



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](#).

QUIZ NIGHT!
FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

FUNRAISER FOR
FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

AT SUMMERHILL BOWLING CLUB
Winchester Terrace, Newcastle, NE4 6EH
(just off Westgate Road, a short walk from Newcastle Central Station or St James metro)
See here for directions:
<https://www.summerhilltrust.org.uk/about>

 **WITH MUSIC FROM KIN CHOIR**

Entry is £2.50 per person (max 6 per team)
For further information contact: fftnesg@gmail.com

FREEDOM FROM TORTURE
WHAT WE DO: Around the world, torture is used to silence and destroy lives. We stand with survivors, providing therapy and support, and fighting for change together.
<https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

[Freedom From Torture](#) has a vision of a world free from torture. It aims to ensure that the human rights of survivors are restored through rehabilitation and protection. It fights to ensure that states responsible for torture are held to account. A fund raising quiz is being held on Friday 13th March



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

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

Keep the date

- Sunday 22nd March: J&P coffee morning and Sunday soup lunch at St Charles in aid of Mary's Meals.
- Sunday 29th March: Justice and Peace Coffee Morning at St Charles.
- Tuesday 21st April: Justice and Peace Group AGM at St Charles. More details will be included in the next newsletter
- A march against the far right will be held in London on 28th March. It is being organised by the Together Alliance, a coming together of trade unionists and environmentalists, community activists and faith leaders, musicians, athletes, entertainers and elected representatives. More details can be found at [Together Alliance](#)
- A Call My Bluff wine tasting evening will be held in the parish hall at Sacred Heart on Saturday 11th July to raise funds for the much needed repairs to the church building. The estimated costs of the repairs is currently £210000. Tickets will be on sale throughout May and June at Sacred Heart, St Charles and Holy Name.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report on Poverty in the UK

This newsletter has made frequent reference to poverty in the UK. It has drawn widely from the work done by the Joseph Rowntree foundation. Their latest report can be found [here](#).

The main conclusions are:

- More than 1 in 5 people in the UK (21% or 14.3 million people) were in poverty in 2022/23. Of these, 8.1 million were working-age adults, 4.3 million were children and 1.9 million were pensioners. Approximately 2 in every 10 adults, and 3 in 10 children, are in poverty in the UK. (Poverty in the UK is defined as the condition where individuals or families lack sufficient financial resources to meet their basic needs, which includes essentials like food, housing, and heating. It is often measured in relative terms, with a common threshold set at 60% of the median income).
- It is over 20 years since there was last a fall in the poverty rate in the UK.
- 6 million people, or 4 in 10 of those in poverty, were in very deep poverty, with an income far below the standard poverty line. More than twice as many (over 12 million people) had experienced very deep poverty in at least one year between 2017/18 and 2020/21.

Pope Francis' Fasting Ideas

Dear Lord, give us the strength and wisdom this lent to:

- Fast from hurting words...and say kind words
- Fast from sadness...and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger...and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism...and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries...and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints...and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures...and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness...and fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness...and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges...and be reconciled
- Fast from words...and be silent so you can listen

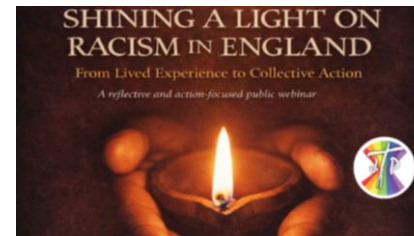
Pope Leo to visit Lampedusa

On July 4, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, Pope Leo will visit Lampedusa, an island that held a special place in Pope Francis' heart after his journey in 2013—the first of his pontificate. During his visit, Pope Francis threw a wreath into the seas in honour of all the victims who had lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea for a better life.

Pope Leo will travel to the island, which has become a gateway for thousands of migrants from Africa and the Middle East to Italy and Europe. Following in his predecessor's footsteps, he will offer comfort and encouragement those who have crossed the sea, and to those who assist them.

Racism in England

A national webinar hosted by the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) has urged Christians to move beyond reflection to concrete action



in confronting racism in England, grounding anti-racism firmly in Gospel discipleship and Christian hope.

The online event, "*Shining a Light on Racism in England: From Lived Experience to Collective Action*," brought together church leaders, theologians, campaigners and community practitioners just days before Racial Justice Sunday. It formed part of a wider ecumenical call for renewed commitment to racial justice under this year's theme, "Love Your Neighbour." More details can be found [here](#).



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