

The Diocesan Justice and Peace website always has some interesting articles and is well worth a read if you get the chance. It is at [Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk))



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.



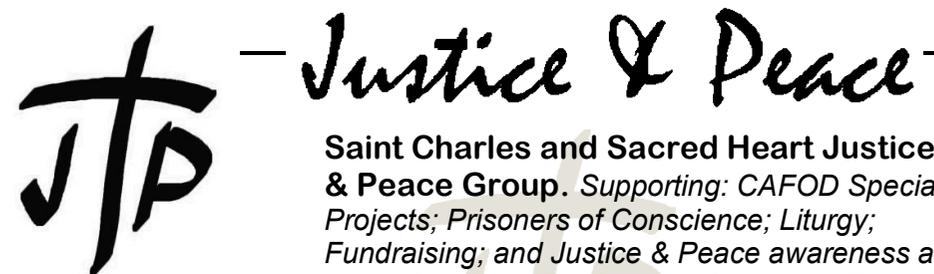
The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](#) is always in need of help. Food donations can be left in the church porch. The full list of items that are needed is available [here](#). Azad Hazan, who manages the project, issues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

1000 Cranes for Peace to Mark Hiroshima Anniversary

To mark the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, students



from the Manchester Catholic Chaplaincy have folded one thousand origami cranes in a powerful gesture of peace and solidarity. The tradition, known as senbazuru, is rooted in Japanese culture and symbolises the hope that peace might triumph over violence. It is inspired by the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who, after surviving the Hiroshima bombing, began folding cranes in the belief that creating 1,000 would help her recover from radiation-induced leukaemia. Today, senbazuru has become a global act of remembrance and resistance to war.



NEWSLETTER

July 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

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

Upcoming events and news:

- A reminder that the National Justice and Peace Network 47th Annual Conference will be held on 25 – 27 July 2025 at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. For further details please contact Sharon Chambers at Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk or Tel: 020 7901 4864.
- The big second-hand book sale in support of the Hazlerigg and Kenton Food Banks will take place on Saturday 12th July on Gosforth High Street. Trinity has again kindly agreed that we can use the open area in front of their church. Start time is 10 am. If you can help, please contact 07427837813.
- On a more sobering note, the [UN Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development](#) was published in May. The report concludes that the world is far from peaceful, with a 72 per cent increase in conflict-related civilian deaths 2023 compared to 2022. Governments are failing to protect the rights of all people to live a life free from fear and violence. Violent crime is on the rise, and organized crime is an increasing threat to peace and development, destroying peoples' lives and communities. Peace remains a distance goal when, as the report finds, discrimination is widespread, corruption is pervasive, governance is not inclusive, and people are not able to access justice.

Visit of Sr Imelda Poole

Anti-trafficking charity Mary Ward Loreto UK is seeking opportunities for parishes in the Tyneside area to hear the message of Loreto Sister Imelda Poole when she visits the UK in early September.

Sr Imelda has received national and international recognition for her innovative work in Albania to end modern slavery. She recently received an honorary doctorate from Liverpool Hope University, which cited her internationally recognised work to combat human trafficking through her Mary Ward Loreto Foundation and the charity she co-founded, Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation' (RENATE). The Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, a non-profit organisation aiming to eradicate human trafficking in Albania and the UK, provides immediate shelter and care to those rescued, whilst also running a number of programmes with highly vulnerable and exploited communities to prevent future trafficking. Sr Imelda's dedication to this work was recognised in 2018 when she was awarded an MBE for her achievements and services to end modern slavery. Further recognition came in 2021 when she received the Trafficking in Persons - TIP Hero Award from the United States State Department.

She will be in the North-east from 1 to 4 September, and could attend a meeting and speak on any of these dates. Any parishes wishing to host a meeting should contact Hilary Cashman on 07980 429687 or 01642 909042, or via email: hilaryc@myphone.coop

The Climate and Nature Bill

Chris Myers, the environmental lead on the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council and a member of the Diocesan Environment Group (DEG), has written an article explaining the background to the Climate and Nature Bill being brought before Parliament on July 11 and suggests how we can support it by signing an open letter to the Prime Minister.

Details of how to do so can be found by following the link [here](#).

The Common Good: What's in it for me?

The National Justice and Peace Network has addressed the issue of The Common Good: What's in it for me. The main points are outlined as follows:

It is something of an understatement to say that we are living in a broken world, in desperate need of healing. It could be that we are on a fantasy fairground carousel, spinning round and round searching for a 'never-never land' where all our material wishes are realised, apart from those who are unable to afford the entrance fee.

In the public arena much of the language used is crass and unnecessary, taking little account of the impact on those most affected. The essence of Catholic Social Teaching however, is the recognition of the innate dignity of every person, created by a loving God. The concept of the common good includes all people.

Pope Francis issued a challenge to all people of goodwill stating that: "Every citizen is responsible for the common good. And for Christians, it is also a mission.". However, where do we see common good thinking when it is deemed acceptable to reduce the international development budget in favour of an increase in defence spending?

Do we understand the implications of removing support to projects which lift people out of poverty, provide life-saving medicines, address climate change and sustainable development. These are not, as frequently described by media outlets, soft options, but rather build relationships and develop communities, key aspects in conflict resolution. Do we recognise the common good in our hostile asylum and immigration policies? What about the ability to participate in the democratic process when freedom to gather in peaceful protest is questioned? As we journey through this year of Jubilee, as people of faith, we must believe in the possibility of a better world for the benefit of all people, sharing signs of hope as we work for the common good.



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