



PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

# JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

No 26 - July 2024

The Justice and Peace Group meets to *pray*, educate ourselves, and to raise awareness that we may all act on Catholic Social Teaching. You are welcome to join us. We meet at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in PNL Centre Redhill. Details from [pnljandp@gmail.com](mailto:pnljandp@gmail.com)

## Our Parish Charity with Practical Action

**Plastic pollution is a major challenge for people and the planet. Waste that's not disposed of properly damages people's health and the environment.**

Previous *Justice & Peace* newsletters have outlined the three-year project that is being led by Practical Action in the city of Faridpur in Bangladesh, which typifies the challenge. Faridpur has a growing population of nearly 560,000.

Waste services are lacking and the informal workers who deal with waste face poor working condition and discrimination. Practical Action is working alongside them to add value to flimsy plastic waste. This previously worthless rubbish is now being collected from the streets and sold, instead of being left to pollute the environment.

### New life from old plastic

Practical Action's work is creating a new market for plastic waste, which traditionally had no commercial value. From being worth nothing, this plastic is now being bought at 20 taka (about USD 0.18) a kilogram then cleaned and sold at 25 taka (about USD 0.23) a kilogram. It can then be processed into a type of synthetic oil that can be sold.



A little, mobile, and efficient machine, called a MARK 111 Beetle, can process 100kg of plastic at a time, and up to 800kg a day. Its makers state that their goal is "to completely eliminate plastic pollution, transitioning both business and the communities where Practical Action operates to 100% renewable energy by 2035."

Over 300 informal waste collectors and traders (60% of whom are women) are now involved in collecting, sorting, cleaning and selling on the plastic to be processed, helping boost their incomes. [www.practicalaction.org](http://www.practicalaction.org)



Do Justice is an initiative led by the **Caritas Social Action Network** an agency of the **Bishops' Conference** dedicated to addressing poverty and injustice in England and Wales. Inspired by the love of God for all people, CSAN operates as a member of Caritas Internationalis, the global expression of charity within the Catholic Church. Do Justice is grounded in the Christian principles embodied by the first Christians, motivated by the love of the risen Christ to become ambassadors of reconciliation and strive for a world of peace and justice. Through Do Justice, Catholic parishes and schools, individuals and communities are encouraged to take meaningful action in response to the urgent needs within their communities. Our compassion has never been more valuable. If people are hungry, we must feed them. If people are homeless, we must shelter them. However, within our compassion, there is a passion to affect change that also addresses these causes of hunger, of homelessness. To defend the dignity of the person also means to identify and challenge the causes of injustice.

Do Justice is moving the needle from compassion alone, to compassion and justice. By becoming a part of Do Justice, our parish could play an active role in realising a vision to make lasting positive change in our community. In the autumn the J&P Group will offer ideas to the Parish on this initiative. [dojustice.co.uk](http://dojustice.co.uk)

## CAFOD School Volunteer

I have recently taken on the challenge of becoming a CAFOD School volunteer and I would like to share with you some of my experiences of what it involves.

I saw a request in our Parish Newsletter for volunteers and, as I am now retired and have long been a supporter of CAFOD, and indeed ran a CAFOD club within my school, I was tempted to find out more. As expected, my interest was welcomed and the usual form filling, references and interview took place.

I then undertook the training which was all online. The training is done with volunteers from across the country and from people from a wide variety of backgrounds (you do not have to be a teacher!)

There are two types of delivery offered to schools either an assembly or workshops. These are all based around Catholic Social Teaching (CST) All of the materials are provided by CAFOD.

I have now visited two Primary Schools and, on both occasions, it was a really enjoyable experience. In the first school I delivered CST workshops to the whole school over a period of two days and in the second school I delivered three assemblies to the whole school.

The idea is to spark the children's interest so that they will be inspired to follow up the work with their teachers and hopefully to get involved in fund raising for CAFOD.

**There are nine principles of CST:** Each one has an animal with their own story attached which the younger children really love as it helps them to access the ideas.

**Human Dignity**, *Everyone is special* with **Luc the deer**

**Subsidiarity**, *Everyone should have a say* with **Sid the sheep**

**Stewardship**, *Caring for God's gifts* with **Sofia the sloth**

**Solidarity**, *Showing we care* with **Shristi the sun Bear**

**Distributive Justice**, *Sharing fairly* with **DJ the dolphin**

**Preferential Option for the Poor**, *Putting people most in need first* with **Poppy the pōpokotea**

**Participation**, *Taking part* with **Patariki the Penguin**

**The Common Good**, *Thinking of everyone* with **Chikondi the giraffe**

**Promoting peace**, *Being peacemakers with Daisy the dove*

If you feel you would like to know more about becoming a CAFOD school volunteer then please contact the Parish Office for more information or contact Cafod online. Search for 'volunteering'.

## Modern Slavery among us

Modern Slavery is present on all our doorsteps. There is not one town in our area that does not experience **the exploitation of people as a commodity**, estimated to include tens of thousands across the UK and millions worldwide. It is often a well-hidden crime – less obvious than other types of crime – so that it is vital all of us keep our eyes and ears open for the signs that something is wrong, while going about our daily lives and in our own communities and places of work. To find out more, there will be a stall at Redhill market with information available on **Saturday 20th July**.

Save **October 19th, 2024** in your diaries where a small local group of Christians are bringing together some eminent speakers on modern slavery, including Bishops Rosemarie Mallett, Richard Moth and Alastair Redferne, and Detective Chief Inspector Kerry Loveless. There will be displays by national and local organisations working to raise awareness, identify and help victims of modern slavery, including the Santa Marta group, the Clewer Initiative, Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, FairTrade, Street Pastors and Welcare. All taking place off Reigate High Street at **Reigate Methodist Church**. All most welcome.

## Refugee Tales 2024

On Saturday 6 July over 100 walkers, including parishioners, will leave Edenbridge to walk over five days to Westminster arriving there on Wednesday the 10th July. They will stop every evening in Oxted, Caterham, Wallington and Wandsworth. Their message to the communities they pass through will be to listen to the stories of people seeking asylum, migrants and people held in immigration detention. They will share tales, readings and enjoy a variety of live music.

The walkers ask us to unite in a call for:

- \*An end to indefinite detention
- \*Judicial oversight within 72 hours of every decision to detain someone in immigration detention
- \*The right to work for anybody whose case for asylum takes longer than six months.

[www.refugeetales.org](http://www.refugeetales.org)