

## **“Injustice”**

### **Proverbs 21:13**

“Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too shall cry out and receive no answer”

### **Laudato Si #49**

“It needs to be said that, generally speaking, there is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet’s population, billions of people. These days, they are mentioned in international political and economic discussions, but one often has the impression that their problems are brought up as an afterthought, a question which gets added almost out of duty or in a tangential way, if not treated merely as collateral damage. Indeed, when all is said and done, they frequently remain at the bottom of the pile. This is due partly to the fact that many professionals, opinion makers, communications media and centres of power, being located in affluent urban areas, are far removed from the poor, with little direct contact with their problems.”

### **CARITAS DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH**

Walking down any high street in virtually any city or town we are almost guaranteed to see rough sleepers begging for money. How do I react? Do I walk past, do I perhaps give some money, buy a hot drink or sandwich or do I personally engage with the person? It is clear that being willing to engage, to give time to those in need, those on the margins of society and are so often forgotten can be transformational in our lives. Putting ourselves out there on the front line challenges and changes us in many ways. True Christian living is very challenging especially when it calls us to move from our positions of privilege to places of marginalisation. Putting ourselves in these places makes us feel uncomfortable as it exposes our hidden idolatries but it is in this discomfort that lies the true seed of inner transformation. Caritas has several practical projects for those who are homeless and those living in poverty and is looking at ways of offering more permanent solutions to the scandal of the present homeless situation.

### **Action – am I willing to step into those places that make me feel uncomfortable?**

#### **Personal**

Are there times when I could have reached out to someone who was suffering? Was I afraid to go there or perhaps just too busy with my own life to offer time just to listen? Have I ever taken the trouble to look into the deeper reasons and issues behind injustice both local and global? Have I ever examined how my present lifestyle might be complicit in the suffering of others, does my gain mean someone else’s loss?

#### **Family**

Do we try to live as justly as possible in our family life? In our daily purchases or everyday life do we think of who might be suffering for our convenience? Do we as a family discuss issues of injustice? Is there any way in which our family could change or opt for a more simple life to minimise the injustice caused to others?

#### **Parish**

Is the issue of justice mentioned in our parish publications? Do we have a justice and peace group or a Caritas discussion group in our parish and if not could I start one? Are we ethical in our parish purchases?