

The sixth work of mercy: Visiting the imprisoned

I was in prison, and you visited me

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.

There is information about prisons, probation, the youth justice service and much more on the Ministry of Justice website:

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/prisons-probation>

Every prison has a Chaplaincy and usually the Chaplaincy welcomes volunteers. There is a list of Catholic prison chaplains in the Diocesan Year Book.

Every prison has an Independent Monitoring Board to monitor day-to-day standards of care. Most IMBs welcome new members. Full training is given to IMB volunteers.

<https://www.gov.uk/volunteer-to-check-standards-in-prison>

Prisons in our Diocese:

HMP Sudbury [Open prison, men]

HMP Foston Hall [Women]

HMP Leicester [Men]

HMP Glen Parva [Young offenders]

HMP Gartree [Men serving long sentences]

HMP Nottingham [men]

HMP Lowdham [Men; this is a privately run prison]

HMP Ranby [Men]

HMP Whatton [Men, mostly sex offenders]

HMP Lincoln [Men]

HMP North Sea Camp [Men]

HMP Stocken

Morton Hall is an Immigration Removal Centre where migrants and failed asylum seekers are detained, often for long periods, prior to deportation. It is run by the Prison Service and those held there are also in need of friendship, contacts and support. Contact the Morton Hall Visitor Group at: Email: mhvg@riseup.net Telephone: 07758 604 293

Google the name of the prison for more information, including address and contact details.

Prisoners' families also need support. You can learn more about the problems faced by prisoners' families and especially children, and how to help, from:

Action for Prisoners' Families

<http://www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk/>

Prison Reform Trust

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/>

Prison Fellowship is a Christian organisation that supports prisoners and their families through prayer and projects to support prisoners and prevent re-offending:

<http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/>

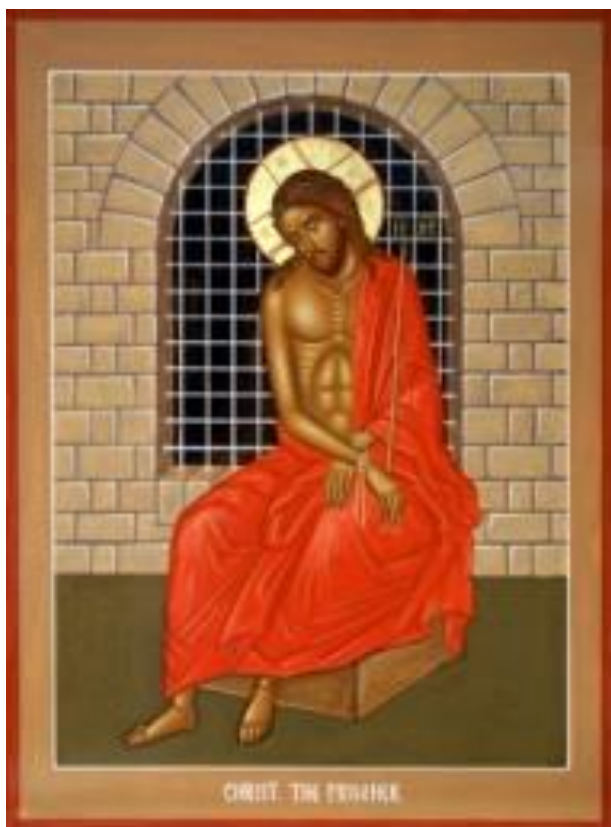
PACT is a Catholic inspired organisation that supports prisoners and their families:

<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

Fundraise – Donate – Volunteer – Pray

Action: contact your local prison and ask the Chaplain to come and speak at your parish; find out what support the Chaplaincy needs; find out whether volunteers are needed in the Visitor Centre; find out if volunteers are needed to support people leaving prison. Ask yourselves what you can do!

Commit as a parish to take action in support of prisoners or prisoners' families for one year.



Lord,
You offer freedom to all people.
We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear
and isolation,
Support with your love prisoners and their families
and friends, prison staff and
Volunteers, chaplains and all who care.
Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of
others, especially victims
of crime and violence.
Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love
mercy and walk humbly
with our Lord Jesus Christ in his strength and in his
Spirit, now and each day. Amen.