



JUST NOW

DIocese of NOTTINGHAM
Justice
+peace
COMMISSION

Catholic faith into action in the Diocese of Nottingham

September 2018

**Let Earth be glad:
in Lincoln for the
2018 Justice &
Peace Assembly**

**A jubilee for the poor
and the planet**

**Global Healing: the
diocesan premiere**

**Oscar Romero's
'civilisation of love'
in the East Midlands**

**Once we start to think about the kind of world
we are leaving to future generations, we look
at things differently; we realize that the world
is a gift which we have freely received and
must share with others.**

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, 159.

Nottingham Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission
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To contact the Fieldworker, Paul Bodenham:

- call 07470 907656
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Celebrating the worldwide

**SEASON OF
CREATION**

in the Diocese of Nottingham

People doing justice

Welcome to a bumper edition of **Just Now**, the newsletter for everyone who wants to bring faith to life in the diocese of Nottingham. It's been a while since the last one, but now that we have a new Fieldworker in post we're back in business.

We're in the Season of Creation, the wave of prayer observed each year by churches worldwide. It starts with a Day of Prayer for Creation called by Pope Francis on 1 September, and we've got some ideas for how your parish can take part.

But first let us invite you to the Annual Assembly on 10 November. The day is a great opportunity to meet fellow Catholics who care about justice, peace and the environment. This year we'll be taking stock of the state of the planet, and exploring the challenges that lie ahead, locally and globally.

Please print off the poster on page 3 and ask for it to be displayed on your parish noticeboard. Better still, come yourself, and bring a car-load of fellow parishioners with you!

Also in this issue:

- Find out how you can celebrate this Season of Creation in your parish (pages 4, 5)
- Look forward with us to the canonisation of Bl Oscar Romero this October (see quotes by him throughout this issue, and page 6)
- Help shed light on modern slavery (page 7)
- Pause for prayer and reflection (page 8)
- Read how asylum seekers find a friendly face in Loughborough (page 9)
- Learn what one parishioner from Blessed Sacrament in Leicester has gained from working with Travellers (page 10)

If you are reading this issue of Just Now as a PDF while online, you will hopefully be able to click on underlined text to access relevant websites for more information. If the technology lets us down, get in touch and we'll send you the link.



You are
SALT
for the
earth

Let's do the gospel together

It is love that makes us work for a better world. But seeking to live a gospel life can sometimes feel like a lonely road. The Justice and Peace Commission wants to encourage and empower you in what you do, in your parish, your work, your school; and in your prayer, study and volunteering. Help us to help you – and let's make this practical. We want to build a network of people in the diocese, and we'd like you to be at the heart of it.

So we are issuing a simple invitation to you: please introduce yourself to us! Then, if you'd like, let's talk about how we can help you.



Click here to sign up

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X2WWVHG>

By signing up you'll get invitations to events, news like this, and support for work in your parish and community. You'll meet people who share your faith and your passions. Together we'll help to bring the gospel to life in the five counties of our diocese. And thanks to funding from the diocese, it won't cost you a penny.

Just click the link above or below, or give us a call, leave your contact details, and let's take it from there.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/X2WWVHG>

Let Earth be glad

Saturday 10 November 2018
St Hugh's Church, Lincoln
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

It's three years since Pope Francis' ground-breaking 'green encyclical' *Laudato Si'*.

How's the quest for a safe and just future going globally and locally?

Join friends from churches across the Nottingham diocese for a day of challenge, networking and inspiration.

