



PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

No 30 - July 2026

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

St Catherine's Hospice - Our Parish Charity

The challenge to be "Ambassadors for St Catherine's Hospice" has been taken up by parishioners. At the invitation of their Community Fundraising Coordinator, Frankie Goodall a group of 16 people visited the hospice on April 15th, and received a warm welcome.

We were all impressed by the calm atmosphere and by the excellent facilities which contribute to the efficiency and sophistication of the services offered by the hospice. Training and outreach play an important part in the work of the hospice, so we were interested to see rehabilitation, physiotherapy and consultation rooms. We also saw a bedroom, in which we could appreciate the joyful decoration discretely concealing the complicated equipment needed to provide exceptional nursing and care.



Nicky, Mary, Jane, Ann and Reena preparing to walk!



Rachel & Mary sell plants

We were generously supplied with publicity material, information and collecting buckets which were put to good use at the post-mass Plant Sales four days later. The support shown with plant contributions and multiple purchases was superb and an astounding £601 was raised.

The last 20 minutes of our hospice visit was devoted to details of the annual Midnight Walk which was already in the diaries of some parishioners. A team of 5 walkers opted to participate in the 13 mile walk on the evening of June 6th. JustGiving pages were opened and donations began to flow in. We assembled on the evening of the walk at Broadbridge Leisure Centre, Horsham with about 700 others. Many were walking in the memory of loved ones and there were commemoration points where candles could be placed. It was an experience of shared effort, sorrow and joy. Our targets were well exceeded and, with gift aid taken into account, our total was well into four figures.

Let's continue to support St Catherine's hospice on a regular basis by taking unwanted items to be sold at the local St Catherine's shops (Bell St, Reigate and Station Rd, Redhill). Clothes, books, toys, homeware and bric-a-brac are all accepted. Ladies' bags and men's and women's shoes are among the fastest-selling items. Collections of furniture can be arranged by phoning 01293 583077/

Perhaps you can volunteer? Young people aged 14+ can volunteer (16+ yrs only to work tills) sorting, steaming clothes, stocking shelves etc. St Catherine's supports Duke of Edinburgh Award participants

Why not visit the new St Catherine's CRAWLEY SUPERSTORE 37-43 Queensway, Crawley, UK
Opening hours: Monday – Saturday 9am – 5pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm. The range of goods is huge and many of the prom and wedding dresses are brand new, with tags still attached.



Livesimply

The Live Simply Award 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*”

Together we have become a Live Simply Award Parish

Our Live Simply Award has been earned as we have shown how to live: -

- Simply
- In solidarity with people in poverty
- Sustainably with creation



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

The little wooden plaques are displayed in each of our churches.

Caring for Our Common Home

“God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that He created.”

Pope Leo XIV

Heat waves this year have brought climate change and extreme weather back into the headlines. Yet when colder, wetter and darker winter days return, it might be easy for our concern to fade.

Last November, a meeting at Westminster Central Hall presented the challenges of climate change to national decision makers. Topics included food, health, migration, security, energy and extreme weather events. Language such as “crisis” or “emergency” can sometimes make us feel helpless, but Pope Francis reminded us that everyday actions still matter:

“Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture. The mere fact that personal, family and community habits are changing... [is] helping to bring about large processes of transformation rising from deep within society... As a result, along with indispensable political decisions, we would be making progress along the way to genuine care for one another” (LD 71–72).

Every action helps and each of us is called to recognise the harm now being done to creation and how we can mitigate this in our own homes, families and communities. Simple changes to try if you haven't already:

- *Switch off lights and equipment when they are not in use.*
- *Choose loose fruit and vegetables where possible, and remember to take reusable bags when shopping.*
- *Plan meals carefully to reduce or eliminate food waste.*
- *Pick up a free litter-picking kit from Reigate Town Hall or the Merstham Hub — perhaps as a summer holiday activity for children?*

Every Little Helps!

SVP in the Parish

The former SVP 'Conferences' of St Teresa's and St Joseph's have recently amalgamated to form one PNL Conference for the whole parish and this is now part of the new North Surrey District with those Conferences

based in Caterham, Warlingham, Oxted and Banstead.



We meet fortnightly to pray and discuss our work, which includes befriending people at home and in care

settings, offering practical help where possible, and signposting to other agencies when needed. Members also support local charities including St Matthew's Foodbank and Renewed Hope Trust.

Donations support local needs as well as the SVP caravan project on the South Coast, twinned Conferences in India and students' education there. A special thanks to all our donors.

New members are very welcome as well as referrals for help. For the usual safeguarding reasons we have a recruitment process which includes DBS checks etc.

For more information visit

- svp.org.uk
- pick up a leaflet at the back of church,
- or leave a text/voicemail on 07918 980330

Foodbank at St Matthew's Redhill



Please don't forget the Yellow Buckets at the back of Church

Standard Shopping List

Tinned: • Meat meals, • Vegetarian meals, • Meat (ham, spam, hotdogs), • Fish (tuna preferred), • Baked beans,

• Spaghetti (e.g. hoops in tomato sauce), • Potatoes, • Peas • Tomatoes, • Sweetcorn, • Carrots, • Fruit, • Rice pudding, • Custard,

Soup: • Tomato, • Chicken, • Meat, • Vegetable

Sauces/oils: • Pasta sauce, • Cooking sauce, • Tomato ketchup, • Cooking oil (smaller, bottles preferred)

Store cupboard: • Cereal, • Dried pasta and spaghetti, • Rice and instant rice, • Noodles (including PotNoodles), • Instant mash, • Packet meals ("just add water"), • Cup-a-soup, • Sugar.

