE IESU

September opens Creation Time

"Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: "For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made; for you would not have made anything if you had hated it" (Wis 11:24). Every creature is thus the object of the Father's tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection". (Laudato Si §77)

Creation time 1st September -4th October

Many parishes will have already responded to Pope's call to have September 1st as a day of prayer for creation; a reminder that all our efforts last year leading up to the Paris climate conference were not a one off, but, that our care of our common home is continuous. There are plenty of resources to support prayer in this season an international website www.seasonofcreation.org has a full list of resources including some lovely youtube videos illustrating the Pope's words for reflection. CAFOD have produced liturgical and discussion resources http://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Climate-reflections and the Columbans have launched a reflection and prayers sheet for the 4 weeks http://www.columban.org.au/

Hymn writing competition

The Methodist Church Settle Circuit
17th ANNUAL HYMN FESTIVAL
www.settlemethodistcircuit.org.uk

If you are looking for an activity to involve everyone during creation time, Green Christians suggest giving out their *9 ways to live Gently on the Earth* leaflet /www.greenchristian.org.uk/resources/leaflets or how about asking people to enter the "God of creation" hymn writing completion http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/archives/10973

Pro life

Maybe this time of creation might be a time to pray and consider the protection of human life. The Catholic Church's commitment to being pro-life is rooted in a "consistent ethic of life." This means that all life is sacred and has dignity from its beginning to natural death. There is nothing a person can do to forfeit this dignity. Being pro-life includes the promotion of public policy that protects life at every stage of development. Speaking up for the sanctity of all can sometimes be challenging today because of some of the scientific complexities. This month we have tried to put together a discussion paper to help groups look at this difficult subject. http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jpsr/

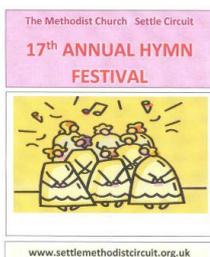### 4th October Feast of St Francis of Assisi

This day closes creation time – if you're brave enough you might like to consider the tradition blessing of animals' in church.

International Day of Prayer for Peace 21st September There are lots of destructive wars across the world to pray for, this year Pax Christi is highlighting a week of action for peace between Palestine and Israel. http://paxchristi.org.uk/

Refugees are Welcome Here
March 17th September in London

The global refugee crisis is not going away. We all need to play our part to make sure the basic rights of people on the move are protected - from the millions of people who have been forced to flee conflict, poverty or disaster, to those who have made the UK their home. The London march takes place just before the UN and Barack Obama hold summits to get world leaders to take action on the crisis - so there's never been a better time to stand with those forced to flee. Join the March to show your solidarity you may wish to join CAFOD supporters at St James RC Church Spanish place.
http://cafod.org.uk/Events/Refugee-march

Climate Coalition-Week of Action

8th -16th October and as Catholics we can support this through CAFOD's speak up campaign by informing ourselves and speaking to our MPs during this week either in person or my letter.
http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/Speak-Up-week-of-action

World Food Day 16th October

This too is looking at food security in light of climate change. You will have already had CAFOD Harvest fast day (7th Oct) so maybe finish your week of action with a meal, - join in with your local food partnership to see what complex circumstances lead people into food poverty- is their action we can take?
http://food.caritas.org/

One World Week 2016

From 23rd October -30th October this year's theme is entitled *Including You- Acting Together for One World of Peace*. This is an ideal opportunity to work together with all sorts of community groups to find ways to include everyone. Please share events you are planning
www.oneworldweek.org

Diocesan Laudato sii Conference

On 12th November we have a further chance to share our vision of care for our common home with others in our Conference in Winchester. Chaired by Bishop Philip two speakers; Professor Mary Grey and Father Zampini will speak about the Pope's encyclical and invited guests for other traditions will share their views. Limited numbers can attend so please book you place now to laudatosi12nov@gmail.com

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Extract from Christian Prayer in Union with Creation by Pope Francis

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen

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If you have stories or campaigns to share or need help please contact us on jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Pray-Judge Act-Celebrate