Speakers confirmed so far:

Graham Gordon, Head of Policy at CAFOD, on climate at the crossroads

Cllr Chris Burke MBA, City of Lincoln Council, on faith in the community





Celebrating the worldwide

SEASON OF CREATION

in the Diocese of Nottingham

You are welcome to use or adapt the following text for an article in your parish newsletter or social media

Pray for Creation: God's people are called to care for the Earth, and Pope Francis' latest encyclical tackles our responsibility for the environmental crisis head-on. This year our parish is responding to the challenge in prayer throughout the Season of Creation, which runs from the Day of Prayer for Creation (1 September) until the Feast of St Francis (4 October). We will be using a bidding prayer at each Sunday Mass suggested by the Nottingham Diocese Justice and Peace Commission. If you would like to go further and help the parish do more in practice, contact [name a parish contact] or the diocesan Justice and Peace Fieldworker, Paul Bodenham (email jpnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk or call 07470 907656).

Pope Francis encourages everyone to join in prayer on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation. The day opens the worldwide Season of Creation which closes with the Feast of St Francis on 4 October.

Bidding Prayers for Sunday Masses

For each Sunday Mass during the season, the Nottingham Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission is suggesting a prayer which you can include in the Prayers of the Faithful. You could also use them all on the Day of Prayer itself, or on St Francis' day. The prayers are below. Feel free to copy the text, and share them with your priest and anyone else who contributes to your parish's bidding prayers.

Walking the talk

The Season of Creation provides a focus for our enduring responsibility to care for the earth. To express this commitment in your parish's life, why not convene a group to explore CAFOD's LiveSimply programme and work towards a parish award?

1 and 2 September: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all who live in our time of ecological crisis, that we may learn to cherish God's gifts from above, and so be worthy to dwell on this holy ground of Earth.

8 and 9 September: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

For our leaders of business and government, that they may build an economy which safeguards the Earth; for those yet unborn who will face the consequences of our choices; and for the poor, who are the true heirs to God's kingdom.

15 and 16 September: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For the generations alive today, that we may find grace and courage to renounce abuse of the Earth's resources, and live out the call of Jesus to become good news for all creation.

22 and 23 September: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all who work to safeguard our common home of Earth, in government, industry and the family: that we may all receive the wisdom which makes for peace and compassion, for the poor and for future generations.

29 and 30 September: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

For those at most risk from climate change: those who live off the land, environmental refugees, and all God's creatures of earth, sea and air; and for those whose lives of comfort are complicit in their suffering.



GLOBAL HEALING

How faith helps
us care for our
common home

Red carpet for a green film

A compelling new programme has been launched to help Catholic parishes rise to the challenges of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment. One parish in Leicester is laying claim to hosting the diocesan premiere of it on 29 September. If your parish can beat them to it, let us know!

Global Healing is a 'film-based event' for parishes, groups and individuals. It will inform, challenge and equip people to engage with Pope Francis' vital call to 'care for our common home'. The 33-minute film and leader's guide are free to download from the internet or can be purchased on DVD.

The programme sets out ways in which we as individuals, and within our families and communities, may take practical measures to begin to reverse the damage we are doing to our planet. A *Global Healing* event begins with a shared meal followed by film clips including well-known experts, engaging testimonies and on-location filming from around the UK,

Aspire not to have more but to be more,
not to grab everything, but to give
abundantly to others.

Blessed Oscar Romero



The Nottingham Diocesan premiere!

Come to a screening of the film followed by an opportunity to meet fellow 'justice and peace champions', and explore how to make the most of this programme in your parish.

Saturday 29 September at 10.00 a.m.

