



Prisoners' Sunday 8th October 2023 'This day...with me...paradise' Lk 23:43

A message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols

'As President of Pact, I invite you to join with me in supporting Prisoners' Sunday on 8th October 2023. Pact is the national Catholic charity providing support to prisoners and their families. It is good to know that Pact is there for people of all faiths and none, supporting prisoners and their families on our behalf and with our help. I encourage you to play your part in this work of the Gospel for the common good of all.'

Pact posts out a Prisoners' Sunday pack to every parish in England & Wales – arriving around 18th September. It contains a poster, bidding prayers, information about our work and second collection details.

Pact works in New Hall women's prison and Young Offender Institution at Flockton in the Diocese of Leeds. As part of our work supporting family relationships, we work in the Pact Visitors' Centre welcoming families arriving to visit a loved one inside, helping them to prepare for their visit and explaining what to expect. This is especially important for the children who can find the prison environment overwhelming. Pact organises special Family Visit Days when the normal rules can be relaxed a little.

This summer, Pact staff and volunteers organised drawing competitions linked to the Women's Football World Cup and showed matches on the TV so families didn't miss too much while waiting to go inside the prison!

Inside, Pact staff and volunteers organised a 'Game with Mum' with football activities and a tournament. During their visit, children and their mum played together – wearing matching football shirts that they were able to keep as a memento of the day.

By organising events like this, Pact can bring some sort of normality to the children's life while mum is in prison. Mums don't have to miss out on playing with their children and together they can make good memories to treasure.

Pact's CEO, Andy Keen-Downs explains, 'Our work in prisons and communities across England & Wales ensures that prisoners, children and families are supported; and their dignity is respected and upheld. Where appropriate we help families to make a fresh start together and live lives which bear good fruit. By supporting prisoners to be restored

to the community, our work makes communities safer – research shows that prisoners who have good family relationships are 39% less likely to return to crime.'

We humbly request that parishes consider taking up a second collection to support the work of Pact in the year ahead. Your support means we can do more for prisoners and their families. You can choose a nearby Sunday for the second collection if that helps.

Get in touch if you would like someone to speak briefly about Pact's work at Mass on Prisoners' Sunday where you are: parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

More information

Pact Prisoners' Sunday information and resources: [Marking Prisoners' Sunday | Prison Advice and Care Trust](#)

Our Faith in Action team supports Catholic people and parishes to encounter the voices of people in our communities with lived experience of the criminal justice system, to reflect on Catholic Social Teaching, and to put faith into action. We offer our JustPeople workshops, Diocesan events, and a network of Pact Parish Reps [Events | Prison Advice and Care Trust](#)