



PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

## JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

No 28 - July 2025

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

### Turning river rubbish into money in Bangladesh



As the final days of our parish charity support of **Practical Action** approach, the programme in Faridpur which started in 2021, also reaches its goals in 2025.

Over the past two years £2680 has been raised in our Parish through concerts, cake sales, plant sales etc. This alone is a commendable achievement, but the work has also played a major part in our qualification for the **Live Simply Award** and to raise awareness of the need to reduce, reuse, recycle and refill plastic containers, wrappers and other products. As the work in Faridpur continues let us resolve that our own practical efforts will also continue.

Faridpur is home to nearly 500,000 people and generates 6.2 tonnes of single-use plastic waste daily. The waste management challenge is not just a concern for Bangladesh. According to the UN Environment Programme global municipal waste will increase to 3.8 billion tonnes per year by 2050, equivalent to a 8.6 million Boeing 747s, as more people move from rural areas into urban centres and what we consume continues to change.



The new Pyrolysis Plant planned and funded by Practical Action with cooperation and expertise from Danish and South African companies is now in use. The plant is a recycling machine that converts single-use plastics collected by waste workers from homes, businesses, dumps, and rivers in Faridpur. The plastics are turned into light synthetic fuel oil and black carbon-which is tiny black particles which can be sold as printing ink.

The Faridpur plastic pyrolysis plant is expected to treat 360kg of thin-film plastic daily. That is 36% of a tonne to help tackle the waste management crisis for a region that is on the sharp end of the climate crisis.

The project acts as a living example of the sort of technology and approach needed to address climate crisis. Once the waste has a value for collectors, incentivising more sorting and collection, commercial partners will consider scaling up operations.

Practical Action has for several years been helping to resolve the plastic waste issue by creating markets for rubbish. This is done with informal waste workers so that they are part of the solution.

*"Our approach to waste management is people-centred. We start ... with the many informal workers who are already at the heart of collection and recycling. They already have skills and connections to identify different types of waste and where they can be sold. We support them ... to improve the safety, efficiency, and value of their work in partnership with the Local Government"* - Lucy Stevens, Practical Action

### ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

The new Parish charity is to support St Catherine's Hospice which offers both physical and emotional support to those living with a life-limiting or terminal condition and their families. St Catherine's is now in a new hospice in Pease Pottage designed to be as homely and comfortable as possible for all those cared for.

Our fundraising will start in the autumn and if you have any idea or would like to help do get in touch with the J&P group [pnljandp@gmail.com](mailto:pnljandp@gmail.com)



## Jubilee 2025: The new global debt crisis

Many of the world's poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services. Often, the original debt has been repaid many times over but will never be cleared because the interest keeps on growing.



### Why is CAFOD talking about debt right now?

Low-income countries have been facing increasingly unsustainable debt since the 2008 financial crisis, when banks, hedge funds and traders saw an opportunity to make vast sums of money by lending to them at high interest rates.

Almost half of the total external debt owed by lower-income countries is to these 'private lenders', including BlackRock and HSBC, who often lend recklessly, and with no accountability, and as a result make huge profits. This is causing more and more countries to fall into debt crisis. Today, there are 54 low-income countries facing unsustainable debt levels, up from 22 in 2015.

### What can our parish do to help?

During the weekend of **2/3 August**, following a short talk at the end of Mass, it will be possible to sign a petition calling for an end to the huge debt burdens on the world's poorest people. The J & P Group will be outside ready to take the signatures of parishioners. This campaign is growing across the country.

## Refugee Tales 10th Anniversary 2025 Festival of Walking 8 – 13 July

To mark the moment the project will stage The Refugee Tales Festival of Walking which is – **still calling for a future without detention, still calling, as an urgent first step, for an end to indefinite detention.**

Refugee Tales

Sadly they are not yet able to celebrate a change of law. 10 years after they first issued a call for change, the UK is still the only country in Western Europe that detains people indefinitely under immigration rules. It is still a scandal. The need for a change of the law is more pressing than ever.

However, even if the policy change they walk for hasn't yet occurred, so much has been achieved through the project's walking. Week by week, the Refugee Tales Self-Advocacy group takes the call for change directly to politicians. Year by year, the project's network of solidarity has extended and is now international in scope. The stories, shared in the first person and in collaboration with writers, and first heard in the context of the walking community, have travelled the world, establishing Refugee Tales as a space in which better imagining can happen.

This year, as the walkers circle London, starting in Southwark and then on to Hackney, Muswell Hill, Harrow, Brentford and Wimbledon, they will celebrate the continued commitment of Refugee Tales. Around 120 walkers per day (including parishioners) join Refugee Tales to walk in solidarity with people who have experienced immigration detention.

Each evening, they hold an event where people with experience of detention share their tales. There is also live music and a host in the manner of The Canterbury Tales.

Check the website [refugeetales.org](https://refugeetales.org) for details of how it is possible to join or support the walk.

## Laudato Si'

### Caring for our Common Home



2025 marks the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' prophetic letter to all the people of the world about the call to care for our common home. Pope Leo at a recent audience spoke of its extraordinary impact, inspiring countless initiatives and teaching everyone to listen to the twofold cry of the Earth and of the poor.