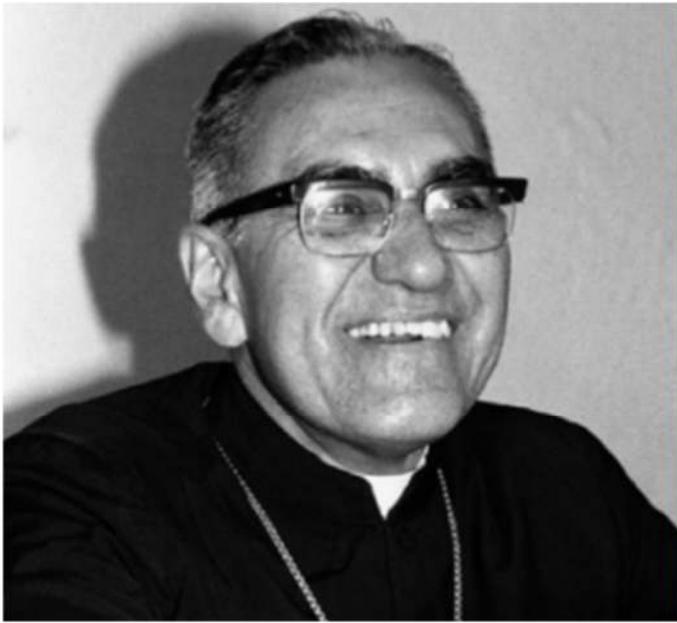
**Blessed Sacrament church, Gooding Avenue,
Leicester LE3 1JS**

**Just turn up: seats are free and refreshments
provided (bring your own popcorn).**

including the Eden Project, a Franciscan Friary in Dorset and a wind farm in Cambridgeshire. There are times for discussion and prayer to help stir deeper ecological conversion and fresh practical responses.

The pack has been produced by CaFE, the English and Welsh Bishops' agency for faith exploration. See the film for yourself: visit the website at www.ourcommonhome.co.uk.

If you would like to invite a speaker to your parish, and for any further support in responding to the call to 'care for our common home', contact Paul at the Justice & Peace office. +



Canonisation: 14 October 2018

St Oscar Romero

“The person is Christ”

Looking ahead to his canonisation, *Yvonne Ripley* from St Anne’s parish, Buxton, here captures the spirit of a saint

A few years ago I was gathering support for a Justice and Peace group in our parish. Using all the usual methods I worked hard at doing a really good job of communicating what it was, and why it was important. My moment of humility was waiting for me at the end of the month when I asked one gentleman if he wanted to join. He answered me with the question “But Yvonne, what’s it really all about, this Justice and Peace?” After all my efforts I was speechless! And the words that came to the front of my mind were ‘Oscar Romero’.

It isn’t always easy to try and encapsulate what justice and peace is all about: we can spout the concepts of justice, peace, equality, fairness, living as Christ taught us to live and so on, but the problem is that it’s all very general, and it’s also huge. It needs breaking down. It needs linking to our *faith*. It needs to seem manageable. And it needs to be *relevant* to

people, because we are called to grow and to change.

The person whose life captures the essence of justice and peace for me is Blessed Oscar Romero. Briefly: Oscar Romero was archbishop of San Salvador and became the voice of the voiceless poor in his country. In a time of murderous repression, misery and hardship, with social and political conflict escalating, he supported the poor and the oppressed, denouncing lies, coverups, torture and killings. He received multiple death threats but continued his work knowing that he would be killed for his faith. He was assassinated on 24th March 1980 whilst saying mass. He was beatified in 2015 and is to be canonised by Pope Francis on 14 October 2018.

We might wonder how Oscar Romero’s life is relevant to us living in and around the East Midlands. It is only when we start to see everyone – whether they are like us or very different – as children of God that we shall be looking at our area through his eyes and challenging injustice to create a better society. As Blessed Oscar Romero himself said: “A civilisation of love that did not demand justice of people would not be a true civilisation”. “Love must win out, it is the only thing that can.” +

“If we could see that Christ is the needy one, the torture victim, the prisoner, the murder victim, and if in each human figure so shamefully thrown by our roadside we could see Christ himself cast aside, we would pick him up like a medal of gold to be kissed lovingly. **The person is Christ**, and in the person viewed and treated with faith, we look on Christ our Lord.”

Blessed Oscar Romero

Modern slavery: next steps

Last year the Commission held four workshops around Nottingham diocese to raise awareness of modern slavery. The scale of the response was astonishing, and there is a clear appetite to move on to 'Phase 2'. Representatives of the Santa Marta Group, the Vatican's task force on the issue, have since come to Nottingham to help us explore what form that might take.

