



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. Usually we meet at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at PNL St Joseph's.

Covid 19 - local support, help & information

Although there is some relaxation of lockdown, people are gradually returning to work and it is good to know that some children are attending school there are still many restrictions on daily life. Everyone's situation is different and there are many people who require support and help. **Reigate & Banstead Borough Council** are working with local agencies and has compiled a database of local support services for residents. This is now on their website and can be viewed as an interactive map or as a directory of services

www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk/info/20401/coronavirus/1114/i_need_help/2

01737 276000

Services are delivered by community support groups, charities or businesses. The range of services currently include:

- good neighbour help such as shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking
- physical and mental wellbeing support, such as welfare calls, group activities, advice on domestic abuse and counselling
- financial advice, such as claiming benefits and government support, debt advice
- food and welfare support, such as accessing hot meals and foodbanks

Local food banks are working hard in the current crisis to provide home delivery for those needing support. **Note:** current venues and times are different.

Anyone can face hard times. Anyone can struggle to make ends meet. Food banks provide emergency help to those in crisis and are for local people in need.

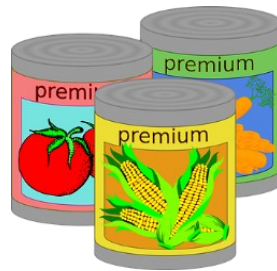
VARB, the Reigate and Banstead official charity www.varb.org.uk/blog/2020/05/12/ways-to-help-food-

[bank-collections/](#) is working from the Harlequin Theatre where there is a huge foodbank collection and distribution centre. Many streets, school and company collections have ensured supplies are replenished regularly and adequately.

Other food distribution points are:

Renewed Hope Trust at Reigate Baptist Church, Sycamore Walk, Reigate RH2 7LR
01795 660503

renewedhopefoodparcels@gmail.com
Food bags & parcels distributed.



This is an interdenominational group and recognised Reigate & Redhill Foodbank which provides food, shelter, clothing and all year round. In regular times there is a drop-in-service and a Sunday lunch called the Real Meal.

Open Mon – Fri 9am until 1.30 pm

St Matthews Church, Station Rd, Redhill
stmatthews-redhill.org.uk
andrew@stmatthews-redhill.org.uk

Foodbags and boxes distributed. Foodbank donations received Mon\Wed\Fri 12-2pm details on website

Loveworks 01737 457160
info@loveworks.org.uk

The Merstham Mix Community Café, Portland Drive, Merstham RH1 3HY
07584 715198 01737 645244
Call 10am - Noon. Mon—Fri

The Mix Café is working hard at present to provide a home delivery meal service for people needing support in RH1 & RH3. Please note there is currently no food bank here.

Many Neighbourhood Watch groups and other community associations have coordinated support groups, but you or someone you know might “*have fallen through the net.*”

You can also get in touch with

Reigate and Redhill Covid19 Mutual Aid.

www.rrmutualaid.co.uk or Facebook
01737 339063

This is a volunteer community group supporting those in need in our community. **If you need some help** from your local community such as getting some groceries or perhaps just a friendly chat please **CLICK** on the relevant area below or phone. Complete a simple form and a volunteer will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

[Reigate Redhill Earlswood & Whitebushes St. John's & Meadvale Woodhatch South Park Merstham](#)

All is not lost.
Human beings while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start.

Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si.

Can the Covid lockdown teach us to live better?

Do you find you are walking or cycling more? Would you say that you have appreciated spring and summer more this year with less traffic, commuting, school stress, and noise? Though Covid-19 is a deadly killer that is terrorising the world with fear and tragedy, trying to protect each other has meant that we have to live differently, and that is leading people to ask: Can we take the best of how we've been living in lockdown in Surrey, and hold on to it?

Funnily enough, one of the things our Church was going to promote in March – if it had been open and able to get people together – was **Laudato Si**, Pope Francis's document, which may be the teaching he is most remembered for in centuries to come. It is all about care for our planet, all of God's creation, including its people. It is

based on St Francis' prayer **Laudato Si** that praises God for all creation. St Francis is the patron saint of ecology – and Climate Crisis.

What if the Covid Crisis could help the Climate Crisis? Would you like a way to share ideas about that? What about a place to celebrate our beautiful county, where we can encourage each other to make it better when it gets degraded.

Somewhere to tell each other what we've learned from lockdown and what we want to hang on to: Where we can discover and resolve to make things different, how to help each other re-use and recycle, and reduce plastic use.

A place to encourage each other to make choices that are better for our planet, better for our health, better for our community,

as we just try to cope in these uncertain days.

A place to share recipes and low cost low energy fun ideas. A place to find and hang on to a **Better Eco Balance**, for body, soul and planet – for me and for us.

