

The Diocesan Justice and Peace website always has some interesting articles and is well worth a read if you get the chance. It is at [Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk))



Hassockfield (Derwentside) Immigration Detention Centre – An interfaith prayer vigil takes place on every month, usually on the first Sunday at 3pm). For more information, see the Diocesan website [Interfaith Prayer Vigil - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Interfaith Prayer Vigil - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk)) . An online version of the prayer vigil can be found [here](#). Usually about 30-40 people attend. You can find out more by going to [No To Hassockfield –](#)



The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk)) is always in need of help. Food donations can be left in the church porch. The full list of items that are needed is available [here](#). Azad Hazan, who manages the project, issues regular reports on the progress. These can be found on the project webpage by following the link [here](#).

Church Action on Poverty North East

Church Action on Poverty North East AGM

Thursday March 21st 5.30pm
(Registration & Refreshments from 5pm)
St Joseph's Centre
High West St, Gateshead NE8 1LX
opposite Gateshead Metro Interchange

Keynote Speaker: Sue Richardson from
church action for tax justice

Voices of Experience from Durham Roundtable Event
with Church Leaders

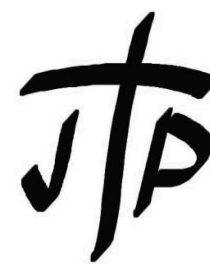
Find out more about:
Challenging Poverty Together in the North East

to book your place & receive further details
email: capnortheast@gmail.com

Church Action on Poverty North East is holding its AGM on 21st March at St Josephs in Gateshead

If you'd like to attend you can book your place & receive further details at *by emailing*

capnortheast@gmail.com



Justice & Peace

Saint Charles and Sacred Heart Justice & Peace Group. Supporting: CAFOD Special Projects; Prisoners of Conscience; Liturgy; Fundraising; and Justice & Peace awareness at home & abroad. For further information: Tel 07427837813 or visit the parish websites at www.stcharlesgosforth.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

March 2024

or
[Sacred Heart RC Parish, North Gosforth \(sacredheartng.org.uk\)](http://Sacred Heart RC Parish, North Gosforth (sacredheartng.org.uk))

Upcoming events:

Liz Archibald, the Chair of the Diocesan Justice & Peace Council writes:

The Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council is organising a Gaza ceasefire pilgrimage . This is part of an international event consisting of walks organised in different places of the world to walk in solidarity with the Palestinians. We are organising the pilgrimage for Holy Saturday 30th of March. We hope to cover two of the Northern Saints Trails: the Way of Angels and the Way of Light. (see the link below) which will give people the opportunity to start closer to home. The idea is that people can walk either the length of Gaza 26 miles or the width of Gaza 6 miles or indeed any distance they feel comfortable with. Both trails finish in Durham.

We are aiming for arrival at 4 pm. Further information will follow. Please contact lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com if you are interested in finding out more, taking part or would like to help with organising.

[.https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/](https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/)

Palestine and Israel: What's to be done?

Palestinian Christians have called on us to pray and to inform ourselves about the history and the current reality of their situation and to urge our politicians to take economic action as the most effective non-violent way of achieving an immediate ceasefire leading to rebuilding life in Gaza and an end to the Occupation of the West Bank, thus opening the way to a Just Peace.

Amongst the things that individuals can do are:

- Sign up for the weekly Sabeel Wave of Prayer – emailed from Jerusalem every Wednesday. <https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/category/taking-action/wave-of-prayer/>
- Learn of the work of Israeli & Palestinian bereaved families working together for a just peace. [Home page - Parents Circle Families Forum \(theparentscircle.org\)](http://theparentscircle.org)
- Learn about the work of the Israeli Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. [B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories \(btselem.org\)](http://btselem.org)
- Send messages of solidarity to Palestinian families at <https://childrenacrossborders.wordpress.com>

Child Poverty in the North-East

The most recent detailed estimates for after housing costs child poverty levels in the North East [were published in June 2023 by the End Child Poverty coalition](#).

The key headlines for North-East from this research were:

- Almost 190,000 (35%) of babies, children and young people across the North East were living below the poverty line, up from 26% in 2014/15, this remains the steepest rise of anywhere in the country over that period.
- Of the 20 Parliamentary constituencies across the whole of the UK that have seen the biggest increases in child poverty since 2014/15, six are in the North East. These are: Middlesbrough (a 16.7 percentage point

increase, Gateshead (12.4), Redcar (12.2), Sedgefield (12.2), Darlington (11.4), and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (11.3).

- 21 out of the North East's 29 Westminster constituencies have more than one in three children living below the poverty line

Laudate Deum

The follow-up to Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical *Laudato Si'* was published in October in October 2023. The National Justice and Peace Network had summarised the most important points from it in their [Spring newsletter](#):

- The world risks remaining trapped in the mindset of pasting and papering over cracks, while beneath the surface there is a continuing deterioration to which we continue to contribute.
- It is chilling to realize that the capacities expanded by technology “have given those with the knowledge and especially the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity and the entire world. Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely, particularly when we consider how it is currently being used... In whose hands does all this power lie, or will it eventually end up? It is extremely risky for a small part of humanity to have it.
- Pope Francis poses the following question to the world's leaders: “What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?”
- “It is easy enough to remove the particular kinds of graft or bullying that go on under the present system: but as long as people are twisters or bullies, they will find some new way of carrying on the old game under the new system. You cannot make people good by law: and without good people you cannot have a good society. That is why we must go onto think...of morality inside the individual.



The bookstall at St Charles is ongoing - bring and buy and your donations will help 6 homeless charities.