*Meanwhile statutory agencies and faith groups are stepping up their response, as **Sr Teresa Kennedy**, a Presentation Sister from Derby, reports.*

"Let it not be said that I was silent when they needed me."(William Wilberforce)

The National Justice and Peace Conference this July, besides giving us brilliant content in talks on the theme ***In the shelter of each other the people live***, also offered us a variety of interesting workshops. Because of my present involvement in trafficking and modern slavery here in Derby I opted for the workshop of that name. We were a group of about twelve led by members of the Medaille Trust (the Catholic organisation involved in this ministry).

Most of the information shared was not new to me but there were some interesting facts that are only gradually coming to light. Although slavery was abolished in 1807, the latest figures show that there is an estimated 45 million in the world still! The UK Home Office talks about 'tens of thousands' but the likelihood is that this is a very conservative estimate. The global price of a slave is £60 and the human trafficking Industry overall is said to be worth £2.6 bn to traffickers.

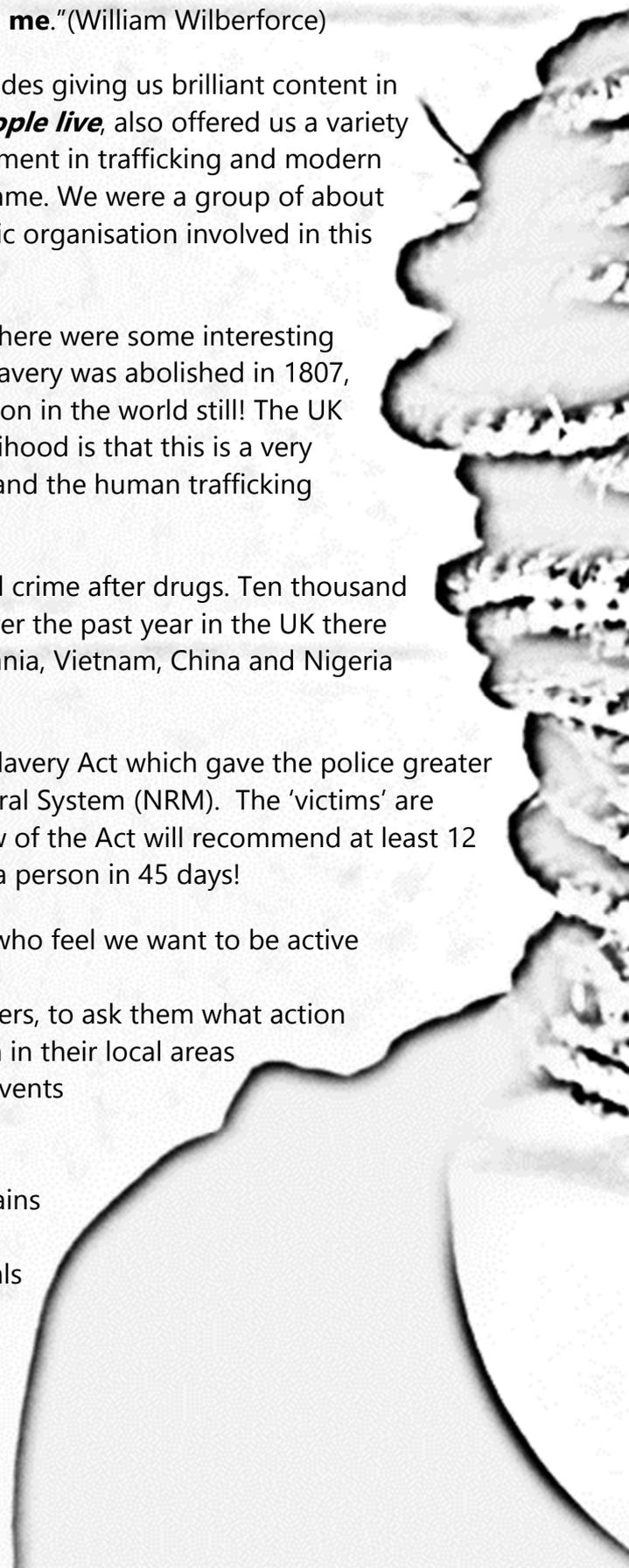
It is the fastest growing and second highest international crime after drugs. Ten thousand children registered as 'refugees' are unaccounted for. Over the past year in the UK there has been a steady increase in 'victim' numbers from Albania, Vietnam, China and Nigeria but saddest of all is that the greatest number are British!