Drinks: • Long-life milk, • Teabags, • Instant coffee (smaller jars preferred), • Squash, • Long-life juice (not fresh, please)

Preserves/spreads: • Jam, • Marmalade, • Honey, • Peanut butter,

Treats: • Biscuits, • Chocolates/Sweets, • Crisps, • Chocolate spread, • Hot chocolate.

Non-food: • Toilet roll, • Washing up liquid, • Laundry tablets (not liquid or powder)

Local CND

August 6th Hiroshima. Meet in the centre of Redhill at midday to remember the first time a nuclear weapon was used in warfare. Details later in the Parish Newsletter .

Pope Leo's message from Jan. 1st World Day of Peace can be read here: <https://tinyurl.com/yfacddzt>

"Whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognise it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach."

Call for urgent action on the debt crisis



CAFOD is calling on the UK government to do two urgent things in 2026 to address the global debt crisis:

Pass legislation to ensure private lenders can no longer make huge profits from countries struggling with unsustainable debts

Use the UK's presidency of the G20 in 2027 to fix the global debt system.

CAFOD's campaigns address causes of poverty, and the debt crisis is increasing poverty on a massive scale. If governments have no funds to support their citizens because so much money is flowing out of their countries to rich private banks, the impacts are immeasurable.

A reformed system for lending and borrowing that is fair, transparent and sustainable would be transformational for low-income countries. The UK government has a key role to play in this, and we are the citizens who can influence them. We made some progress last year, so let's keep pushing.

Is this campaign just about cancelling debts? What about corruption?

This campaign isn't just about cancelling debts – it's about calling for a transformed system which will safeguard against irresponsible lending *and* irresponsible borrowing. Some elements of debt relief will be necessary, as current debt burdens are unsustainable – but this campaign is about fixing the current crisis by creating a fair and robust system for the future. CAFOD is supporting calls from campaigners and activists across the global south who are working to improve transparency and accountability from all parties involved in lending and borrowing.

PNL parishioners can sign the petition at all Masses on the weekend of 25/26 July

Renewed Hope Trust

In the heat of summer it is hard to imagine the necessity for relief from cold conditions offered by Renewed Hope Winter Night Shelter which came to an end in early March after nearly 3 months. Just over 20 people came through the doors over that time staying at various church halls across the local area. St Joseph's welcomed guests for six weeks in February



and March. Many of the PNL parishioners were volunteers

The shelter 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, RHT reports that many of them are now in places they can finally call home.

None of this can be done without the valued help of volunteers in their multiple roles

The Winter Night Shelter will be open again in December with preparations starting in the Autumn, but in the meantime, it's business as usual at the Drop-In daytime support at Shrewsbury Chapel. In the past 6 months RHT have served nearly 3,000 meals to 206 people there. Roughly half of those people were homeless. They will also be running the usual street collections and taking part in community events in the coming months.

A report from the Family Education Trust Annual Conference — June 2026

FET believe being a parent is a privilege not a right and various topics were presented throughout the day.

This talk centred on the need to protect our next generation. The main threat to children is pornography which reaches many people, (130 million visits every day) changes perceptions and can lead to bodily dissatisfaction. Birth rates are falling. In answer to 'What can we do?' it's important not to make assumptions. Teachers need to work with parents, but they also need official guidance. Children should know that sex should be fun not harmful. The average age for most children to view pornography is 11-12 and by 13 the majority have been exposed. So, they become desensitised and need something more graphic. We need to restore a culture where shameful practices are recognised.

Anne Fennell is a Catholic and she talked about the strength of the family but how it is counter-cultural to stay at home with your children. Financial difficulties force many mothers back to work. Many people believe mums can't be monitored at home, so professionals are better but there is no evidence to support this. Anne's group **Mothers at Home Matter** are campaigning for fair taxation of the family unit, Child benefit to be restored, and freedom to care for their children

Lois Maclatchie-Miller wanted to champion the rights of a baby. Abortion rates are the highest they have ever been. 1 in 3 babies are aborted every year in the UK. Self-induced abortion is now legal up to birth. This is wrong for the baby but potentially a dangerous practice to give birth at home in this way. Surrogacy does not favour the rights of the baby but the rights of the parents. The best interests of the child should always be the primary consideration. Reforms on

surrogacy are needed. The 24 weeks limit, in the Abortion Act was appropriate at that time, but babies can now survive from a much earlier age so in most countries it's 12 weeks.

Many parents have a growing feeling of despair. The true object of Education should be to teach resilience and facts, acknowledging mistakes on both sides. White middle-class boys are achieving least and male suicide is a problem. They need support, good role models and to feel valued. There is loads of confusion and discomfort about transgender in Schools. Schools should return to first principles, and Suella Braverman wants to work with FET to achieve this.

Lord Stewart Jackson said there are loads of smug people in the House of Lords.

Families are the foundation blocks of Society, but many governments have forgotten this. People who don't work and are dependent on the State are better off. There has been a decline in marriage, but we know children are better off with two parents.

Families need more support from Government. Young men are not committing to marriage. We need incentives to get married, role models for young men and politicians need to see marriage as a priority.

Launch of FET family housing report - Britons want family friendly flats. The birth rate is falling. There are many theories, but one issue is the housing crisis. There aren't enough and the cost puts people off having babies. They want a 3-bedroom house, near a school with a garden and not a tiny flat. We need more social housing. It's also about quality of family life. Inter-generational living seems to have gone and children need to play together so there is a community spirit.

V.O'Byrne