



St Andrew's, Bearsden

Justice & Peace Lenten Challenge

Our Response to the Jubilee 2025

CHALLENGING POVERTY

God cares passionately about issues of poverty and justice. In the scriptures, concern for the poor is redolent in the words of the Prophets, and is at the core of all that Jesus said and did. This Lent, the Justice & Peace groups of St Andrew's and St Joseph's have adopted the issue of **challenging poverty** as **our response to the Jubilee 2025**. Each week some suggestions will be made as to how, as **Pilgrims of Hope**, we can hope to eliminate a specific aspect of poverty through Prayer, Fasting and Charity

Week One - Poverty in Literacy

Jesus asks "What is written in the Law? What do you read and how do you understand it?" (Luke 10.25). To understand scripture, or indeed anything, first you have to be able to read. Sadly, illiteracy is still present in Scottish society today – 1 in 5 adults has difficulty reading. This limits job chances meaning lack of literacy and poverty go hand in hand.

What can we do?

During the week, try to respond in some way to the issue of poverty in literacy through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and charity. Some suggestions have been made, but you might have your own way of responding.

Tick to say
"I did it!"
(or at least
" I tried")

PRAYER

Lord, we pray for everyone who finds it difficult to read and write. We pray that You would lift them up and give them Hope. Let us not belittle those with difficulties, but help them.

Don't forget to use your "Walk with Me" prayer book each day.

FASTING

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them!

Fast from pessimism; Feast on Hope. Be a Pilgrim of Hope!

Fast from reading fake news ; Feast on reading the Good News!

CHARITY

St Joseph's Malawi Mitsidi primary school project is an outstanding example of progress in a community living on the edge of poverty. See St Joseph's website and learn how you can help.

And closer to home?? Read with your children/grandchildren.

Volunteer as a reader for the blind or as an ESOL teacher.

➤ If you want to go a step further and learn more about and work to combat poverty and injustice at the local, National and global level, then join the Justice & Peace mailing list at <https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk>

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Please bring this sheet back to Mass for next weekend's offertory