The UK government response in 2015 was the Modern Slavery Act which gave the police greater powers for detection and put in place the National Referral System (NRM). The 'victims' are given 45 days' funding but we hope that a current review of the Act will recommend at least 12 months' support, as so little can be done to rehabilitate a person in 45 days!

Some suggestions made may be helpful for those of us who feel we want to be active now – these include:

- Sending letters to MPs, councillors, crime commissioners, to ask them what action they are taking to address trafficking, and exploitation in their local areas
- Participating in protests, campaigns and fundraising events
- Writing to managers of super-markets asking them what action they are taking to eliminate trafficking and exploitation in the supply chains
- Buy 'Fairtrade' whenever possible
- Avoid trade with car makers who use finishing materials (paint) sourced from mines in India.

If you would like to invite someone from the Medaille Trust to talk to your parish or give an appeal, contact Gill Spatcher (g.spatcher@medaille-trust.org.uk)



Bread for the wilderness

space to
reflect

You are not big enough to accuse the whole age effectively,

but let us say you are in dissent.

You are in no position to issue commands,

but you can speak words of hope.

Shall this be the substance of your message?

Be human in this most inhuman of ages;

guard the image of man for it is the image of God.

Thomas Merton, *Raids on the Unspeakable*

We know that every effort to better society, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us.

From Oscar Romero's final homily, moments before he was assassinated

A lovingkindness meditation inspired by Oscar Romero

Sitting with a piece of paper and a pen, watch the news bulletin on TV. Make a note of the 10 people you hear about in the news whom you might find it difficult to like, or perhaps who are least like yourself in any way.

From your list of 10 names, select the 4 with whom you have least in common (or whom you find it very difficult to like).

Close your eyes and imagine yourself among these people, all being loved and embraced by God. Spend a few minutes being in God's presence together.

When you have finished, try to find at least one positive thing to think about each person.

Pray for these 4 people each day, bringing to mind any positive thoughts that you may have had about them, and asking God to give you guidance on how you could help them, or people in their situation.

Contributed by Yvonne Ripley, Buxton

Pax Christi have now published three series of lessons for A-Level Religious Studies in collaboration with Quakers in Britain.

The new lesson, **The Peace Movement**, critically examines campaigns for a safer world. It sits alongside existing lessons **The Christian Contribution to Issues of War and Peace** and **Pacifism – Practice and Practicality** and is ideal for students studying war and peace as part of their A-Level Religious Studies curriculum.

Jubilee Debt Campaign is highlighting the debt crisis on our own doorstep, fuelled by low wages, insecure work and social security cuts. They are calling for a **household debt jubilee**, with an end to exploitative rates of interest and tackle the growing burden of unjust debt on the poorest households.

Twenty years on from the memorable 'human chain', you are invited to Birmingham on 29 August 2018 to look back and skill-up for the challenges ahead.

Greeting the world in Loughborough

Each day up to 200 people from around the globe are required to report to the Home Office's reporting centre at Loughborough. Sr Bridgetta Rooney CSJP is one of several volunteers who honour the visitors' dignity in an often dehumanising experience.

