

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))



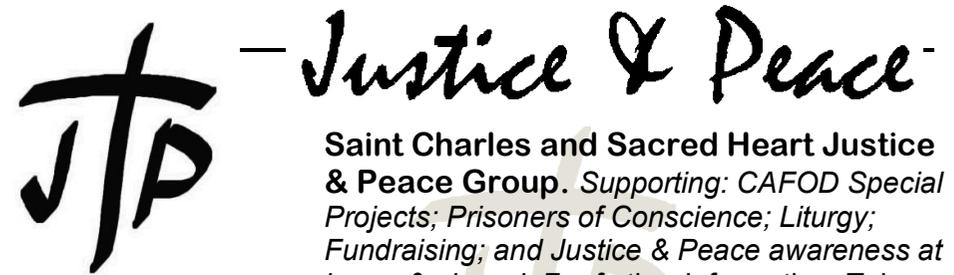
Hassockfield (Derwentside) Immigration Detention Centre – [An interfaith prayer vigil takes place on every month](#), (usually on the first Sunday at 3pm). An online version of the prayer vigil can be found [here](#). Usually about 30-40 people attend. You can find out more by clicking on the above link.



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](#).

Watch these dates:

- The always popular One World Lunch will take place at St Charles on the 12th October. Food from all over the world will be available. If you can contribute, please let us know.
- The annual Amnesty International card writing coffee morning will take place in 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

September 2025

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

CAFOD Holy Island Pilgrimage

CAFOD in partnership with The Archbishop Romero Trust Pilgrimage to Holy Island

Saturday 13th September 2025

Join us as we journey to Lindisfarne as Pilgrims of Hope in this Year of Jubilee.

Bring your Parish, School or local community together to arrange transport and join us on this wonderful occasion

Coaches meet from 10am at Purdy Lodge café, A1 and travel in convoy at 10:45 to Holy Island causeway.

11:30 – 11:45 Walkers meet at 1st refuge on the causeway to cross the sands.
Non-walkers are welcome to join service in St Aidan's Catholic Church at 12 noon.
Lunch – Bring or buy your own

3pm – Mass in St Mary's Church

Safe Crossing Times: 10:45 until 5:45

Photo: Malcolm Bengston

For more information, contact Rachel Blaylock: rblaylock@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD A better world needs all of us

The Archbishop Romero Trust

It is possible that places may still be available on a minibus for this event. Please contact

lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com

if interested, or just turn up at the start.

Nation Justice and Peace Network call to action.

The annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) has issued [a call to action on the situation in Gaza](#). The appeal is addressed to all who have a voice and a responsibility towards those who are desperate yet voiceless and ignored. There can be no peace without justice. The time for silence is over. The delegates made it clear that they grieve all lives lost—Palestinian and Israeli—and condemn indiscriminate violence and hostage-taking by all parties. But the scale and intensity of Israel’s military response is overwhelmingly disproportionate and morally indefensible.

They also believe that the continued bombardment of Gaza, the illegal occupation of the West Bank, and the targeting of civilians, humanitarian workers, and journalists are not isolated tragedies—they are violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The appeal is directed in part to the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. The Bishops are urged to:

- Publicly and unequivocally condemn the Israeli Government’s war of aggression in Gaza.
- Speak out against the use of starvation, denial of healthcare, and targeting of civilians—grave breaches of international law.
- Raise their voices, in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching, for a peace rooted in human dignity, equality, and justice for all.

A plea was also issued to The British Government and all political leaders:

- Carry out principled and urgent action to uphold international law and human rights.
- Secure an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces.
- Guarantee the safe and unrestricted delivery of all humanitarian aid.
- Secure the release of all Israeli and Palestinian hostages.
- Pursue international accountability for violations of humanitarian law—by Hamas, Israeli forces, and settlers. Enforce targeted sanctions to end impunity and uphold justice.

His Eminence, Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has appealed to us, and the international community, to do what is right for everyone, in a way that restores human dignity.

He said: *‘It is time to end this nonsense, end the war and put the common good of people as the top priority. Let us not turn peace into a slogan, while war remains the daily bread of the poor. As people of faith and conscience, we must not settle for a fragile peace maintained by fear, nor a silence born of complicity. We are called to a Just Peace—a peace that refuses to dehumanise, that dismantles injustice, and that centres the common good of all people. The time is now—to speak, to act, and to stand with courage for a future rooted in justice, human dignity, and the radical hope that peace is possible.*

Refugees and asylum seekers

The recent Justice and Peace Scotland newsletter carries the following message.

“Catholic Social Teaching affirms the right of people to migrate in search of safety and a dignified life. Various papal encyclicals - from *Populorum Progressio* to *Caritas in Veritate* - have consistently called the Church and society to treat migrants with justice and compassion, always upholding their human dignity. No one becomes a refugee by choice. People flee war, persecution, injustice, and increasingly, climate change. They seek sanctuary out of necessity. To respond justly, we must address these root causes while offering the sanctuary and welcome they seek, resisting the closing of hearts and borders to those impacted by crises they did not create.

Our government could truly address the “small boats crisis” not by deterrence, but by creating safe, legal routes for asylum. Seen through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, this becomes not simply a political preference, but instead a moral obligation to ensure justice and the common good for all.”



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