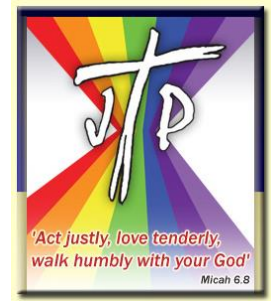




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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 Monthly Bulletin 2

Pope's message of Hope

Let us be inspired to take action this year by the Pope. Although like us he sees a "swollen torrent" of war and injustice, he knows this evil is powerless before the "ocean of mercy."

"The grace of Christ, which brings our hope of salvation to fulfilment, leads us to cooperate with him in building an ever more just and fraternal world, a world in which every person and every creature can dwell in peace, in the harmony of God's original creation."

(Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. World Day of Peace, 1 Jan 2016)

Peace Sunday and World migrant and refugee day 17th January 2016

Highlighted in the last bulletin was Pax Christi's Peace Sunday with their resources and prayers to download and order. Internationally the Pope also recommends this Sunday as a day of prayer for migrants and refugees. The title for this year is "Migrants and Refugees how they challenge us - the response of the Gospel of Mercy" Individually or in groups you might like to read and discuss the Pope's appeal

<http://www.news.va/en/news/2016-message-for-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugee>.



Indeed, if you feel called to look more deeply into

understanding and taking action on the plight of refugees the **Jesuit Refugee Trust** has produced a very thought provoking pack. [//www.jrsuk.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/JRS-UK-At-Home-Prayer-Pack.pdf](http://www.jrsuk.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/JRS-UK-At-Home-Prayer-Pack.pdf).

Homelessness Sunday And Church Action on Poverty Sunday 24th January & 7th February

Many people in our churches are committed to supporting people locally with food banks and homeless shelters. Following on from Church Unity week maybe these nominated ecumenical Sundays might be a good opportunity to highlight local initiatives in your area and remember their work in your prayers.

Resources from **Housing justice** and **Church Action on Poverty** also highlight

issues of justice; and campaigning for structural changes to make sure everyone has the right to food and shelter. Some useful information and recommendations on how we might speak out.



Extract of Pax Christi's Daily prayer Teach me

To share the gifts, you have given me
To speak out for victims of injustice who have no voice
To reject the violence which runs through the world today
(Pax Christi Prayer card 50 for £2)

Can you help the charity 'Life'?



Three houses run by the charity [Life](#) for unsupported mothers and babies in our Diocese - in Fleet, Farnborough and Bournemouth - have lost government funding and might have to close. Local supporters are determined not to let this happen.

(Local parishes saved the Bracknell *Life* house in similar circumstances.) A house is also needed in Portsmouth. Your prayers, finance, and practical help are needed. Please contact Dominica Roberts (member of the diocesan JPSR team) at dominica.roberts@gmail.com. Thank you.

Anti-Slavery Project



Caritas has now produced materials for three sessions to help parish groups gain understanding of modern slavery which will be downloadable. Plus, posters and wallet cards can be ordered by post. Also leaflets with information of where to go for people suffering slavery is now ready in several languages to put at the back of churches for Southampton, Portsmouth and Reading. Remember 8th February is St Bakhati day, a day of prayer for all those suffering slavery. Caritas are looking for parishes who will be willing to trial the sessions in lent could your parish help? If so, please contact Caroline at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.co.uk

CAFOD Supporters Meeting



Join CAFOD Portsmouth at their next meeting on Saturday 23 January 2016 from 10am until 1.30pm at St Bede's RC Primary School (Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX) where they will explore Lenten resources and hear more about CAFOD's water programmes in Uganda from Mark Chamberlain,

Fundraising Writer. There will also be an opportunity to hear about the climate talks in Paris and next steps from Sarah Croft, Campaigns Officer. To book a place please email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or ring 01252 329385 by 15 January 2016.

Parish to have a Justice Peace and Social Responsibility groups

Last year Bishop Philip called every parish to try to establish a JPSR group to consider in more detail challenging issues of living out our Christian discipleship in justice. He suggested we might start by discussing together the encyclicals, *Laudato Si* and *Deus caritas est*. Hopefully some parishes have started to form in this learning stage, we have added some useful links and resources on the diocesan website to help get you started www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jpsr/

Our hope would be that once your core group are set up, you will encourage the whole parish community to be involved. Actions don't have to be too difficult. For example, in *Laudato Si* the Pope mentions "*a careful inventory of species*" (LS 1:42) to help with the protection of endangered animals. What about making the links and suggesting families get involved in the **RSPB Garden bird watch** at the end of the month.

As you get going, or if you would like help or information, please contact the JPRS team at JPRS@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. We would like to help and share your stories to help stimulate ideas.



This month's inspiration comes from Hugh Gibbons in Bracknell and his community project to get the whole town involved in painting pictures of inspiring people and putting them up round the church <http://www.bracknellcommunitygallery.org/>

Pray –Judge- Act –Celebrate