Justice and Peace - You can make a difference!

When all the prisoners in a country are crushed underfoot,
When human rights are overridden in defiance of the Most High,
When someone is cheated of justice, does not the Lord see it?
(Lamentations 3, 34-36)

The "Justice and Peace" group from Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Dominic Barberi parish have chosen the following case from Amnesty International for our prayer and support this month. We hope you can join your prayers with ours and consider writing a letter or sending a fax to the appropriate authority which is listed below.

Iraq: Samar Sa'ad 'Abdullah and Wassan Talib are being held in Kadhimiya Women's Prison in Baghdad. They have been at risk of execution since February 2007 when the Court of Cassation upheld their death sentences.

Samar Sa'ad 'Abdullah was sentenced on 15 August 2005 for the murder of her uncle, his wife and one of their children. She says the killings were carried out by her fiancé – who appears to have so far evaded capture – and claims she only confessed after being tortured.

Wassan Talib was sentenced by the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) on 31 August 2006 for the murder of several members of the Iraqi security forces in 2005. She has denied this and Amnesty International has serious concerns about the fairness of CCCI trials.

Iraq reinstated the death penalty in August 2004 and to date more than 300 people have been sentenced to death. President Jalal Talabani is personally opposed to the death penalty and is reportedly unwilling to sign warrants for execution. His presidential powers to grant clemency and sanction executions have effectively been delegated to vice presidents.

Please write, expressing concern that Samar Sa'ad 'Abdullah and Wassan Talib have been sentenced to death and calling on the authorities to commute their sentences and investigate allegations of torture and unfair trial in their cases.

Please send appeals (letters or faxes) **via the Iraqi embassy in London to**

President Jalal Talabani and **Prime Minister Nuri Kamil al-Maliki**

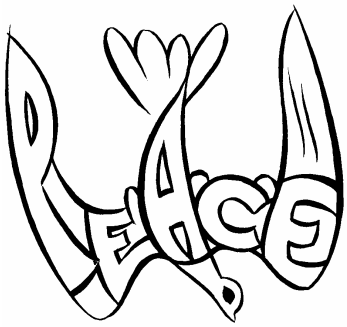
Embassy of the Republic of Iraq,
3 Elvaston Place,
London, SW7 5QH.
Fax: 020 7371 1652

Optional helpful tips on writing appeals are available at:
http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=949

You can check for updates on the status of previous appeals at:
http://www.amnesty.org.uk/cases

Thank you!

Your parish Justice and Peace group.



Other news and forthcoming events:

Earley Volunteer Care Bureau is in need of more drivers to help elderly and mobility-restricted residents in Earley & Lower Earley. If you can help, please take one of the leaflets from Advent Room or contact the Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you

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CTEER has their next regular meeting on Tuesday 29th January at St. Andrews URC (London Road/Craven Road), 7.45pm.

CTEER also has one Lent meeting planned this year for Sunday 10th February from 7.45 - 9pm in Earley St. Peter's Church Hall. John Madeley from Caversham will be speaking on ***'Making our churches carbon neutral'***. See poster in Advent Room.
Friends from across Reading would be most welcome.
Coffee will be served from 7.30pm

Farnborough Hill School, Farnborough, Hampshire has an **open afternoon** on Friday 8th February.
See poster in Advent Room

Portsmouth Diocese Justice and Peace day – 16th February
At St. Anne's Catholic School, Southampton. Theme: Living our Faith – the Good Steward.
A day to celebrate Social Justice, this day will include workshops on Fairtrade, Human Trafficking, Carbon Footprint, and African Drumming. Come and sample food and wine in the Fairtrade market! To book a place please call 01329 835583 or e-mail estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
See yellow posters and booking forms in Advent Room

The "**CELEBRATE**" weekend conference, a holiday conference for Christians of all ages and endorsed by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, is coming to Southampton - 3rd & 4th May 2008.
Full details & booking form available on www.celebrateconference.org
See posters in Advent Room or outside DB Room

"Sing for Life" - March 2008: *The Anthony Nolan Trust* invites us to join a huge sponsored hymn sing during March (or whenever you wish!). The Anthony Nolan Trust helps those suffering from leukaemia and recruits donors to join its bone marrow register. Currently there are over 7000 children and adults still hoping to find a suitable bone marrow donor. The Trust is an independent charity and relies on financial support from individuals and companies, so please take up their challenge and help those with leukaemia.
If interested, please see blue leaflet and booking form in Advent Room

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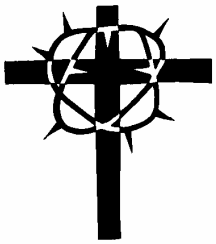

Each day and night I feel Your presence.
You may not be near to touch,
But You are in my mind and heart.
You meet my needs so silently,
I am never alone, because of You.

Kalil Gibran