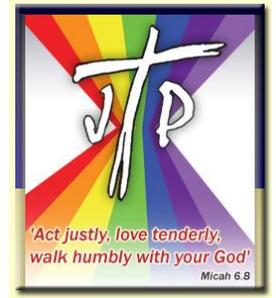




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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



Called to be Anti Slavery

St. Paul directed a Christian master to treat his Christian slave

"...No longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord." Philemon 1:16

The seventh commandment forbids acts or enterprises that for any reason - selfish or ideological, commercial, or totalitarian - lead to the enslavement of human beings, to their being bought, sold and exchanged like merchandise, in disregard for their personal dignity. It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

Catechism 2414

Pope Francis has called For Slavery to be the theme for World Peace Day 2015



"Being children of God gives all human beings equal dignity as brothers and sisters. Slavery deals a murderous blow to this fundamental fraternity, and so to peace as well. Peace can only exist when each human being recognises every other person as a brother or sister with the same dignity.

Too many abominable forms of slavery persist in today's world: human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, exploitation, slave labour, and the enslavement of women and children. Shamefully, individuals and groups around the world profit from this slavery. They take advantage of the world's many conflicts, of the economic crisis and of corruption in order to carry out their evil.

Slavery is a terrible open wound on the contemporary social body, a fatal running sore on the flesh of Christ! To counter slavery effectively, the inviolable dignity of every person must be recognized above all. Moreover, this acceptance of dignity must be anchored solidly in fraternity. Fraternity requires us to reject any inequality which would allow one person to enslave another. It demands instead that we act everywhere with proximity and generosity, thus leading to liberation and inclusion for everyone.

Our purpose is to build a civilization based on the equal dignity of every person without discrimination. To achieve this will also require the commitment of the media, of education and of culture to a renewed society pledged to freedom, justice and therefore peace."

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace Aug 2014

Be Informed

There is a great source of information and podcasts on the Bishops Conference website which will be most helpful Plus a number of other websites www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Subjects/Human-Trafficking. www.antislavery.org

The Medaille Trust provides homes for ex-slaves and works is to raise awareness of the plight of those who are enslaved and exploited in the trafficking industry, and campaign on their behalf. www.medaille.co.uk Local contact Sharon e-mail: s.westby@medialle-trust.org.uk

Pax Christi took up this theme for Peace Sunday 2015 and have a helpful booklet for discussion list resources, prayers and has presentation on their website to help explore this challenging injustice / <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday>

Action Suggestions

Welcoming Parish Create a safe welcoming environment, vulnerable adults and people new to our country are at risk. Consider and initiative to create a safe social space, with food or English lessons, perhaps, which will help people know who to talk too. Publicise a helpline

Fund raising for charities helping combat slavery

Ethical sourcing Slavery is world wide problem, as consumers we can be agents for change in being more informed about where our goods come from. We may need to have less so others get a fair price for their labour. Buying ethical sourced products and promoting fairtrade goods is a way we can all to stand against exploitation in the supply chain. Become a fairtrade parish www.fairtrade.org.uk

Campaigning Political awareness, write to your MP asking them to support legalisations that protect people against slavery. Inform yourselves of current bills.

Prayer

Loving God, rewarder of the humble, you blessed St. Josephine Bakhita with charity and patience. May her prayers help us, and her example inspire us to carry our cross and to love you always. Pour upon us the spirit of wisdom and love with which you filled St. Josephine Bakhita.

By serving you as she did, may we please you by our faith and our actions? Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever Amen



St Jospheine Bakhita