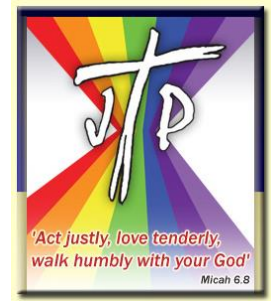




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice Peace and Social Responsibility December 2017 Bulletin



Advent: The Coming of Good news

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.... I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice... the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations. Isaiah 61

Preparing for the Coming

Obviously, the generous giving of messages of good will, gifts and sharing food is part of the coming celebration. But is the Pope's choice for the New World Day for the Poor just before advent maybe a reminder that Christ's coming is to bring "glad tidings to the poor..."

Prayers

So you may wish to remember the Pope's prayer requests this month for the elderly and on 4th Sunday of advent we are asked to pray for expectant mothers.

Nobel Peace Prize

On 10th December ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons which includes Pax Christi UK will receive the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in getting the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty. Pax Christi request that we say of a prayer of thanksgivings for this work on this day.

Cards

If you want to send a message of hope **Action by Christians against torture** now have their Christmas list open. Some parishes have a group action where everyone is invited to sign a card after Mass. <http://www.acatuk.org.uk/> Other charities too have card request both international and in local communities.



Gift buying

When buying gifts there are lots of opportunities to make ethical choices. If you feel you have enough already you can have fun with charity "World Gifts" from CAFOD for example where you give a card and someone in need receives the gift - a goat - chicken or even a toilet!

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

This year Aid to the Church in Need also have produced "Christmas Gifts of Faith" to support persecuted Christians

<https://acnuk.org/get-involved/gifts-of-faith/>

"It is good for people to realise that purchasing is always a moral-and not simply an economic - act" Pope Francis in Laudato Si

Friends of Holy land



The Bishop has asked us again to support this charity working to support Christians in the Holy Land as our crib appeal this year. You can see details of their work on their website and on request they will send prayer cards and materials to support this appeal. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/

Refugees and Migrants
welcoming, protecting, promoting and
integrating.

Next year the Pope will continue to focus on displaced people in his address for **104th World Peace Day 1st January 2018** and it is the focus **Peace Sunday 14th January**, Pax Christi materials should be arriving in parishes <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

Caritas Internationalis too will be focusing on a refugee project called **Share the Journey** and both **CAFOD** and **CSAN** will be providing materials to support this work.

Seeking Sanctuary

More immediately this small group who are supporting displaced people in Calais continue to have updates of the needs of those across the channel and how we can help. They have produced a prayer card £5 for 100 to highlight the suffering of those looking for a new home. <https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/>



There have been visits from people in our Diocese to France and we do receive requests

from people on how we might help with providing warm clothes and bedding. We would be pleased to hear of any action and how people might help.

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Diocesan Refugee Project

There is a project to support Syrian refugees arriving in the diocese, if you can help you can contact them through the website. <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/diocesan-refugee-response.php>

That All will be Free

This is the theme of prayers for **Church Unity week** focusing on injustices in the world and how this impedes all communities, including Christian relations, creating barriers to God's Mission. The churches of the Caribbean region describe their own context, how the hand of God was active in ending slavery, and how God's mission in the world is a call to us all to unite together in ending injustice. That which casts a shadow from the past and current forms of injustice such as poverty, trafficking and discrimination. 18-25th January Church Unity week

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/>

Prayer for Peace in the Holy land

Lord of our longing

Remember those who wait in hope and peace this advent. Hear our prayer and lament for our brothers and sister in Israel and Palestine. We call for a common will to forgive, to reconcile and to make a just peace. Open ears, eyes and hearts and make a way towards justice in this war-torn world.



All merciful Lord, as we anticipate the coming of your Son, we prayer for healing in this place where the prophets foretold your coming. We prayer for all your faithful peoples Jewish, Christian and Muslim, be a sure support for all those who work towards reconciliation. And make us all steadfast in your cause, to bring your love and joy to all humankind through Christ our Lord Amen

Adapted from Catholic relief Agency