



Prisoners Sunday 2015

Dear Father,

This year, on Sunday 11th October, as a Church we mark Prisoners' Sunday. It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and their children. Prisoners' Sunday is the occasion to make a difference and be there for those who most need our support. I ask you to please lead your parish in prayer for prisoners and their dependants on October 11th.

We have one Caritas Social Action Network Charity which is solely dedicated to tackling the issues that arise from having a loved one in prison. Its name is the Prison Advice & Care Trust (Pact); it has had a few name changes over the years also being called the Catholic Prisoners Aid Association, the Bourne Trust, and currently Pact. The charity works in all areas of the Criminal Justice System from the Courts to parole of ex-offenders.

Two services of Pact which may be of a particular help in your ministry is their free phone helpline for anyone with a friend or family member in prison (Freephone number below). The other is their Basic Caring Communities programme which enables parishioners to befriend those coming out of prison. Details of these services and other ways in which we can help those affected by imprisonment are in the pack enclosed.

The enclosed pack also contains sermon suggestions written by Fr Roger Reader (Lead RC Prison Chaplain), a children's Liturgy resource prepared by Joanne Hornby (Pact's Chaplain), and an appeal from Pact to hold a retiring collection.

On this occasion I ask you to please pray for all those affected by the whirl wind that is the Criminal Justice System, encourage your parishioners to volunteer their time to help those affected – perhaps through one of Pact's programmes, and if possible to please hold a retiring collection for the work of Pact.

Yours in Christ

+ Richard Moth

Bishop Richard Moth
Liaison Bishop for Prisons,
Bishop of Arundel and Brighton Diocese

Freephone helpline offering support and information for those with a family member or friend in prison: **0808 808 3444**