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The Hassockfield protests are continuing. You can find out more by going to [No To Hassockfield –](#). The protesters come from different backgrounds and careers, brought together by the belief that **detention has no place in a humane asylum system**, and detaining women is particularly cruel and needless. If you cannot attend in person, perhaps you could join in prayer from home. There is an online version of the vigil on the Diocesan website which can be found [here](#). You can download the most recent booklet with the prayers and readings that are used [here](#).

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**The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT** [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 on the project webpage

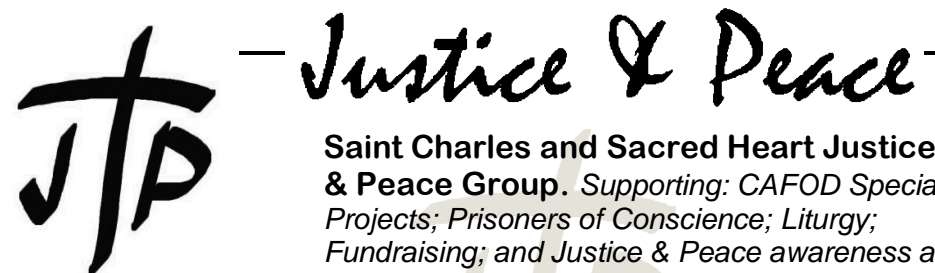
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### **Stories of Sanctuary**

Stories of Sanctuary is a show of original songs written and performed by those with experience of seeking sanctuary, linking the past with the present. Drawing on the North East's rich history of offering sanctuary – from the arrival of an exiled monastic community seeking sanctuary to modern stories of fleeing war in Syria – Stories of Sanctuary now warmly invites everyone into the project that inspired infectious friendships as well as deeply beautiful songs.

Stories of Sanctuary is made up of the Sanctuary Seekers Choir, featuring the National Syrian Orchestra's [Raghad Haddad](#) along with the project's curator and singer-songwriter Sam Slatcher.

Next month Stories of Sanctuary will be performing at [Durham Fringe Festival](#) (July 24 / 26) and there will be an exclusive sanctuary showcase event at [Newcastle Cathedral](#) with Sean Cooney from The Young'Uns on Thursday 18 July.



**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](http://www.stcharlesgosforth.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER**

**July 2024**

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

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### **The National Justice and Peace Network Annual Conference**

This will take place at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire from 19- 21 July 2024. The theme for the weekend is 'Just Politics' and the aim to explore the need for truth and integrity in public life. Sir John Battle will chair the conference. Joining details can be found [here](#).

### **Second Hand Book Sale**

The St Charles/Sacred Heart Justice and Peace group will be holding a second hand book sale on Gosforth High Street on 27<sup>th</sup> July, starting at 1030. Proceeds will go to local food banks at Kenton and Hazlerigg. All the foodbanks are struggling at the moment, squeezed by what has become known as the cost of living crisis. Donations are down and demand is up everywhere.

Trinity Church has kindly allowed the use the forecourt area in front of the church for the sale. If you are able to help in any way, please contact John Dowling on 07427837813.

## Pope Francis' Message for World Day for the Poor

Pope Francis has [penned a message for the annual World Day of the Poor](#), which will be celebrated this year on Sunday 19th November, stressing that *"whenever we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus."* He writes that a *"great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity"*, and that every Christian is called to become *"personally involved"* in the struggle against it.

He continues, "whenever we encounter a poor person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus."

## Called to be Peacemakers

The Department of International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has published '[Called to be Peacemakers: A Catholic approach to arms control and disarmament](#)'. The publication affirms that:

*'As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) In the modern world, an integral aspect of this mission involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and advancing the cause of global disarmament'.*

The Bishops have called on the UK Government to fulfil its obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to promote an end to the UK's role in the global arms trade. They have urged the Government to take meaningful steps towards general and complete disarmament and, in particular, to support a new UN Special Session on Disarmament – something we are currently involved in calling for with Scrap Weapons.

They promote their support for all campaigns which call divestment by Catholic investors from any companies involved in the arms trade or the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons.

## Global Goals:

In 2015, global leaders agreed to seventeen global goals in areas such as poverty, climate action, reducing inequality and gender equality. The website [Global Goals](#) has been monitoring progress on achieving the targets. They have reported that "We're at halftime and only 15% of the Global Goals are on track. COVID-19, the cost of living, conflict, the climate crisis – such as floods, heatwaves, wildfires – have set us back, but hope remains. We're joining the United Nations for the critical SDG Halftime Campaign this year, because any match is won in the second half." The website describes how we can all get involved.

## Human Rights Watch

[Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) is an international non-governmental organization headquartered in New York City that conducts research and advocacy on human rights. The group pressures governments, policymakers, companies, and individual human rights abusers to denounce abuse and respect human rights, and often works on behalf of refugees, children, migrants, and political prisoners. In 1997, Human Rights Watch shared the Nobel Peace Prize as a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. It played a leading role in the 2008 treaty banning cluster munitions.

HRW believes that justice matters for peace, and ignoring atrocities reinforces a culture of impunity that encourages future abuses. Its research over the past 30 years in many different countries has demonstrated that the impact of justice is too often undervalued when weighing objectives in resolving a conflict and achieving lasting peace. Remaining firm on justice can yield short and long-term benefits, while a decision to forego accountability may prove costly in terms of lives and long-term stability.



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

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