



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.



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](#).

Dilexi te – the first letter from Pope Leo XIV

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In his new Apostolic Exhortation, Dilexi te, Pope Leo XIV calls us to rediscover an active, practical love for people who are marginalised, vulnerable, or experiencing poverty. Completing the work begun by Pope Francis, Dilexi te offers a profound reflection on the societal structures that keep people in poverty by challenging economic systems that entrench inequality and injustice.

The Holy Father reaffirms the Church's duty to exercise a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, one of the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching; this means prioritising the needs not only of those in material poverty, but of all who are marginalised, including prisoners, migrants, and the sick.

Placing the inseparable link between charity and justice at the heart of his exhortation, Pope Leo reminds us that our faith demands both acts of charity to assist those in immediate need and acts of solidarity to change these very structures that create and sustain hardship, inequality, and oppression. He stresses that both actions are essential expressions of our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ and a living demonstration of our love for God.

This has been taken from the most recent [Justice and Peace Scotland newsletter](#)



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

January 2026

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

Supporting Palestinian farmers

This year's olive harvest in Palestine has been one of the most difficult in memory. Across the West Bank, farmers have faced violence, intimidation, and the constant fear of attack. Armed settlers have blocked access to groves, set fire to trees, and vandalized property. In some areas, olive trees have been bulldozed or uprooted by the Israeli army. Families have had to make an unthinkable choice – to stay away from their groves and let the olives fall, rather than risk their lives and that of their families.

If you are interested in supporting the Palestinian olive harvest, you can buy olive oil and other products from Palestinian-owned initiatives like Zaytoun. Zaytoun is a social enterprise established to support marginalised farming communities in Palestine through fair trade, and which reinvests all its profits in this mission. They offer a range of high quality products that are ethically sourced, sustainably grown and sourced from farmers in Palestine. Many are available at ethicalsuperstore.com

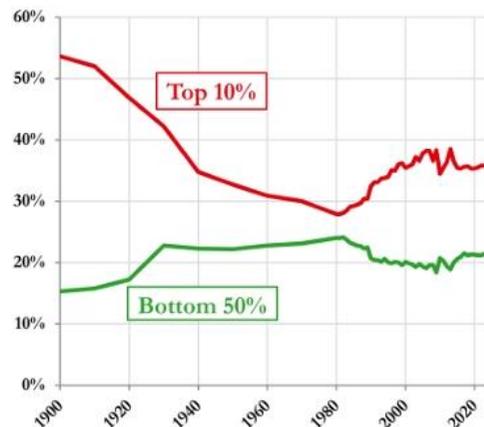
The Co op sells a 500ml bottle of Zaytoun organic fair-trade olive oil for £16.50 and Zaytoun Jericho's finest Medjoul Dates (Grown and hand-picked by Palestinian producers in the Jordan Valley) at £5.

Wealth Inequality

The [World Inequality Report 2026](#) has shone a light on the inequality of wealth distribution across the world and in the United Kingdom. The key findings of the report are that:

- The top 10% of the global population's income-earners earn more than the remaining 90%, while the poorest half of the global population captures less than 10% of the total global income. Wealth is even more concentrated: the top 10% own three-quarters of global wealth, while the bottom half holds only 2%.
- The wealthiest 0.001% alone, fewer than 60,000 people, control three times more wealth than half of humanity combined. Their share has grown steadily from almost 4% in 1995 to over 6% today.
- Since the 1990s, the wealth of billionaires and centi-millionaires has grown at approximately 8% annually, nearly twice the rate of growth experienced by the bottom half of the population. The result is a world in which a tiny minority commands unprecedented financial power, while billions remain excluded from even basic economic stability.

In the United Kingdom, the top 10% of earners receive 36% of total income, while the bottom 50% account for 21%. Wealth concentration is higher, with the richest 10% holding 57% of total wealth and the top 1% holding 21%. Wealth inequality decreased for most of the 20th Century, increased sharply over the following two decades, before levelling off since the turn of the century.



Proposed changes to Asylum Law

The Government has proposed sweeping changes to laws affecting asylum seekers in the UK. Details can be found [here](#).

The changes have been met with dismay by organisations which support refugees. Asylum Matters has responded with a statement which makes the following points:

- Under this Government, the fundamental principle of protection for refugees, put in place after the horrors of the Second World War, are now under more threat than they have ever been. They are proposing radical anti-refugee laws that can only be an attempt to placate extremists.
- The UK currently hosts less than 1% of the world's refugees: reducing our support to 'modest' safe routes for a few is shirking our international responsibilities. And any such routes are worth little if refugees are to be treated as second class citizens, faced with constant hostility and scrutiny even after their need for protection has been established.
- These plans also completely misunderstand why people seek sanctuary. Most people have no idea exactly what the refugee laws in the country they're fleeing to are. They come for family ties, for a common language, for an understanding of the culture, and first and foremost for safety.



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