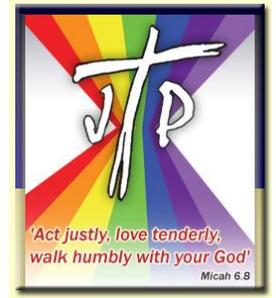




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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

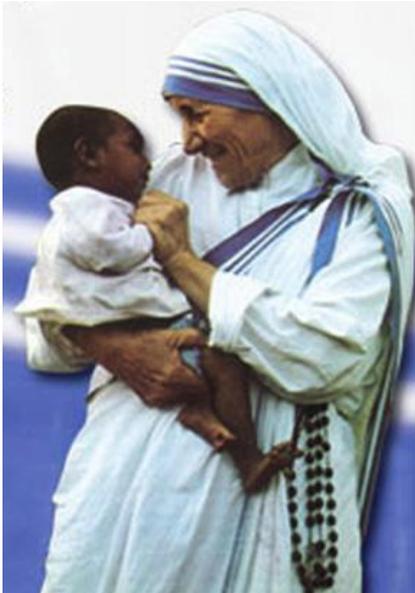


Called Act justly, live peaceably

Saint Paul advice to the Romans holds true for us today:

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12.15



Pope Francis reminds us of our Social Responsibilities as God's children

We know that God wants his children to be happy in this world too, even though they are called to fulfilment in eternity, for he has created all things "for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:17), the enjoyment of everyone. It follows that Christian conversion demands reviewing especially those areas and aspects of life "related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good"

Consequently, no one can demand that religion should be relegated to the inner sanctum of personal life, without influence on societal and national life, without concern for the soundness of civil institutions, without a right to offer an opinion on events affecting society. Who would claim to lock up in a church and silence the message of Saint Francis of Assisi or Blessed Teresa of Calcutta? They themselves would have found this unacceptable. An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. If indeed "the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics", the Church "cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice". All Christians, their pastors included, are called to show concern for the building of a better world."

Evangelii Gaudium 183

Be Informed

National Justice and Peace Network –A network of lay people, regional commissions and campaigning groups. They have useful resources about getting started plus weekly e-news. www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Catholic social teaching website gives clear information the principles of Catholic social teaching www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/. Or if you would like a more methodical study plan www.virtualplater.org.uk/ offers several modules for study.

Books For reference *Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine of the Church* but there are many books of introduction, essays, Biblical study or topic based activities books that are helpful. Many groups have newsletter and magazines to keep up to date, like CAFOD, Colombian missionaries, NJPN and Progressio www.justicemagazine.org/

Action Suggestions

Get together Begin by inviting people to come together to learn about Catholic Social teaching. Contact jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org if you would like help.

Highlight Issues Look at a Justice and Peace Calendar highlight particular actions and events in your newsletter and encourage everyone so take action, by signing petitions or contacting their MP and in prayer.



Action plan Form a working party to produce a parish action plan to encourage and stimulate a real passion for social justice for all life. Share the workload monitor and celebrate your actions. CAFOD's Live Simply Award might be a helpful tool.

Personal Calling Act kindly and fairly in all your daily encounters, speak up for justice always, at work and in society, particularly for the poor and vulnerable. Volunteer, get involved when you can.

Prayer for Justice

Father, you have given all peoples one common origin. It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all.

By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen

LET JUSTICE ROLL
DOWN
LIKE WATERS, AND
RIGHTEOUSNESS
AS AN EVERFLOWING
STREAM. AMOS 5:24