



St Dunstan's Catholic Church, Woking 5th February 2012

We are in the process of setting up a Justice and Peace group within St Dunstan's and we would like to invite the whole parish to be involved. Our parish is very diverse – made up of people from at least 59 different countries – and that collective experience would be a great value in identifying and highlighting injustices both locally and internationally. We have great hope that slowly we will be able to change our local and global environment to make it a just and peaceful society. To do this we will need the support of the whole community.

What is Justice and Peace?

Justice and Peace is about standing up for others against injustices and war. It is about being aware of the reality of injustice, suffering and violence in our world, understanding the root causes and working towards bringing justice and peace to all. It is about living the Gospel, and acting on our faith.

The issues that need to be addressed for our world to be one that is just and peaceful include:

- Fair Trade
- Housing and homelessness
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Third World Debt
- Child / Slave Labour
- Arms Trade
- The environment

The list is long but that does not mean we should not start doing what we can to bring about change.

Why we need a J&P group in our parish?

In today's world we have become accustomed to seeing injustices and wars, so much so that we often don't notice them. We need a J and P group in our parish so that we can highlight these issues and remind us how we can all work together to bring about change.

How and why each person can become involved

Ensuring that justice and peace becomes the way of life in our society requires us all to change. A just and peaceful society will only exist when everyone does what is just and for the good of all.

Justice and Peace

We have different skills, talents and resources and so what we can do to help bring about change in society may be different from our neighbour, but we can all contribute something.

For example, one of the great injustices that we currently see in our world is the effect of the international trade law, much of which is biased towards rich countries and against poor countries. This results in millions of people being trapped in poverty. Depending on your particular skills you could help to change this by:

- Using your purchasing power to buy more Fairtrade products
- Making other people more aware of how trade laws trap so many people in the poverty cycle
- Influencing friends, colleagues or employer to change their buying habits and buy more Fairtrade goods
- Putting pressure on our local MP / MEP to support or initiate just changes international trade laws
- Praying for those in decision-making positions to be guided by the Holy Spirit to bring about fair trade laws.

We'll join a vibrant organisation across the UK

The Justice and Peace Network was set up over thirty years ago and now has groups in hundreds of parishes throughout the UK. The annual conference and quarterly meetings have lively, thought-provoking and action-generating agendas. The National Network works closely with such organisations as CAFOD, Christian Aid, the Fairtrade Foundation, Life, Pax Christi and Amnesty International.

Would you like to know more? Would you like to get involved? Are there any particular issues you would like to help with? Are you already doing something that others could participate in?

When and Where?

We'll be holding our first meeting in the Function Room at St Dunstan's Church on Tuesday the 21st February at 8pm. Come along and tell us what you think.

In the meantime more information can be obtained from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton website at <http://www.dabnet.org/PastoralTeam/justicepeace>. Or contact the team:

Ian Hamilton: ianhamilton3@sky.com

Laura Henn: laurahenn@hotmail.com

Mark Hatcher: quangor@markhatch.plus.com

**"We cannot do everything and yet we can do something and do it well."
Archbishop Oscar Romero**