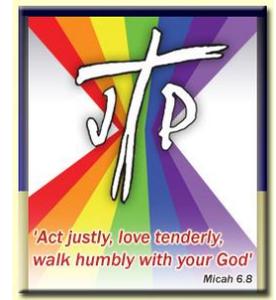




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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 August Bulletin

Without Christ all is vanity and injustice

"Watch and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs. Luke 12:13

Rather than hoarding up our own wealth we are called to look outwards "We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace". Pope Francis

National Justice and Peace Conference

This year's conference although planned more than a year ago was a great opportunity to stop and reflect on local and global politics and our responsibilities as Christians in light of all the political turmoil of the last weeks. Entitled "Can democracy work for the common good?" We had some wonderful speaker's, workshops and worship to reflect on.

The evening opened with a talk by Jon Cruddas MP who challenged us to speak up for a virtues based politics to build communities. He declared that the Catholic Church is uniquely placed to enter the public square on these issues, with Catholic Social Teaching providing the blueprint for the development of such a virtue based model. "The virtue based model of justice can rehabilitate the political sphere," The model would look at concepts like what it is to lead a good life, what is justice and what can be done to nurture people to live a rewarding life.

Jon's talk introduced perfectly the next presentation. Jenny Sinclair is the founder and director of the **Together for**



the Common Good project, an ecumenical movement calling for the establishment of a relationship based model of society grounded in the common good. She called us to face up to the challenge of getting more



people involved and being prepared to work with everybody "It starts with conversation. Locally, by people talking to each other. I cannot create the common good on my own, or by just talking with friends. To build a common good requires people who may disagree, and whose interests and circumstances are different, to encounter each other in relationship. The results are surprising, It's kind of alchemy," She highlighted the demand was all the more pressing post EU referendum, which had highlighted how polarised and excluded

large parts of the UK have become. She made some interesting observations and praised proponents of the common good in the world today such as **Citizens UK**, the **Church Urban Fund** and the **Catholic Worker Movement**.

After lunch the nature of the talks changed from the more philosophical to a practical example, a campaign against the liberation of trades rules to boost economic profits but arguably to the detriment of the common good.



Polly Jones, from **Global Justice Now**, a democratic social justice

organisation, spoke to us about their current campaign. She gave details of the current negotiations in world trade and explained why they would have a detrimental effect on governments, particular in poorer nations, thwarting their ability to protect citizens against large corporations. She outlined the dangers of the Transatlantic Trade and

investment Partnership (TTIP) which would create much less control on the safety of products which could be traded, on workers' wages and will allow companies to sue governments if legalisation leads to a loss in their profits. She argued of the possible implication for the common good in terms of how these agreements may have consequences in public service provision. She made a compelling case.

On the final day we had a presentation from CAFOD partner from Takura Gwatinyanya, Programme Manager, Caritas Harare (Zimbabwe), entitled "Democracy in a Developing Country". It was interesting in showing that even in a very different regime the principles of inclusion and dignity can make a great difference to creating community.

Any way you can listen to all these talks for yourself on <http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/justice-power-and-responsibility-conference-2016-videos/>

You may also be inspired by: Waterlooville's Justice and peace Group's "**What can I do**" leaflet www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk/docs/whatcanidojulyaug16.pdf

One world Week 2016- 23rd-30th October this year's theme is **Including You**



Lord Jesus Christ, You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. Amen

Extract from PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE JUBILEE

If you have any questions, ideas or campaigns to share, please contact us on

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Pray-Judge-Act- Celebrate