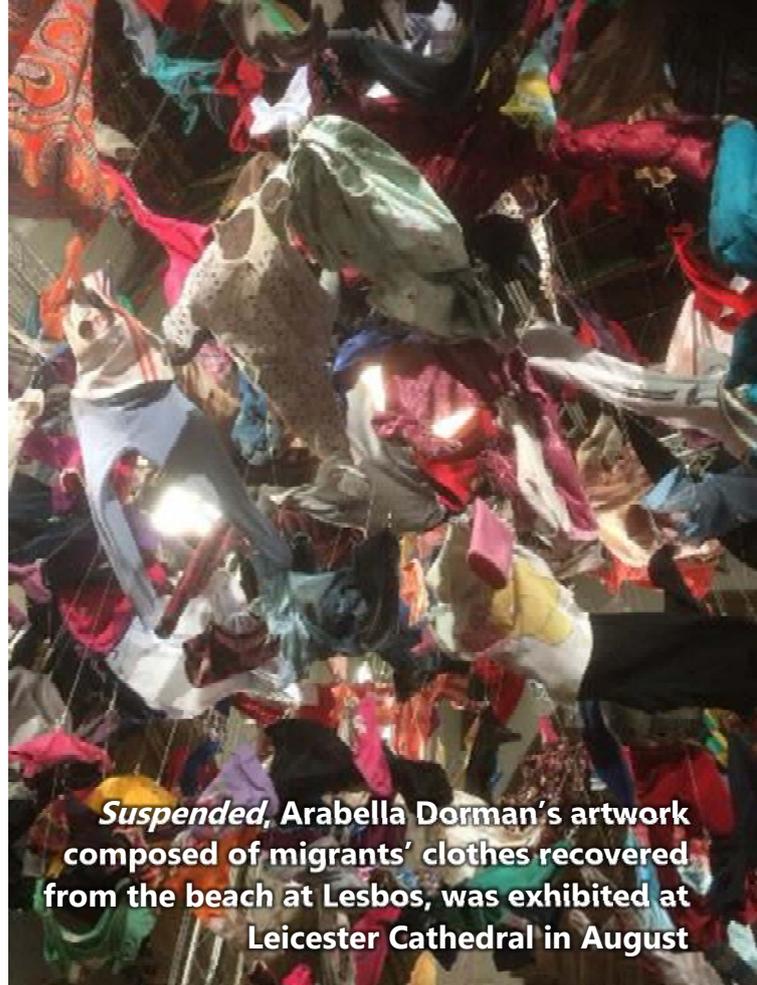
Loughborough Town of Sanctuary was established to answer the need of asylum seekers living across the East Midlands who arrived at the Loughborough Immigration Enforcement Centre to sign on. If they were too early they had to wait outside, no matter what the weather; if they missed their appointment they had to stand in the street and try to phone the Home Office which had a branch just upstairs – but no one is allowed in there and it takes a long time before anyone will answer a phone. Signing on for the first time is a daunting experience.

The group do two shifts each morning. When we first began, the security and Home Office personnel were hostile, but that has changed dramatically and the security staff in particular are very helpful and keep a look out for us.

At first we were only able to afford to give the asylum seekers a drink and biscuit, but a Lottery grant has now given us the opportunity to offer them a voucher for £6 pounds redeemable at the John Storer community café nearby. They can have a meal or a snack and children are catered for. During school holidays we provide toys for the children donated by local schools and parishes.

We wear a badge to say who we are and have posters written in 15 languages to welcome them and tell them about the food on offer. We also give out information of support groups in Derby, Leicester and Nottingham.

The greatest change is in the security staff who are now asking us for the vouchers so that they



Suspended, Arabella Dorman's artwork composed of migrants' clothes recovered from the beach at Lesbos, was exhibited at Leicester Cathedral in August

can give them to some who may come in the afternoon and have to wait. Even the Home Office staff now look for anyone accompanying someone who is about to be detained, which never happened before.

Loughborough Town of Sanctuary has raised the profile of asylum seekers and our MP Nicky Morgan is a strong supporter. She has brought up cases we have highlighted in the House of Commons, especially elderly confused parents who have family here eager to look after them in their old age but are put through the ordeal of the asylum seeking process.