Good news! There is a place! The **Better Eco Balance (PNL)** facebook group is just starting up. This will be a private space for ourselves to celebrate, to share, and to encourage each other to live more in the spirit of **Laudato Si**, for a better quality of life.

Send a message to me at kennyjge@gmail.com so that you can be a member of our Facebook group. If you 'do social media' or you do not, give it a try, for a **Better Eco Balance**, to live more in harmony with God, the planet, each other and yourself.

Refugee Tales

This year the sixth annual **Refugee Tales** festival will be online as the current coronavirus crisis means the walking-based aspect of the event cannot take place. Efforts to draw attention to the plight of those indefinitely detained will still take place.

Over the three days **3,4 & 5 July**, **Refugee Tales** has invited authors, academics, and people with lived experience of detention and are experts by experience to give talks and readings. Each evening event will conclude with a musical performance.

Anna Pincus, director of **Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group**, said: *“Taking Refugee Tales online, in this year of the pandemic, was a necessity. It wasn't what we planned at the beginning of the year, but we can see it is a wonderful opening up of the project to all.*

*People can join online from anywhere in the world. Hearing new tales is open to everyone and between events we'll be inviting people to walk in their locality according to government guidance at the time. We invite walkers to send in photos of **bridges** that they see to emphasise that we are very much connected wherever we are.*

As we come out of lockdown, when our lives have been defined by confinement and uncertainty, perhaps now more than ever we can understand how it feels to be indefinitely detained.”

Around sixty men are still being held at the Brook House Immigration Removal Centre at Gatwick Airport. Although there is a minimal chance of anyone being placed on a deportation flight, they are still being held in detention for an indefinite period. They are vulnerable in many ways, not the least being to Covid-19 infection.

See refugeetales.org to find out more and to register for the online events.

The recent statement on the Immigration Bill from the Catholic Bishops of Scotland, England and Wales is available here: <https://rcpolitics.org/catholic-bishops-say-immigration-bill-will-drastically-alter-opportunities-for-migrants/>

There is currently an amendment to this bill being prepared, calling for a 28 day time limit and judicial oversight to detention.

Supporting the vulnerable

The Medaille Trust, our parish charity, continues to receive our support. We will have an open forum online presentation given by one of the MT team followed by questions and answers.

This will be on **8 July 2020 at 8pm.**

for details of logon email janerach510@gmail.com

The Trust exists to provide refuge and freedom from modern slavery. It is the largest provider of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK.

Its goal is to combat human trafficking and modern slavery by

- ✓ offering safe housing
- ✓ providing support for victims
- ✓ raising awareness in communities
- ✓ partnering with law enforcement authorities.

Modern slavery is both a global and local issue and it requires a global and local response. All around the world, governments follow 'the 4 Ps' approach to tackle this crime. And the Medaille Trust does too.

Prevention	Protection
Prosecution	Partnerships



MEDAILLE TRUST
REFUGEE AND FREEDOM FROM MODERN SLAVERY

Here is some news from the Trust Community Engagement Coordinator concerning the welfare of those who live in the safe houses at this time of Covid-19

"It has caused them a lot of anxiety and therefore has affected their mental health. They have been comforted by the fact that we are taking their temperatures on a daily basis and we now have some thermometers which are giving us correct readings.

To date we have not had any clients with a diagnosis out of the 116 beds we have on offer to clients across the 9 services.

We have upped the activities in all the houses to try and keep all clients as active as possible."

United against Coronavirus

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

As we ourselves cope with coronavirus in the UK, we think of our sisters and brothers in developing countries who are facing this pandemic with fragile health systems, some of which have almost no intensive care beds or ventilators.

Food prices have already risen, borders have closed, the poorest are losing their jobs and income and there are wholesale shutdowns. Furthermore, inadequate healthcare, lack of access to washing facilities and limited ability to social distance will result in loss of life on an intolerable scale. The likely impact will be devastating.

We are one global family. Please will you sign the **CAFOD** petition to ask the government to work with other world leaders to help vulnerable people in our world cope with this crisis?

The petition:

- Make sure that any **vaccine** developed with UK public money is made available to everyone regardless of income or where in the world they live.
- Provide urgent **financial and technical support** to help developing countries cope with this crisis.
- Cancel all **debt** payments by developing countries due in 2020 so that countries can spend money on much needed healthcare rather than debt repayments.
- Put plans in place to **rebuild a fairer, more just society** after the crisis so that the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and to restore our common home for future generations.

To sign the petition visit cafod.org.uk/coronaviruscampaign

CAFOD have also launched an **emergency appeal** to help scale up response to the immense need. Donations are needed more than ever, so if you are able to contribute, please visit cafod.org.uk for more details.