



Dear Father,

This year, on October 13th, we mark Prisoners' Sunday, the national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their dependents.

It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and their children. Prisoners' Sunday provides an important opportunity to reflect on how we as a community can make a difference to the lives of those who are affected by the criminal justice system. It is a time to identify those who are in crisis and find themselves in need of support in our own community. I ask you to please lead your parish in prayer for all those whose lives are entwined with the criminal justice system on 13th October.

You will see from the enclosed pack that during Prisons' Week this year we are asked to focus our attention on 'Hope & Freedom'.

Pact, the national Catholic charity supporting prisoners, people with convictions, defendants and their families, is a shining example of such strength and conviction. They bring hope to so many in an increasingly difficult environment.

The work of Pact is the daily embodiment of the most fundamental values of Catholic Social Teaching, the belief in the innate dignity of every human being. The services created by Pact are in direct response to the needs of prisoners, their families and communities. Pact, its staff and volunteers are unrelenting in their dedication to accompanying people on their journey through the criminal justice system to a fresh start.

2019 sees the end of Pact's anniversary year, which marked 120 years of service. Their work is needed now more than ever and I invite you and your Parish to support them in any way that you can.



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President:
His Eminence Cardinal
Vincent Nichols

Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) is registered in England and Wales as a charity (no. 219278) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 356443). Pact Futures CIC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pact and a community interest company registered in England and Wales (no. 9248698). Pact also trades as Pact: Kids VIP, Prisoners' Families and Friends Service, Basic Caring Communities: BaCC and JustPeople. VAT registration number 208 9413 05.

The pack contains a reflection written by Father Paul Douthwaite, our Catholic Bishops' Prison Adviser, which you may find helpful in the preparation of your Homily. There is also a message from Pact CEO Andy Keen-Downs about the ways in which Pact's work brings hope to people affected by imprisonment.

On this special occasion I ask you to please pray for all those affected by the criminal justice system and to encourage your parishioners to volunteer their time to help those affected by imprisonment. I also ask you to consider holding a retiring collection, or even a special event, in aid of this important cause.

Pact, its staff and beneficiaries will be grateful for any support you may be able to offer at any point in the year. Do contact their friendly team for more information on 020 3031 6867 you can email parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

Yours in Christ,



Bishop Richard Moth
Liaison Bishop for Prisons



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