



St Francis of Assisi Covenant with the Poor

October 2024

We the parishioners of St Francis of Assisi wish to follow the guidance of Pope Francis and commit ourselves anew to our Covenant with the Poor. We will express solidarity with people living in poverty throughout the world by wealth sharing, campaign action, and through our prayers and liturgies. We promise to respond to these local and global needs, to campaign, to pray, and to educate ourselves: We promise:

Local Needs

- to support the **S2 Foodbank** by weekly donations of food, delivery to the foodbank, financial donations and highlighting specific needs and seasonal appeals in the Franciscan newsletter
- to support **St Wilfrid's Centre**, by providing fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar regularly and advertising volunteering opportunities in the Franciscan newsletter
- to support **Caritas Hallam**
- to support the work of **St Vincent de Paul** in Sheffield
- to financially support local charities, such as **ASSIST**, **City of Sanctuary** and other local organisations supporting the poor in Sheffield
- to explore other initiatives to support the local community, such as twinning with another parish

World Needs

- to support the work of **CAFOD** through the annual CAFOD Lent and Harvest Fast Days, fundraising events, awareness raising and special collections
- to support **MISSIO** (APF boxes) through financial contributions
- to use Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee and sugar, at parish functions
- to respond to international emergency appeals in times of disaster
- to support other initiatives worldwide such as toilet twinning

Campaigning

- to support CAFOD's **Live Simply** Campaign
- to support **Church Action on Poverty**
- to take an active part in campaigning or lobbying on Justice and Peace issues locally, nationally and globally

- to support the work of our parish's Justice and Peace Group, the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and local ecumenical Justice and Peace initiatives

Prayer and Liturgy

- to include intentions for the poor in bidding prayers and to pray for Justice and Peace in our prayer groups
- to include, where appropriate, a focus on Justice and Peace issues in children's liturgies, in our music and preaching of the gospel
- to include a Justice and Peace dimension in our sacrament preparation
- to maintain youth involvement and listen to the voices of our youth on Justice and Peace

Additional Giving and Annual/10-year Review

- to review our Covenant with the Poor each year at the parish Annual General Meeting
 - to renew our Covenant with the Poor at the Sunday Mass held after the AGM each year
 - to set aside 5% of the parish offertory income to meet needs related to poverty. Distribution of the funds will be decided by parishioners at the AGM.
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- ASSIST
 - S2 Foodbank
 - Sheffield SVP
 - Sheffield City of Sanctuary
 - St Wilfrid's Centre
 - Buzz contact centre
 - Baby Basics
 - Roundabout
 - Care in Crosspool

Prayer

Loving God,
Open our ears to hear the cries
of our fellow human beings
and of the earth, our common home.

Open our eyes to the scandal
of poverty and injustice
in the world.

Open our hearts to feel
the pain, the hurt,
the hunger of one another.

Open our mouths to speak
of the dignity of each person,
precious in your sight.

Open our arms wide
to reach out with compassion
so that all distance vanishes.

Open our hearts to share your love
and our hope of a world
where no one is beyond reach.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.

Prayer by Catherine Gorman/CAFOD (adapted)