Pope Francis emphasised how everything is connected so the environmental crisis is not separate from the spiritual crisis. Pollution of air and water reflects a deeper pollution of the soul – when we live as if others do not matter, as if limits do not apply to us. Caring for our common home is part of our Christian discipleship.

The **Live Simply** award assessment included our parish efforts to recycle. Our black recycling boxes are particularly in evidence at our parish lunches. Reviewing the waste after the lunches, the challenges are to try to produce less food waste and to minimising our plastic use. All plastics have limited recycling capabilities.

Our small patch of grass by the exit from St Joseph's has been designated as a 'wild' area, a space to encourage birds, bees and other insects – if you'd like to get 'hands on' please get in touch with the J&P group or the parish office.

**1st September** – the World Day of Prayer for Creation starts of the ecumenical Season of Creation which goes on until 4th October. See the CAFOD website or [Seasonofcreation.org](http://Seasonofcreation.org) for more information.

**10 – 21st November** COP 30 to be held in Brazil focusing on implementation of previous targets and the continued biodiversity loss

## Renewed Hope Trust



Renewed Hope work continues with its three main projects, helping homeless, isolated vulnerable men and women in our local area – the Drop-in Support Service, Hope House and the East Surrey Winter Night Shelter.

Our Parish participated in the Winter Night Shelter programme during February and March 2025 offering an evening meal, overnight accommodation in Saint Joseph's Church Hall, and breakfast.

Over 20 people came through the doors during the time the RHT night shelter was running. It provided a safe place of community for people who would have otherwise been out on the streets. More than 200 volunteers helped by cooking meals, welcoming them, playing cards, staying awake overnight and much more. Many of the guests found accommodation while being on shelter. Others didn't have somewhere by the time it closed. However, many of them are now in places they can finally call home.

None of the work can happen without the help of volunteers and more are needed:

Drop-In Assistants and Kitchen Volunteers (18+ years), Gardening and DIY, Fundraising and community events assistants. If you would like to join the team or find out more see -

[info@renewedhope.org.uk](mailto:info@renewedhope.org.uk)

Congratulations! Renewed Hope has been awarded the prestigious Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) for its work with the homeless and vulnerable in the East Surrey area. This is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK.

## Cafod Live Simply Award

This spring the parish led by J&P members qualified and were awarded a Live Simply Award which is an opportunity for Catholic communities to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God entrusted to us"

The Live Simply Award is earned by communities which show how they have been living

Simply

In solidarity with people in poverty

Sustainably with creation

It celebrates what we have already done and will inspire us to do more. It will help us to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

We hope to celebrate this award in the autumn and to continue to "Live Simply" as a Parish.

## Weapons, war, peace and what matters.

Some thoughts.

The late Pope Francis said in his 2019 visit to Japan: 'The possession of nuclear weapons is immoral.'

<https://ploughshares.org/article/pope-leo-xiv-nuclear-weapons-policy> "War is never inevitable. Weapons can and must fall silent, for they never solve problems but only intensify them. Those who sow peace will endure throughout history, not those who reap victims. Others are not enemies to hate but human beings with whom to speak."

The condemnation of weapons and violence in favour of peacebuilding resonated with the global public. Leo XIV's statement is currently the third most "liked" in the short history of the Pontifex's newest X iteration. Having faith and world leaders speak in favour of a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons is a vital show of solidarity for a nuclear weapons-free future and Ploughshares' mission.

## Festival of Hope

Saturday 20 September 2025, 10:30 -16:30

We are gathering as a Diocese to celebrate the **Jubilee Year of Hope, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese**, and our continuing mission.

The celebration will take place at the **South of England Showground in Ardingly**, with capacity for 1,200 people to attend.

We have several guest speakers scheduled to inspire and uplift us. The topics are as follows:

- **Communities of Hope** - Michelle Moran (Sion Community)
- **Words of Hope** - Dai Woolridge (Bible Society)
- **Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope** – Christine Allen (CAFOD)
- **Missionaries of Hope** – Rev. Greg Bakker (Church Mission Society)

We will also be joined by **One Hope Project**, a Catholic Worship Collective who will assist us with our music and those involved in our School Choral project will also be with us for the day.

Our desire is that the pilgrims who attend will be uplifted, inspired and equipped for the era of evangelisation and mission we find ourselves in, and that they will go home to their communities able to share their hope for the future, causing the whole Diocese to rise up, and bring the good news of Jesus to all around us.

**Our Yellow Buckets** have been at the back of our churches for some years now **BUT** unfortunately they are still much needed and your support is valuable.



Our donations are delivered weekly to the Redhill Food Bank in Station Road. Please see their webpage for items much wanted.

These are always needed: tinned meat, fish, peas, tomatoes, baked beans, and chicken soup, dried spaghetti, rice, pasta and cooking sauces, cereals, long-life milk, biscuits, juice, cooking oil, and toilet rolls.

[redhillfoodbank.org.uk/shopping-list](https://redhillfoodbank.org.uk/shopping-list)