

Covenant with the Poor – 2014

In scripture, a Covenant is an agreement entrusted to us as a gift from God. Our response is to act out of love and respect for God and all creation through consideration of the needs of ourselves and others in the world. In this Covenant, we, as a parish community, promise to use our time, talents and almsgiving to demonstrate a commitment to social concern and a more equitable distribution of wealth in our world today.

We also undertake to review our Covenant on a yearly basis.

Wealth and Talent Sharing

We reaffirm our support for those initiatives already active in our parish

- the Mill Hill Missions through the use of home collection boxes
- the CAFOD partnership with the Third World, promoting and celebrating the annual Lent and Harvest Fast Days and responding to emergency appeals
- national and local appeals, e.g. for Life, and for the St Bernard's Lesotho fundraising initiatives
- SVP

Campaigning/Social Concerns

We recognize that poverty includes those who are socially excluded, lonely, spiritually bereft and economically deprived. We re-dedicate ourselves in support of the the following groups and organisations working in our parish and wider community

- Faith and Light
- Visitors to the housebound
- Scout and Guide movements
- St Mary's Primary School
- St Bernard's High School
- Over 60s group
- Safeguarding initiatives
- CAFOD campaigns
- Fairtrade stall
- Lighthouse Project
- Friday Food Bank

Prayer and Liturgy

We undertake

- to include intentions for the poor in bidding prayers at each Mass and prayer for Justice and Peace
- to include, where appropriate, a focus on Justice and Peace issues in children's liturgies
- to include a Justice and Peace perspective into our proclaiming of the gospel
- to listen to, encourage and respond to the voices of youth on Justice and Peace issues
- to support our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion as they visit the sick and housebound of the parish.