

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 \(diocesahn.org.uk\)](http://diocesahn.org.uk)



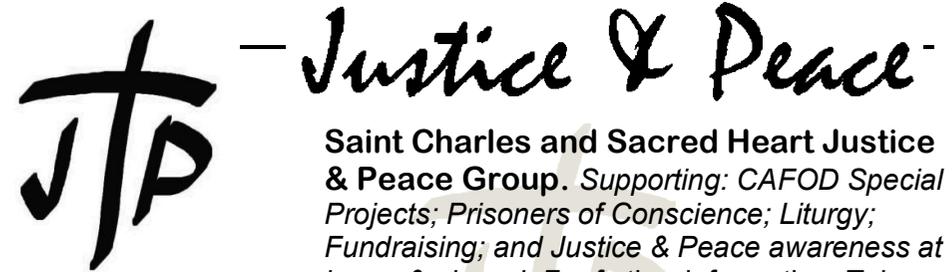
Hassockfield (Derwentside) Immigration Detention Centre – [An interfaith prayer vigil takes place on every month](#), (usually on the first Sunday at 3pm). An online version of the prayer vigil can be found [here](#). Usually about 30-40 people attend. You can find out more by clicking on the above link.



The **DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT** [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesahn.org.uk\)](#) 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](#).

Watch these dates:

- The always popular One World Lunch will take place at St Charles on the 19th October. Food from all over the world will be available. If you can contribute, please let us know.
- An international food festival will also take place in the church hall at Sacred Heart on Sunday 30th November
- The annual Amnesty International card writing coffee morning will take place at St Charles hall on 26th November.



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

NEWSLETTER

October 2025

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

A Just Peace — NJPN Conference 2025 Statement

A Just Peace demands more than the absence of war; it insists on justice, dignity, and inclusion for all. It is built through deep listening, courageous dialogue, and collective action rooted in love.

We reject systems that dehumanise and divide and instead choose a radical hope that serves the common good.

Peace is not a slogan—it is a shared responsibility, a daily commitment, and it represents the power of us.

Data on asylum seekers

Liz Archibald, who Chairs the Diocesan Justice and Peace Council has written as follows about asylum seekers.

"I am sure, like me, you are distressed by the recent far right marches and rallies and the vitriol being expressed by some sections of society towards people seeking asylum in the UK. I think one of our responsibilities as people of faith is to ensure we are well informed and to inform others. With that in mind I have put together a list of some websites which you may find useful in providing up to date and accurate information about refugees and the asylum system."

Refugee Action <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/about/facts-about-refugees/>

The Refugee Council <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>

Asylum Matters <https://asylummatters.org/>

The Migration Observatory

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migration-to-the-uk-asylum/>

UNHCR United Nations Refugee Agency <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/asylum-seekers>

Pax Christi statement on recent events in the West Bank and Gaza

Pax Christi has welcomed the UK Government's recent decision to recognise the state of Palestine. However, Pax Christi also recognises that the daily lives of the people in the region continue to be unbearable. Every day brings news of cruelty, violence, death and destruction in both Gaza and the West Bank. Pax Christs says that the recognition has resulted in retribution by the Israeli Government, that includes increased violence and the closing of the Allenby Crossing, the only way out of the West Bank for Palestinians. This imprisons them even further and denies return by those out of the country.

The UK Government's recognition must now be followed by immediate, concrete action and Pax Christs has called for:

- full access for humanitarian aid to all parts of Gaza, distributed humanely and safely;
- an end to the genocide in Gaza and the ethnic cleansing of the West Bank together with the withdrawal of all Israeli military;
- an end to all UK military cooperation with Israel;
- freedom of movement for Palestinians;
- a ban on trade with illegal settlements and all complicity in settlements;
- the publication of the UK response and its compliance with the ICJ opinion of July 19th 2024 – 'Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem'

Child Poverty in the UK

On 18 September, the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) hosted the latest in its Jubilee Year webinar series, focusing on one of the most urgent challenges of our time: child poverty. The number of children in poverty in the UK has reached its highest level since comparative records began in 2002. In the year to April 2024, there were 4.45 million children living in a household of relative low income after housing costs are deducted - the government's own standard measure for poverty. The figure, released by the Department for Work and Pensions, is an increase of 100,000 children from the previous year - and equates to 31% of children in the UK.

The delegates heard that child poverty is not inevitable. It stems from political and policy choices, from economic structures that prioritise some while leaving others behind, and from a society that too often ignores the voices of the most vulnerable. All those present were challenged to recognise the moral responsibility we all share. Communities, churches, faith groups, and individuals must not only provide support but also advocate for fairer policies.



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