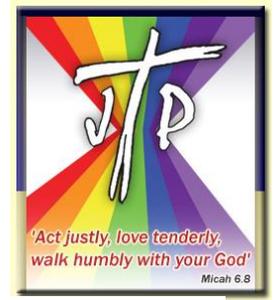




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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 May Bulletin

Loving families called to live out the Gospel

"The family is thus an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, namely solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, the protection of creation, moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to the promotion of the common good and the transformation of unjust social structures, beginning in the territory in which the family lives, through the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy."

(Pope Francis: Amoris Laetitia)

Dignity of work



The month opens with the Feast of St Joseph the worker, so this might be an opportunity to look at church teaching on the dignity of work. Having a job, a purpose, gives us a role in society, be it paid work to provide for our needs and that of our

families or unpaid which contributes to the wellbeing of our families and communities.

For exploring the subject the website www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk might be a good start. The **Young Christian Workers** have a great resource "**To work is to grow**" on their website www.ycwimpact.com It ends by asking us to think about what action we might take. ☺Are there ways your

community could help people who are unemployed? ☺Are you active in drawing people in, making them feel welcome giving them responsibility and dignity?

Anti-Slavery Project

What is of course totally contrary to dignity, is enslavement. Unfortunately, the proposed supporters event has been postponed from the 4th June until the **24th September 2016**, but this gives more time to do some preparatory work. Contact Caroline Virgo for support.

World Fairtrade Day 9th May

Another opportunity to reach out to families across the world to support the dignity of work is to buy Fairtrade. **Traidcraft** have some lovely film clips and prayers for a promotional event. Also **Zaytoun** to support Palestinian farmers.

CHARITIES AND OUTREACH GROUP CONFERENCE- 2nd July in Basingstoke

Join us in celebration of this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy as we strive to express the merciful love of Christ in charity. Discover how we are all called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned and bury the dead. Speakers from The Medaille Trust, SVP, Apostleship of the Sea, Poitiers Care, Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth and CAFOD. **Booking and enquiries** Caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Pray-judge-act-celebrate

International Day for Families

15th May, Pentecost Sunday is designated by the UN for families, this year's theme is "Healthy lives and sustainable futures." We are reminded by the Pope's latest letter that the family, the domestic church, is the basic unit to build the kingdom; where we experience love and responsibility. Supporting family life and encouraging justice and peace go hand in hand. Families cannot thrive without human dignity, a safe home, food, water, work and a world that is sustainable.



Families: agents of Pastoral Activity

Have you discovered the catholic families website, this month it highlights toddler prayers, domestic abuse and a Wrexham Diocese resource which offers families and carers simple ways to sustain the spiritual lives of their loved ones living with Dementia See more at: www.catholicfamily.uk

March for life

On the 14th May there is a big event in Birmingham to support the rights of the unborn child and 2 mini buses will be going from St Mary's in Gosport. Contact Friar Philomeno for details.

The friars will be distributing a new prayer to St Joseph for the re-evangelisation of England. If you are not able to attend the event, but would like to support it with prayer, they suggest a prayer of spiritual adoption – a simple prayer for a child at risk of termination said daily for nine months. www.marchforlife.co.uk



Pope's prayer for families

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen."

"Peace between religions"

In response to last month's moving statement from Belgium's J&P commission about the need for more dialogue. The Diocesan team for interfaith dialogue responded to encourage all of us to think about how we might encourage the building of interfaith friendships in our local communities. Anti-Semitism and islamophobia are very much in the news, as Christians we are called to "sow love" where there is hatred. ☺ They suggest we learn more about other faiths – maybe with information and prayers during their major festivals. ☺ Arrange interfaith social events ☺ Or set up an interfaith forum. As this month we are thinking about families why not encourage Catholic families to reach out to local families of other faiths.

Information resources available at www.cbcew.org.uk/other-religions



Refugees

This continues to be a great concern. Here is a wonderful resource of refugee pray for making your year of mercy pilgrimage. http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/29186/333412/version/1/Prayer_refugees_Pilgrimage-leaders-notes.pdf

Seeking Sanctuary have added prayers to their website from Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew

www.prayersformigrants.weebly.com/

Plus, on 10th May **CAFOD** have an online chat for volunteers from fieldworkers in Greece contact Eleanor if you would like to listen: eheans-glogowska@cafod.org.uk

Please contact the JPSR team for information, support and with your campaigns and ideas

jspr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk