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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.



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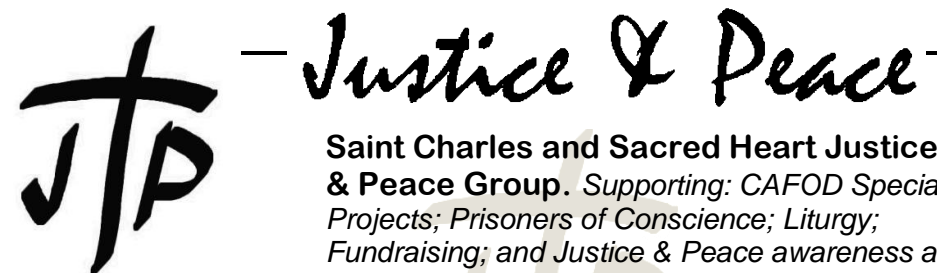
**The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT** [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](#) is always in need of help. Food donations can be left in the church porch. The full list of items that are needed is available [here](#). Azad Hazan, who manages the project, issues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

The recent developments in Syria have meant that the Home Office has suspended making decisions on Syrian asylum seekers. This will result in a time of uncertainty for many of these people.

During December, the project was very busy. The generosity of the project's supporters helped make it possible to distribute extra Christmas gift cards – either £5.00 or £10.00, depending on each client's circumstances – which were very much appreciated.

There was good news in relation to clients who have been given refugee status recently. Previously, clients who were granted 'leave to remain' were only given a very short time to move out of asylum accommodation once they were given refugee status which resulted in some of people facing homelessness. In a recent change, the Home Office is now allowing them 56 days to find accommodation.

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**NEWSLETTER**

**January: 2025**

**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)

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

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#### **Diocesan Justice and Peace AGM**

The Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council's AGM will be on *Saturday 8 February from 10.30am to 3.00pm*. It will be held in the meeting room at St Marys Cathedral, Newcastle (opposite the central station). The morning will be facilitated by Pat Devlin who will be delivering part of the training programme, 'Listening from the Heart', devised by the Parents Circle – Families Forum, which brings together bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families.

The central part of this training is video dialogues between bereaved Palestinians and bereaved Israelis which have been created specifically for this moment of time. As well as sharing their stories and their journeys from revenge seeking grief to joint peace-making work, they also ask each other questions about the current situation. The Diocesan J&P Committee hopes that as many people as possible will be able to attend for what will be a powerful presentation. More details, including how to register for attendance will follow and will be on the [Justice and Peace webpage](#).

#### **Newman Tyneside Circle**

Invites everyone to come and hear John Murray speak about Mgr Kevin Nichol's 'The Poem' at Holy Name parish hall on Tue 14 Jan 2.30pm

## Jubilee year: 2025

This year, 2025, is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church with the theme '*Pilgrims of Hope*'. It seems that the virtue of hope is very necessary in today's world. There are many challenges in life both at home and abroad: famine, war, climate change, cost of living pressures and divisions in society, often fuelled by intolerance of others. Pope Francis has said: '*In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring.*' We are all invited to be pilgrims of true hope and share it with others.



The Logo for the Jubilee year was designed as part of a public competition. It shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They each embrace one another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that unites peoples. The first figure is clinging to the Cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters. The image shows how the pilgrim's journey is communal, not individual.

## Peace Sunday: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Since it was established in 1967 by Pope St Paul VI, the Popes have taken the World Day of Peace on the 1st January as an opportunity to offer a message on peace related topics. Every year, the second Sunday in Ordinary Time is celebrated as a way of observing the World Day of Peace and promoting the Pope's message for that year.

In 2025, Peace Sunday will fall on Sunday 19 January. Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace has been published and his theme is 'Forgive us our trespasses: Grant us your peace'. The message speaks of how we must listen to the 'pleas of an endangered humanity', how the year of Jubilee inspires us to seek the liberating justice of God in our world and how by 'opening our hearts to our brothers and sisters, we will restore God's justice on earth' and 'move forward to achieve the goal of peace'

## The seven themes of Catholic social teaching

The Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States has highlighted [the key themes](#) that are at the heart of Catholic social tradition.

1. Human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.
2. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.
3. Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met.
4. A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
5. The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected - the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organise, to private property, and to economic fairness.
6. We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be.
7. We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just a slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.



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