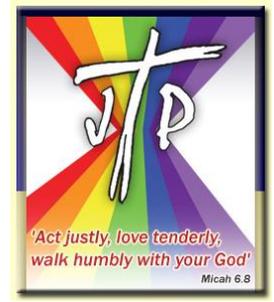




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice Peace and Social Responsibility January 2018 Bulletin



Heartfelt good wishes for peace

Peace to all people and to all nations on earth! Peace, which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on Christmas night, is a profound aspiration for everyone, for each individual and all peoples, and especially for those who most keenly suffer its absence. Among these whom I constantly keep in my thoughts and prayers, I would once again mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees. Pope Benedict XVI, my beloved predecessor, spoke of them as "men and women, children, young and elderly people, who are searching for somewhere to live in peace. Pope Francis New year message 51st world Day of Peace

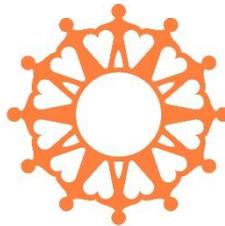
Refugees and Migrants- seekers of Peace

No one can be unaware of the people around the globe who have been displaced and forced to leave their homes because of violence or climate-related disasters. This continues to be of great concern to the Pope in his message for world peace day above, a great barrier to peace. All parishes have been sent Pax Christi booklet to Celebrate **World Peace Day in England and Wales on the 14th January**, with prayers, sermon notes and children's activities. An opportunity to pray, reflect on the work parishes are doing and what more you can do to welcome, protect, promote and integrate new people into our own communities over the next year.

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/> This day is also World day for migrants and refugees so good fit.

The Pope's message refers to a UN Global Compact on refugees and migrants to be held later this year and the Churches 20 Pastoral Action points presented as a concrete lead for implementing public policy and in the attitudes and activities of Christian communities. I found

the links did not work but was able to read document here <http://undocs.org/A/72/528>



Share the Journey 
#sharejourney

Caritas Internationalis too will be focusing on this issue with their materials **Share the Journey** and both CAFOD and CSAN have materials to support this work and in this Diocese, watch out for an event in May/June.

JPSR plans for this year

To follow up from the 2016 Conference in Winchester we invite you to join us this lent at our Social Justice Assembly. In 2016 we had an inspiring day introduced by our Bishop and shared with a panel of representatives from different faiths and no faith sharing our understanding of Pope Francis 2015 Encyclical Laudato Si. The day was led by Father Augusto from CAFOD and Professor Mary Grey, we learned much about how the Christian vision of the common good encompasses all God's Creation not just people and how the two are interconnected and that much of this vision is shared with others too. Although the Encyclical was written in preparation for the Paris Climate conference the document gives a much fuller vision of the need to get involved,

for everyone to play their part in making changes in our personal lives, as Church communities and as citizens.

Lenten Social Justice Assembly

3rd March 2018

Christian Choices for our Common Home

*Everyday responses to the cry of the
earth and the poor*

We would like to move on to the action time. So, we call for a Diocesan Assembly, a coming together of people from parishes to learn from speakers but also to share - particularly in lent, our time to change to renew our commitment to be the Lord's witnesses

How is your parish taking action to Care for the Earth and the dignity of all God's people?

When we put it like that it can all sound rather overwhelming, so we would like to focus in on everyday choices we can make and put into action.



of the Columban Missionary Society in Britain.

We have invited **Ellen Teague**, Catholic journalist who writes and campaigns on justice, peace and ecology issues. She is also a member of the Faith and Justice Team

She will speak about her work and some of the everyday responses she sees in caring for the earth

Secondly, we have invited, the **Fairtrade Foundation** to come along to remind us how their work helps some of the world's poorest people and how we can support that work. As it is Fairtrade Fortnight, if possible, we may get the chance to meet some Fairtrade producers



Volunteers help Please

To make the day a success I will need help!! Has your parish done a social or justice action project over the last year you could share? Do you have questions on social justice you'd like answered?

Do you support a Catholic campaign group or charity you would like to bring to an information table?

Practical support putting out tables and chairs and serving coffee

If you can help, please contact me on JPSR@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Also, to book a place at the Assembly, although we will get it up on Eventbrite by the end of the week and have posters ready Thanks Maureen

New year's resolutions – if you are considering something new for 2018 we could do we fresh support for the Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Team, please consider joining us for this vital mission to encourage people – *"to act justly, love tenderly and live humbly with your God"*

Prayer for a Better World

Generous God, we thank you:

For the gifts you have given us, the abundance of your Creation, and the beauty that surrounds us. For the people whose lives have touched ours, for the love they show, the burdens they lift, the hopes we share.

Compassionate God, we ask you:

To fill us with your love, to place in our hearts a spirit of courage, to move us to reach out to others in need. And lead us to play our part, so that now and in generations to come all your children may share in our hope for a better world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Written by Catherine Gorman/CAFOD