



Hassockfield (Derwentside) Immigration Detention Centre – [An interfaith prayer vigil takes place on every month](#), (usually on the first Sunday at 3pm). An online version of the prayer vigil can be found [here](#). Usually about 30-40 people attend. You can find out more by clicking on the above link.

On 6th January, the chief inspector of prisons published his report on Derwentside IRC. The conclusions are summarised [here](#). Perhaps the most damning of the report's conclusions was that, of the 723 women who left the IRC during a six-month period in 2025, 59% had been let go and 41% sent to other centres. This means a majority of the women should never have been detained, proving what the No to Hassockfield campaign has always said, that many detainees were being held unnecessarily. It is also unclear how many of the 41% of women moved to other centres were actually released on bail as well.



In order to continue the campaign, funds are vital. The annual fundraiser will be on Friday 13th February. This year it will be at The John Marley Centre, Muscott Grove, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 6TT. Entertainment and dancing will be provided by Bushy, Bethany Elen and Crossings Band

All money raised goes towards campaigning. To book your tickets or to donate, click [here](#).



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

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

or

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

Supporting Palestinian farmers

The January newsletter provided information on how to help Palestinian farmers by purchasing Zaytoun products. Oxfam on Gosforth High Street also sells a range of these products. Amongst these, you can get 250g of Zaytoun organic fair-trade olive oil for £9.25 and 500g for £15.25. Zaytoun Jericho's finest Medjoul Dates retail for £5.99 for 250g and £10.99 for the 500g.

Peace Sunday 2026

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Nonviolence in a time of moral drift

'Interior conversion never remains private. It presses outward into the public square. Nonviolence becomes a sustained witness, rooted in caritas, guided by prudence, and grounded in the inviolable dignity of the human person. It publicly affirms moral boundaries no earthly power may legitimately force us to cross, even when the state claims "necessity" or "security."

In the run up to Peace Sunday, Sr Katrina Alton, the National Chaplain at Pax Christi, reflected on Pope Leo's message in the light of the ongoing news coming from the US, Gaza and Iran.

Justice and Peace Group events 2026

February

- Gosforth Churches Together will be organising a series of Lenten Wednesday Soup Lunches. Dates are yet to be confirmed.
- The 27th February is CAFOD Family Fast Day.
- The [CAFOD Big Lent Walk](#) begins in February. The challenge is to walk 200km over 40 days and raise money to bring life-saving water to people around the world.

March

- Tuesday 10th: Monthly J&P Meeting.
- Sunday 22nd: J&P coffee morning and Sunday soup lunch at St Charles in aid of Mary's Meals.
- Sunday 29th: Justice and Peace Coffee Morning at St Charles.

April

- Tuesday 21st: AGM at St Charles

May

- Sunday 3rd: Justice and Peace Coffee Morning at St Charles
- Tuesday 12th: Presentation by the Diocesan Refugee Project

June

- Saturday and Sunday 6th & 7th: Jo Cox event (10th Anniversary) in St Charles church hall after Sat/Sun masses to enable community building. Refreshments will be provided.
- Tuesday 9th: Monthly J&P meeting.

July

- Sunday 5th: Justice and Peace Coffee Morning at St Charles.

September

- Sunday 6th: Justice and Peace coffee at St Charles.
- Tuesday 8th: Monthly J&P meeting.

October

- Sunday 4th: One World Lunch St Charles in aid of CAFOD
- Tuesday 13th: Monthly J&P meeting

November

- Sunday 1st: Justice and Peace coffee morning at St Charles.
- Tuesday 10th: Monthly J&P meeting.
- Wednesday 25th: Prisoners of Conscience card writing session St Charles. (The core group that organises this annual event has recently become smaller and would welcome volunteers to help with this event, please get in touch if you can help us in any way).
- A ceilidh may be held in this month. Confirmation, or otherwise, will be provided in future newsletters.

Lenten Lunches

Lenten devotions followed by a simple lunch will be held at the following venues

- Wednesday 4th March: Trinity Church
- Wednesday 11th March: St Charles
- Wednesday 18th March: Quaker Meeting House
- Wednesday 25th March: All Saints



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- **The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT** [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](https://www.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](#).
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The bookstall at St Charles is ongoing - bring and buy and your donations will help 6 homeless charities.