

Justice & Peace Scotland – 2020 Summary

Refugees, Asylum and Migrants

- Organised a Zoom webinar ‘Conversation on Migration’ in October with speakers sharing their experiences in Calais nearly four years after the demolition of ‘the jungle’
- Campaigned to ‘Lift the Ban’ to allow people to work whilst navigating the asylum system in the UK, calling for an end to ‘no recourse to public funds’, and for an end to detention.
- Arranged for Catholic chaplaincy at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, Scotland’s only Immigration Detention Centre
- Attended a peace witness event at Dungavel with Mother’s Day gifts
- Organised the sending of Christmas cards to detainees held at Dungavel
- Continued to work as a member of SFAR (Scottish Faiths Actions for Refugees) to raise awareness and coordinate actions related to asylum, integration and resettlement with other faith groups. This year they produced “Sanctuary in Scotland” resource. Secured funding from the Bishops’ Conference to help ensure SFAR’s future
- Secured funding from the Bishops’ Conference to help pay for bus passes for vulnerable pregnant asylum seekers and refugees in the Bumps to Babies scheme

Care For Creation

- Worked in collaboration with SCIAF and Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) to deliver training for teachers across Scotland to participate in Laudato Si Schools
- Continued to work with partner agencies such as SCIAF and Eco-congregations to plan for the UN Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow 2021
- Provided Care for Creation resource sheets to help parishes, schools and families with ideas for practical suggestions to become more environmentally friendly

Working towards Peace

- Produced podcasts exploring a faith perspective on peace building and the arms trade
- Marked the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima with a Peace Statement signed jointly by Bishop Nolan and Bishops of England and Wales
- Developed resources with Campaign Against the Arms Trade highlighting Scottish companies breaching international law in the arms trade
- Hosted a Zoom webinar ‘Reflection on Bethlehem’ in December highlighting the current situation in Palestine as experienced by Christian families

Alleviating Poverty

- Produced a short video in support of Challenge Poverty Week in October
- Campaigned to Cancel the Debt of the poorest nations
- Called on our Government to make changes in the social security system to stem the rising tide of poverty

Website and Social Media

- Improved our presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to reach more people
- Produced weekly blogs reflecting a wide range of issues across the country and beyond
- Shared weekly Catholic Social Teaching quotes
- Improved the Justice and Peace Scotland website with resources and links to related articles and events
- Produced resource sheets on Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis’ latest encyclical