



Portsmouth Diocese

Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility

Bulletin June 2017



Come Holy Spirit

"There are a variety gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular way of the Spirit given to each person is to be used for a good purpose." I Corinthians 12:4-7

Volunteers Week

Pentecost is an opportunity for renewal, to open ourselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit – *"for good purpose"* – to bring good news to the poor, proclaim and heal – it's a call to action!



This first week of June is also Volunteer Week, an annual campaign to thank volunteers and celebrate the difference we make. It is another call to action! Celebrating the success of campaigning and charity work encourages us to continue and hopefully others to join us. Combine this with the coming of Holy Spirit anew, we will be unstoppable!

Thank you to everyone that volunteers in all our churches and schools, building the kingdom in sharing prayer, encouraging words, acts of kindness, speaking up in solidarity for all those in need and in life choices and actions. volunteersweek.org/

In our **Bishop's letter** with his questions for the election give us much to ponder beyond the 8th June, on our vocations and social responsibility as Christians <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bishop/bop-pl-20170514-god-is-calling-you.php>



The Voices from on the margins campaign by Church Action on poverty aims to ensure alternative voices are heard in the election campaign voicesfromthemargins.org.uk

Day for Life 18th June

This is the day in a Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. We are asked to mark this as a special day of prayer; we all know life to be the greatest joy, but, also filled with difficulty and struggle. This year marking fifty years of the abortion act we are called to focus on this great sadness of lives lost and broken. <http://www.dayforlife.org/> The website has some really thought provoking stories and prayers to enhance a liturgy.

Maybe outcomes from the day would be to look at how your community might act to be more welcoming and supportive to individuals and families struggling. Contact Kevin at Caritas, Diocese of Portsmouth if you want help starting a project. kgallegher@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Look to joining campaigns that speak up for justice for the vulnerable, the abused and oppressed – in domestic violence and modern slavery or as refugees for example. Invite a speaker or have a fundraiser to financially supporting catholic charities that offer help and dignity to those in need, pregnant women, the disabled, the elderly, the lonely and all those struggling to find work and safety for their families.

Contact JPSR@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to share ideas, help and to volunteer.

Blessed Oscar Romero

This year marks the centenary of the birth of the Archbishop of El Salvador martyred while saying Mass in 1988. The Archbishop became a courageous "voice for the voiceless" in his country speaking against corruption and violence and taking action to bring peace and justice for the people. To mark the centenary of his birth the Romero Trust have organised a number of celebrations including

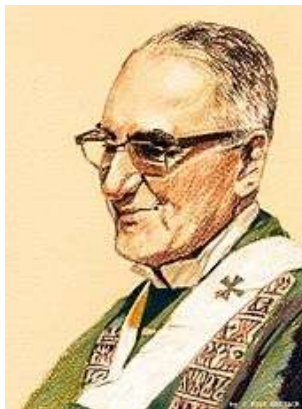
A Romero Day on Saturday, 23 September – With activities and events to mark the Romero Centenary, culminating in 3pm Evensong at Westminster Abbey with Lord Rowan Williams preaching. All welcome

Plus a wonderful pilgrimage to El Salvador will take place from 13-25th November 2017 bookings at arctc@btinternet.com

Both the **Romero Trust** and **CAFOD** have some lovely resources to learn more about the life of Archbishop Romero and for liturgy. www.romerotrust.org.uk
www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Romero

Local Romero Pilgrimage

In Havant Pastoral Area we have planned to have our own friendly Romero pilgrimage walk from St Josephs' Havant to St John's Cathedral on the 9th September stopping at stations along the way with prayers inspired by Romero's life and the work of **CAFOD** overseas and **Caritas** locally – walkers welcome to join at any point along the route. www.rchavant.com



National Justice and Peace Network Meeting Report

The theme for the meeting was led by the Ecology group. Note date for your diaries 1st September is now designated as **Creation Day** marking beginning of creation time, lasting until 4th October Feast of St Francis. This might be a good time to plan prayers and action to do with care of our common home.

NJPN conference is on the theme of "A Sabbath for the Earth" – so a more detailed report will follow. Please join us at the conference, so far 4 people from our diocese have told us they are going. www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/

Before the conference though you may like to do something to enjoy creation on this year's **UN Environment Day (5th June)** entitled "connect with Nature." Also prepare to speak up for creation by meeting with our new MPs in **Week of Action** with information from **CAFOD** Speak up on climate and energy on **1st-9th July** connect Lynda or Jo locally portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

Popes prayer intention for June: *That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.*

With the terrible atrocity in Manchester in May and the Pope giving President Trump his World Day of Peace message about non-violence. Pray and action for peace are very much needed

Let us join our Bishop Philip in his prayer for the People of Manchester



We pray for the repose of the victims, for the recovery of the injured, for all families and friends affected by this atrocity and also for the forgiveness of those who perpetrated it.

We pray for the police and emergency service workers, doing a magnificent job at this troubled time, and the local, civic and religious leaders of the city to whom many will be looking for a word of consolation, guidance and encouragement. For an end to terrorism, and to the mindless and evil violence that arises from extremism and fundamentalism.

Relying on the mercy of our Lord Jesus: Heart of Jesus, Burning Furnace of charity, Have mercy on us. Heart of Jesus, Vessel of Justice and love, Have mercy on us. Heart of Jesus, Full of goodness and love, Have mercy on us. (extract; Litany of the Sacred Heart). Amen