One of the joyful moments for the 'Meeters-and-Greeters' is when someone comes out ecstatic and has been given indefinite leave to stay. Their joy makes our time worthwhile.

Loughborough Town of Sanctuary welcomes new volunteers. Training is provided and you will generally work in pairs. If you would like to find out more contact Sr Bridgetta (bridgettarooney@csjp-uk.co.uk)

Good news travels

Karen Scott is a catechist with Travellers in Leicester, and invites you to the Bishop's Mass for Travellers on 13 October

As a child I lived next to fields which led to farmland where Travellers would regularly be seen. Then the land was developed with a large estate and a major road, and the community that came along did not recognise their long-held route.

In my younger years I didn't see how unjust this was: I just saw it as the pace of change within our society. In recent years, as access to places to stop has reduced and more houses have been built, local unease about the right to facilities for Travellers has become more apparent. For me, this has highlighted that if your customs, heritage and way of living differs from the majority you will experience injustice. Furthermore, I realise that at times the Traveller community is not organised to mobilise itself or does not always feel confident.

I had to learn to be clear about my commitment to the Travellers: that I am there from the Parish; that I would prepare the children and young people for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation; that I would sit with them in their trailers if they wanted me to; and at times we may pray together. I got to know them as people, sharing their joy and trials; significantly sharing their faith and belief.

I was first asked by my parish priest to work with Sister Bernadette Healy to support the work with our Traveller community. Now as a Parish we regularly consider them, ensuring that whatever we do within our Parish we extend to all. For instance at the Bishop's Mass for the Travellers we have the Parish team welcoming and providing refreshments afterwards; we personally ask Travellers to be Eucharistic Ministers; we provide funds for Travellers to become Catechists. A question all Parishes could consider: do we engage with Travellers as we would our other Parishioners or are we seeing them unjustly and denying them opportunity within our Parish?

Working with this community has deepened my faith. Often the questioning by the children and young people makes me realise that we are all on a journey open to new ideas and differing perspectives. Paramount to me though is the devout faith of many Traveller women. They have great knowledge about their belief – beyond what I hold; their use of the power of prayer also has had impact on me, as they hold me and my family within their prayer and ask me to pray for them. They have even shown me how WhatsApp can be used for praying together! +



The Bishops Mass for
Gypsy & Traveller's
Blessed Sacrament Church
Gooding Avenue,
Braunstone, Leicester LE3 3JS
<https://blessedsacramentleicester.org/>
Saturday 13th October 2018
We will begin at 11.30am
**Celebrating the sacrament of
Holy Communion & Confirmation**

"The Church believes that in each person is the creator's image, and that anyone who tramples on it offends God"

"In the theology of human nature there is only one class: Children of God." *Bl Oscar Romero*

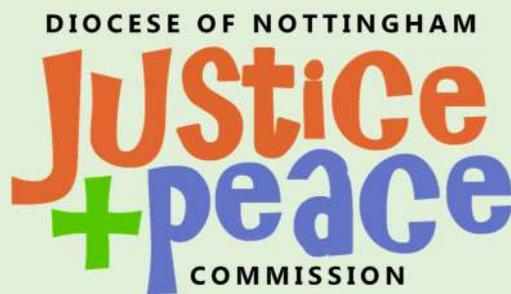
News from the Justice and Peace Commission

The place God calls you to is the place where your own deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. These words, from the writer Frederick Buechner, are wise advice for anyone who wants to put their faith into action: look for what makes both you and the world around you come alive, because that's where God creates the future.

It's an approach to discernment that we're taking in the Justice and Peace Commission, as we develop a new action plan for the next few years. We're looking to the future, and we want you to be part of it!

