
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. This video is available on the Diocesan J&P website. [Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](#)



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. The June 2024 report can be found on the project webpage by following the link [here](#).

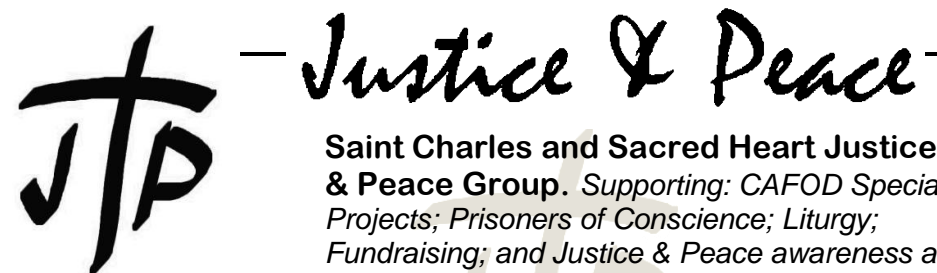
Refugee Week 2024 is taking place from 17th to 23rd June and the theme this year is *Our Home*. During Refugee Week everyone is encouraged to extend their warmth and hospitality beyond their own homes and make entire neighbourhoods more welcoming.

Peace Vigils in the Diocese

Silent vigils take place every Saturday outside Hexham Abbey from 9.30am-10am. About a dozen people gather each week. There is also a vigil for Gaza/Israel at Our Lady Immaculate & St. Cuthbert, Crook, Co Durham every Thursday at 7pm. All are welcome

Reflection

A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what Gospel is that?
-St. Oscar Romero



NEWSLETTER

June 2024

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

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

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](#).

Welcoming and celebrating refugees

An event to welcome and celebrate refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to our diocese at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on Tuesday 18th June at 6.30pm.

The Big Green Event

We are being asked to be part of the UK's biggest celebration of action to tackle climate change and protect nature, taking place in communities nationwide from 8th to 16th June 2024. You can find out what's happening near you by going to [Find an event - Great Big Green Week](#)

Opportunity for change

In case you haven't noticed, there is going to be a general election in the UK on July 4th. This is the one time when we can be certain that our elected representatives listen to us. Calls to actions available from Catholic and Christian organisations are outlined below.

CAFOD AND THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY have produced A Year of Encounter, a resource to help the Catholic community engage with their candidates in the election. See: [UK general election 2024: A guide for Catholic voters \(cafod.org.uk\)](#) and also here: <https://svp.org.uk/encounter>

CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN) has published [Do Justice: A Vision for Spiritual and Civic Renewal in England and Wales](#): This document is promoted as a good place to begin our preparations for a Catholic response to the General Election, as a reminder of the Gospel inspired principles which inform our reflections.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES has assembled a range of teaching resources on seven key issues: criminal justice, domestic poverty, family life and taxation, education, environment, international, human rights and peacebuilding, life issues and migration as a guide on how to vote for the common good: [General Election 2024 - Catholic Bishops' Conference \(cbcew.org.uk\)](#)

THE CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PRACTICE, based at Durham University, has produced a range of resources for parishes and first-time voters: [Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice \(ccstp.org.uk\)](#)

CITIZENS UK. Many Catholic parishes and individuals are involved with Citizens UK (In the local area, this is Tyne & Wear Citizens, in which the lead is taken for the diocese by Fr Chris Hughes). Their manifesto outlines eight areas where community leaders are calling for change: <https://www.citizensuk.org/campaigns/citizens-manifesto/>

FAIRTRADE Campaign

From 8 June to 16 June, Fairtrade supporters nationwide are coming together to urge shoppers to swap to Fairtrade, so more farmers can earn enough to take on the climate crisis. The Protecting Forests with Farmers petition is calling on UK politicians to support farmers who are swapping to sustainable farming methods to protect forests. You can sign the petition at [Pledge | Fairtrade Foundation](#)

Gaza

Over 160 Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilding organizations make up the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP). This organisation, has written to the leaders of the G& today to urge them to include language in their upcoming Leaders' communique highlighting the importance of civil society peacebuilding work as an integral part of any viable process to end the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The text of the letter can be found [here](#).

The letter has been supported by [Pope Francis](#).

Social and Environmental Justice within the Diocese

The Diocesan Board of Directors has approved [a policy](#) for Social and Environmental Justice within the Diocese. The policy was drafted by the Diocesan Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council with advice from the staff at the Centre for Catholic Studies and Salford Caritas. This policy is a response to Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical '*Laudato Si*' with his call for an 'Integral Ecology', where, in seeking the Common Good for the whole of God's creation, Pope Francis challenges us to hear and respond both to the cries of the earth and the poor.



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