
The Hassockfield protests are continuing. You can find out more by going to [No To Hassockfield](#) –. 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](#).

On the **1st Sunday of every Month at 3pm** a vigil takes place at the site as an opportunity for multiple faiths and religious groups to come together in opposition. On the **3rd Saturday of every Month at 12pm** a demonstration takes place at the site with the aim of showing solidarity with the women detained by making noise, playing music, shouting chants and sharing speeches.



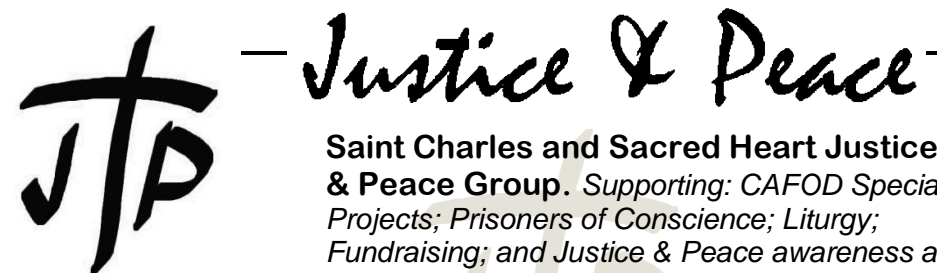
The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](#) is always in need of help. Food donations can be left in the church porch. The full list of items that are needed is available [here](#). Azad Hazan, who manages the project, issues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

Catholic Social Teaching

A new group, the Northern Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Study Group has recently been formed. The purpose of the group is to learn what the Church has to say about our world and how we live together. Catholic Social Teaching addresses the big issues confronting us – work, the environment, family life, poverty, justice. To join the Group or to find out more, contact Louise Harrison on 07532 309745.

Prayer vigils

A prayer vigil for peace in Israel and Gaza is held each Saturday morning from 9.30am to 10.00am outside the Abbey in Hexham. Prayers for peace in Gaza and Israel are offered each Thursday at Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert RC Church, Crook from 7.00 – 7.30pm. All are welcome to join either or both events.



NEWSLETTER

December: 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))

Sustainable living

The following is taken from the Diocesan Justice and Peace Co-Ordinating Council update for November 2024.

The Council is committed to following Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. We want to promote sustainable living which will benefit all society. Each month we will be suggesting actions that promote sustainable living. This month we want to focus on travelling carbon-smart.

- *Challenge yourself to rethink how you travel.*
- *If it is less than a mile, could you walk? If it is less than five miles, could you cycle or take the bus?*
- *Own a car? Make it a small one.*
- *Plan some car free days.*
- *Reducing car use cuts down on emissions and pollution -exercising has benefits too!*
- *Restrict flying to a minimum.*

CIDSE

CIDSE, Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité" (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity), is an international family of Catholic social justice organisations from Europe and North America and its international secretariat is based in Brussels. CIDSE was founded to coordinate issues identified by the Second Vatican Council as important for the Catholic Church, namely, to care for the poor and the oppressed and to work for greater justice on a global level. Today, it describes itself as "an international family of Catholic social justice organisations working for transformational change to end poverty and inequalities, challenging systemic injustice, inequity, destruction of nature and promoting just and environmentally sustainable alternatives".

You can find out more [here](#).

Pax Christi

Pax Christi International, CIDSE, and members of ACT Alliance EU have united to draft a letter calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of hostages, unimpeded access to humanitarian aid, an end to the occupation and violence in the West Bank, and the protection of Holy sites in Jerusalem.

The letter has been signed by Church leaders, organisations and individuals across Europe and seeks to lay the groundwork for meaningful engagement with European policymakers.

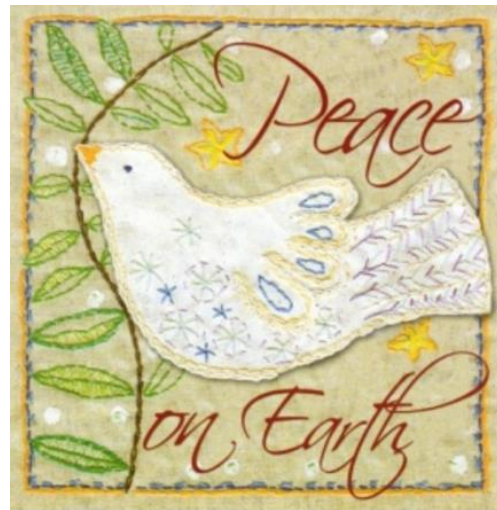
The letter will be open until the 9th December. You can find the form for signing here:

[Embracing Our Faith: A Call to Speak Out on the Holy Land | Endorsement Form](#)

Sudan

While international attention has focused on events in Ukraine and Gaza in recent months, a forgotten humanitarian disaster is unfolding in Sudan, where about 25 million people – including over 14 million children, of whom 3 million are under five, suffer from acute malnutrition and are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Since fighting began there last year, an estimated 13,000 people have been killed 33,000 injured.

The crisis in Sudan has caused an unprecedented mass displacement. The Office of the High Commissioner at the United Nations estimates that there are over 9 million internally displaced persons in the country (IDPs), accounting for about 13 per cent of all IDPs globally. With nearly 4 million children displaced, Sudan is facing the largest child displacement crisis in the world.



Our best wishes for a peaceful Christmas to everyone who has supported Justice and Peace in St Charles and Sacred Heart in 2024



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