In the box opposite you'll see a summary of what we have discerned so far. Have we got our priorities right? Is there an issue we have overlooked, or any further opportunities we should take? We have to focus our resources carefully, but we'd like your advice. So here are a few ways we invite you to contribute:

- **Tell us about the challenges for justice, peace and the care of creation in your world.** Where does 'your deep gladness meet the world's deep hunger'? Do the plans outlined opposite provide that meeting place?
- **Come to the Annual Assembly in Lincoln on 10 November** advertised on page 3, to hear more about our conclusions. We'll have some workshops so that you can find out more and help the plan take shape.
- **Sign up to our growing network of champions for the common good.** We're hoping to find at least two contacts in each parish, so that not only can we support you, but you can support each other. Read more about our invitation on page 2 and introduce yourself through our [online survey](#). We look forward to hearing from you!



We are identifying five places of need where the risk of harm is greatest and active mercy is most needed. We hope to focus on:

- **Those excluded by inequality:** we particularly want to enable local and national policy makers to hear and respond to the voices of those experiencing poverty, and promote the Real Living Wage as a minimum measure of human dignity
- **Asylum seekers and refugees:** we want to help parishes provide signposts to local support services, and help any parishes interested in taking up the Home Office scheme for community sponsorship of Syrian refugees
- **Those touched by human trafficking and modern slavery:** we are exploring how the diocese can work as one to expose human exploitation, meet the pastoral needs of those who have been its victims, and apply for external funding
- **The earth:** we will explore how we can help the diocese, parishes and individuals fulfil their responsibility to care for creation.

And more generally:

- We'll offer new ways of taking part in work for justice, peace and care of creation, through a programme of local events, social media and a new contacts database
- We'll promote materials which help you apply Catholic social teaching to the world around us
- We'll offer parishes our *Building Peaceful Communities* pack, to help you promote the kingdom of God where you live. +

And in other news from the Commission...

- We're going to re-establish our social media accounts, after going a bit quiet during the vacancy for a Fieldworker: we'll let you know how to sign up soon.
- We're going to help plan the National Justice and Peace Conference in 2020, which is held every year at Swanwick. It's a remarkable privilege that this inspiring weekend takes place each July in our diocese. Five years on from *Laudato Si'* we'll be helping the church reflect on what remains to be done.

Paul Bodenham, our new Justice and Peace Fieldworker, adds:

I'm delighted to have taken on the role of Fieldworker for the Justice and Peace Commission. If your parish subscribes to the diocesan newspaper *Catholic News* you may have read about me on Page 4 of the [August 2018 edition](#). Let me just add a little more.

My introduction to 'justice and peace' came at First Holy Communion classes, when I heard

the Gospel story of Jesus reading from the scroll of Isaiah (Luke 4). I can still remember the thrill of hearing the promises of joy and freedom that Jesus made his own.

That 'good news' gave me hope when, in 2000 I had an awakening to the 'bad news' of climate change. Here was a moral crisis, vast and yet poorly understood, which is putting the future of life on earth was at stake.

As time has gone on, I have discovered the same hidden violence at work in the way our society treats not just the planet, but all those who are marginalized because of who they are, or who they love.

Those same words of Jesus still give me hope that God's promises can be fulfilled before our eyes. Let us pray and work for interesting times!



Dates for your diary

September

- 1:** Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 7:** [On the Altar of the World](#), exploring creation as part of the parallel programme of Adoremus, the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool
- 29:** Global Healing (see page 5), and 20 years of the debt justice movement (page 8)

October

- 4:** Season of Creation closes with St Francis' day
- 13:** Travellers' Mass (see page 10)
- 14:** Canonisation of Oscar Romero (see page 6)

November

- 10:** Annual Assembly and AGM (see page 3)

Contributions welcome for our next issue

The next issue of *Just Now* is due out in Advent 2018. This is your newsletter, and your contributions are welcome. Please send in details of events and initiatives which you would like to advertise.

You are also very welcome to offer articles of up to 500 words with a picture. We suggest a conversation before writing a finished article to avoid disappointment.

Please contact [Paul Bodenham](#) by 1 November 2018 before sending in text and pictures.

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