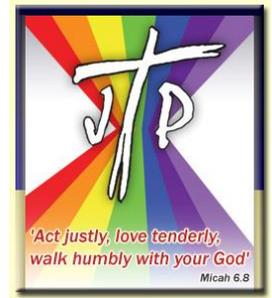




Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

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 February Bulletin 2018

You are the sowers of Change

"Working for a just distribution of the fruits of the earth and human labour is not mere philanthropy. It is a moral obligation. For Christians, the responsibility is even greater: it is a commandment. It is about giving to the poor and to peoples what is theirs by right. The universal destination of goods is not a figure of speech found in the Church's social teaching." Pope Francis 2015

Christian choices

January is a busy time for justice and peace with Peace Sunday, Homeless Sunday and this year's week of Christian unity all being about justice. Each called us to deepen our knowledge, to pray, and then with our deeper understanding to **"go and do"**

The above quote from Pope Francis' address to a world meeting of popular movements arose in preparation for Christian Unity week. He calls us to change, to love, to serve Jesus by putting the economy at the service of people not money, uniting peoples on the path of justice and peace, and by protecting mother earth.

These calls to action were further reinforced in our reading of the Christmas gift book **Rediscover Jesus** by Matthew Kelly. He refers to Jesus radically different ways of looking at people and challenges us particularly on the chapter on *Jesus on lifestyle* to work on our attitudes and to get practical about living out gospel values.

Lent – time to renew

Since the Pope's publication of his encyclical, *Laudato si* in 2015 much has happened, we have been deepening our knowledge of the ecological issues and how they impact in many areas. Linking it to our social responsibility as Christians, we have prayed, and we have started to make changes – but it's time to review and get practical – lent is the perfect time to step up to remind ourselves of our calling as followers of Jesus to be witnesses in our living as well as our words.

Call to an Assembly on 3rd March

We therefore invite you to gather together with Bishop Philip this lent to pray, deepen understanding and share ideas about everyday ways we can respond to the call to live out the commandments, to recognise our need to create a fairer world, where people have opportunity to live in dignity, those in need get help and we care for creation.

Portsmouth Diocese
Social Justice Assembly for Lent 2018
With Bishop Philip Egan

Christian Choices in our Common Home
Everyday responses to the cry of the poor and the earth, highlighting Fairtrade

Saturday 3rd March, 10am to 3pm
St Bede's Church Basingstoke RG24 9DX
Please come. Book on Eventbrite or contact jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

- ❖ Speaker: Ellen Teague
- ❖ Speaker: Fairtrade Foundation
- ❖ Networking, sharing opportunities
- ❖ Information stalls
- ❖ Local JPSR Updates

COME ON IN TO FAIRTRADE

Bringing People to Jesus through our Actions

Logos: Caritas, CAFOD, FAIRTRADE, COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN

Please come along to this day in Basingstoke, we recognise that giving a Saturday up is not always easy, but it will be helpful to all meet together to encourage and share. We are working to make the day informative and it will be an opportunity to hear what is going on and where you feel you need

assistance.

Book at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-diocese-social-justice-assembly-for-lent or email jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Timetable for the Day

10-10.30 Welcome and coffee. Then opening with prayer and reflections from Bishop Philip who will introduce our two key speakers

Christian Choices in our Common Home

Ellen Teague a catholic journalist who writes and campaigns on Justice, Peace and Ecology issues will be our first speaker sharing with us some practical examples of choices individuals and parishes might make. She is a member of the JPIC team of the Columban Missionary Society in Britain and edits their

newsletter, *Vocation for Justice*. She is also a member of the National Justice and Peace Network Environment Working Group who offer information and encouragement to dioceses to develop environmental policies and speaks regularly across the country.

How Fairtrade is working

Tim Aldred, Head of Policy and Research at the Fairtrade Foundation will also join us updating us on how the Fairtrade movement is progressing and some of the challenges faced by small producers and workers across the world. Tim's job involves him in monitoring impact, policy analysis and building government relationships for the Foundation. He previously worked for CAFOD and Progressio so plenty of chance to answer any questions.

Sharing and Action

After our key speakers we will have a practical session to discuss and share ideas followed by a lunch break where we hope people will take the opportunity to chat and look at information stalls from other justice and peace campaigners. After lunch we will invite some groups to give short presentations to update us on things going on in the diocese finishing by 3pm with evaluations and final blessing.

Please bring your own packed lunch and maybe your purse for a few Fairtrade goodies.



Opportunity for Acton in February

8th February Feast day of St Josephine Bakhita- Day of prayer for victims of human trafficking
www.catholic-ew.org.uk Remember victims of modern slavery in your prayers this day. Sharon from the Medaille Trust would like to encourage people to do something special to mark this day – maybe invite her to speak s.westby@medaille-trust.org.uk refer back to Feb 2017 bulletin for more information <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jpsr/>

11th February Church Action on Poverty Day
www.church-poverty.org.uk/

14 Feb Ash Wednesday

Anne O'Connor has written some useful prayers and reflections on peace and justice for lent
<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/lent/>

23rd Feb CAFOD Family Fast Day

www.cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/Fast-Day
God's love is for Everyone and again all funds up to 5 million pounds will be matched by UK aid.

26th Feb–11 March Fairtrade Fortnight

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight/Fairtrade-Fortnight-for-Campaigners>

Women's World Day of Prayer 2nd March – all God's Creation is Good another opportunity to prayer together ecumenically www.wwdp.org.uk/

Date for your Dairy 12th May Share the Journey
CAFOD and Caritas Day for Refugee Action

Prayers from Racial Justice Sunday 2018

For those who experience discrimination in our society – that they may see the Church as a welcoming community where their human dignity is respected, and their gifts appreciated.

For those who are lonely – that they may find Christ in our communities, that the warmth and friendship that come from belonging to our communities may transform their lives and become for them a source of support and strength.

For those who unjustly discriminate – that they may listen to the gentle but persistent voice of conscience that tells us to love and not to hate, to make others feel that they belong and not to discriminate against them. May those who fan the fires of discrimination open their eyes to see that variety is part of God's marvellous plan for the world.

For those who have been hurt and no longer feel they belong – that they may be drawn to the Church for healing and care. Through our love and understanding, may they be freed of anger and bitterness to live in peace and harmony with everyone, and may God help us to value and respect each person as a priceless gift from Him.

Lord we prayer for your strength to be sowers of change in our communities Amen