
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.

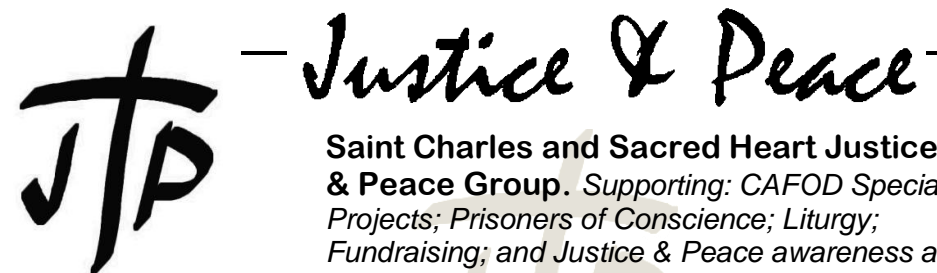
A major national demonstration took place at Hassocksfield in Saturday 19th October. The event started at 12 noon. Coaches travelled from Manchester, Liverpool, Durham, Newcastle, and Sunderland. Several hundred people attended and the event received extensive TV and press coverage



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. A more detailed report on the work of the project can be found on the second sheet.

Prayer vigil for peace in the Holy Land

A short vigil for peace in Palestine and Israel takes place at 7pm every Thursday evening at Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert RC Church, Crook. During the vigil candles are lit as a gesture of hope for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land. All those affected by the events of the last year are remembered and prayers are said for an end to atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, and for peace in the wider region.



NEWSLETTER

November: 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))

Other news

- How does a church organist and retired botanist/marine biologist come to end up volunteering in a reception prison? The answer can be found [here](#). Gavin Hardy from Holy Name describes his journey.
- The issue of food poverty in the UK raised its head again recently in a [Parliamentary report](#). According to the Department for Work and Pensions, in 2022/23, 7.2 million people (11%) in the UK were in food insecure households, an increase of 2.5 million people since 2021/22. Among the 11.3 million people found to be in relative poverty before housing costs, 22% were in food insecure households, including 30% of children. People in relative poverty live in a household with income less than 60% of the contemporary median income.
- For those who seek to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice in the Jubilee year, CAFOD's annual online campaigners' conference will be on Saturday 23 November 2024 from 10am to 2.30pm. It will look ahead to campaigning on the new debt crisis in the Jubilee Year 2025 with a Sri Lankan debt expert, and hear live from COP29 in Azerbaijan, and be joined by new MP, Florence Eshalomi. Sign up at <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/faith-in-action>

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project

In the UK and many other countries, November is a time for remembering. All Saints' and All Souls' Day remember those who have lived and died in their faith. And, of course, on Remembrance Day we remember those who died in battle – above all, the millions who perished in the two world wars of the last century. The First World War was called by many, 'the war to end all wars', but sadly history has proved this was not to be the case.

In June 2024, the UN Refugee Agency reported that a record-breaking 120 million individuals have been forced to flee their homes due to war, violence and persecution – the 12th year in a row the number has increased. Many of the clients at the diocesan Refugee Project come from countries affected by war and persecution, and they receive a warm welcome, compassion and a listening ear at the project

The Refugee Project continues to welcome clients from across the world. In September, it supported 510 individuals and families and received 27 new registrations from clients in need of food and toiletries to supplement their meagre allowance. It also provided 18 destitute clients, those who had been refused permission to stay and had therefore lost their accommodation and financial support, with supermarket vouchers. With such high numbers of clients needing support, the project is more in need than ever of donations of food, toiletries and finance.

Clients always appreciate the fresh food items that they are given and the Project Co-ordinator works hard to find supermarkets that will donate. It was with great pleasure therefore that Lidl in Longbenton agreed to support the project.

The project continues to offer opportunities to its clients to learn English, with volunteers providing lessons on a Wednesday and Friday. In addition, Newcastle City College has recently expanded their English courses to now include asylum seekers who have been in the country for less than 6 months. These opportunities are valued by the clients and allow them to make good progress in acquiring English skills to support their integration and further training opportunities.

Earth4All

Chris Myres of the Diocesan Environmental Group has written about Earth4All as [*an antidote to despair and a road map to a better future*](#). He writes that a leading group of scientists and economists have presented five extraordinary turnarounds to achieve prosperity for all in a single generation and that it is feasible to redesign economic and social policies to put our societies on a pathway towards achieving this within planetary boundaries. The five extraordinary turnarounds presented by Earth4All are the minimum requirements that support wellbeing for all, whilst protecting the planet. They cover the following areas: Eliminating Poverty; Reducing Inequality, Empowering Women; Transforming Food Systems, and achieving zero-carbon energy security.

Global Hunger Index

Published annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, the [Global Hunger Index](#) (GHI) gives both a snapshot of current world hunger facts and figures, as well as a look at where progress has, and has not, been made. The headline numbers from their latest report are:

1. The world produces enough food to feed all of its 8 billion people, yet 733 million people (1 in 11) go hungry every day.
2. In Africa 1 out of 5 people goes hungry each day.
3. 2.8 billion people around the world cannot afford a healthy diet
4. In low-income countries, 71.5% of people cannot afford a healthy diet.
5. According to the 2024 Global Hunger Index, hunger levels are ranked Serious in 36 countries.
6. The 2024 Global Hunger Index also rates hunger levels as Alarming in 6 countries: Burundi, Chad, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.
7. The number of people experiencing hunger has gone up by approximately 152 million since 2019.



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