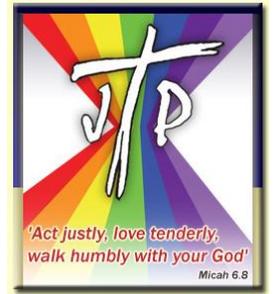




Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Bulletin September 2017



A gift inherited from Above

"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvement and talents." Pope Francis "



We are treating our planet in an inhuman, godless manner precisely because we fail to see it as a gift inherited from above. Our original sin with regard the natural environment lies in our refusal to accept the world as a sacrament of communion. As a way of sharing with God and neighbour on a global scale". Patriarch Bartholomew

The Creation Season

From the 1st September until the Feast of St Francis on 4th October is a time when we are called to focus particularly on the wonders of all God has created, our impact on it and responsibility to care for it as a resource shared by everyone. A brief internet search will find you all sorts of great resources. Here we will divide up and look up some ideas to help individuals and communities focus in on the Global Catholic Climate movement **Laudato si Pledge** bringing the encyclical to life in three dimensions- It would be great if communities could commit to this pledge during creation time. <http://livelaudatosi.org/>



Spiritual Dimension -Pray for creation

The Season of creation calls us to an "ecological conversion" to relate the damaging environmental practices and our over consumption with the plight of the world's poorest communities.

CAFOD has liturgies and prayers for Creation

Also, the **Columbans** missionaries has a focus <http://www.columbans.co.uk/creation-time/>

On 24th September there will be a **Symbolic Day of prayer** in Taize and liturgy material to share will be available shortly

<http://seasonofcreation.org/2017-prayer-focus/>

St Francis feast day 4th October is traditionally a day for services with animals if you can persuade your priest. Alternately maybe consider worship materials **Befriend the wolf: Blessing on Creation** <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/FOSF>

Pope Francis has been calling artists to help everyone to discover the **Beauty of Creation** maybe your community could have a creative day or exhibition.

Life style Dimension - live more simply

Consider not only changes you can make in your household to reduce the carbon foot print, but, also as a community. Again, recycle reuse reduce! Also,

we need a fundamental rethink in what constitutes "good stewardship" of our finances in our churches. Our criteria for spending need to be "just" not "cheap" Our diocese has now moved to a green fuel contract which is great. How is your other parish spending going?

We need to consider the impact on the poor and the earth on all purchases from new roofs to coffee. For example, only the **Fairtrade Mark** on your coffee jar assures you the producers have received a fair wage and are required to use sustainable farming methods – CAFOD and other charities campaigned hard for this but it only works with your support.

Operation Noah has some interesting resources and campaigns e.g: divest churches from fossil fuels www.brightnow.org.uk/

Act justly become a **Fairtrade Church, school or University.**

Look at **eco congregations** and the **Live Simply Award** these can help your evangelisation strategy teams to plan in structured ways. Become doers of the Word not just listeners (James1:22)



Public Policy Dimension

Advocate to protect our common home

Speak up to policy makers write particularly to your MP and local councillors to consider the common good in policy making. Coordinate with others your voice will be more powerful.

Write to Sainsburys with your concerns about their tea ditching the Fairtrade Mark

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Fairtrade>

Join the 2017 Season of Creation campaign for a **Big shift at the world Bank:** going to 100% renewal energy by or before 2020 sign up to this campaign

Support the CAFOD **Power to be** Campaign



Looking Ahead

Blessed Romero Pilgrimage 9th September to St John's Cathedral book on Eventbrite call 01243 377411

NJPN Open Networking Day Saturday 23 September 2017 10.30 - 1.00
CAFOD Romero House, London SE1 7JB
Speaker **The Reality of Human Trafficking- Mike Duthie Deputy Director of the Santa Marta Group**
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings

Evensong to commemorate Bl. Oscar Romero at Westminster Abbey Booking required **Eventbrite**

International Migrant Mass 24th Sep. (Cathedral)

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 6th October

Caritas Launch (Southampton) 13th October

National Day of Prayer to mark 50th anniversary of the abortion act 27th October

One World Week – Good Neighbours 22nd -28th October

19th November World day for Poor

18th -26th November World Day for the Poor Exhibition at St John's Cathedral – launching with Romero the Heart of El Salvador Play

Love – Deeds – Action Exhibition

Are you part of a group or charity working in the Diocese looking for volunteers? Would you like be part of our exhibition for the Day of the Poor. Contact Maureen ipsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Praised be You my Lord,

with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Extract from Canticle of St Francis

