**NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING**

**On Monday 19th February 2024 by zoom**

**Meeting 180**

**Present : Anne Elson, Jenny Armstrong, Lynda Gould, Jonathan Holden, Ann Allison**

**Apologies : Diana O’Reilly**

We started with the Span prayer and reflected on the reading for the 2nd Sunday in Lent

MARK 9 2-10

**Matters arising**

The service for Christian unity was attended by a few from Catholic Leamington and was a joyful occasion at Charlotte street Life Church in January.

The SPAN quiz was a successful evening and raised £1000 + for Friends of the Holy Land.

The Parish Visitation – Lynda and Anne attended the meeting with Canon Paul Fitzpatrick on 28th January. He was very positive about the work of Justice and Peace and especially ‘Live Simply’ which he is keen to promote in churches and schools.

The refugee family who attend Pastimes are being moved to Blackburn as they understand they will be able to have a house, which is more suitable for them than the hotel where they are at the moment. They are sorry to leave the friends in Leamington, but Jonathan is to ask Richard Gordon if there is an SVP groups active in Blackburn to give them some support.

**Prayer Intention**

The February intention is to be left in the newsletter for the rest of the month

***"We pray that working together with our community we may change lives for the better"***

In March we decided on a refugee theme as we are using the Jesuit Refugee Service stations

***‘We pray for all refugees, that they may be accompanied on their journey by Christ, who shares their suffering’.***

**Jonathan to put in the newsletter, Lynda on the notice board.**

**CAFOD**

The crib collection money has gone to CAFOD - it is in the region of £400. We had suggested the World gift that would be suitable was for emergency packs.

It is Family Fast Day this Friday 23rd and Ann is doing a soup lunch at St Peter’s. Sylvester from CAFOD is coming. There was a talk at the end of Mass last Sunday to give the message as to CAFOD’s work and draw attention to the collection next Sunday and the lunch. Ann is doing an assembly at St Peter’s which uses the CAFOD material about the fisher families and their difficulties. She reports that the schools are keen to participate.

The main CAFOD drive is for people to be sponsored to do the ‘Big Lent Walk’,

**Stations of the Cross**

We have printed off the Jesuit Refugee Service Stations of the cross and had the first session using them this morning. Attendance was about 20 and the stations seemed well received. The pictures were placed at the Stations in the Church. However using the microphone was not successful and we are going to manage without it for the remaining sessions**.** The sessions are on Mondays at 10.30 am in St Peter’s during Lent (but not 25th March)

**Lynda will put some of the pictures and words from these stations on the J and P display board at SP.**

**Prisoners of Conscience cards**

We hope to run this again during the Easter season and Diana has offered to arrange it by researching the people to send to using ACAT and getting post cards etc. The most likely weekend to do this at SP and OL is 4th /5th May . Jenny to check with Father Stephen if this is OK. Also to ask Father David if he knows anyone at SJ who might be able to organise a rota to run it another weekend.

**AOB**

Jenny queried how we could use the requests for volunteers being sought by the ‘Walking together ‘ team to recruit more people for J and P. Jonathan said the forms would be collated after Easter but he hoped that anyone interested in J and P or other social outreach organisations would be given contacts as soon as possible.

It is reported that the Leamington Peace Festival may be revived next year 2025 following a public meeting.

There is a UN Association meeting on Saturday 24th February in the Baptist Church and also by zoom which is on the situation inside Russia.

***Inside Report on Russian Society***

**Guest Speaker:  Dr James C Pearce**

**Historian and Journalist of Russia & of Former Soviet Union**

A zoom meeting is being held by Justice for Palestinians on February 22nd also. on ‘**South Africa v Israel, the ICJ Genocide Convention case: what was decided on 26 January 2024 and what next?’** The speaker is Daniel Machover a renowned human rights and civil liberties lawyer who cofounded Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights.

We finished with a prayer remembering the Holy Land and all those suffering in wars and conflicts.

**Next meeting**

**25th March by zoom.**