



Justice and Peace Calendar

February— March 2020



St. Josephine Bakhita

Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking

February 8th has been designated as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. It is also the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once freed, she became a Canossian sister and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

Human trafficking is the modern-day term for slavery. Women, children and men are bought and sold, beaten, abused and sometimes killed as they are

traded like commodities on the invisible trafficking markets across the world. This prayer day is a call to us all to be come more aware of the world of trafficking and the suffering it inflicts on millions of people around the world and in Ireland. For more information see; www.mecpaths.com

Prayer to St Josephine Bakhita

You were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardships and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement you found true redemption in our encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen



Dates of Significance

8th Feb: Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking

20th Feb: World Day of Social Justice

21st March: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

The UN established this Day in October 1966, in the aftermath of the Sharpeville massacre in south Africa when police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws".

This days calls on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

The struggle against racial discrimination is a central element of UNESCO's work to build peace in the minds of men and women, through education for tolerance, the rejection of racist stereotypes that may persist in culture or in the media.

Racial and ethnic discrimination is a reality to occurs on a daily basis, hindering progress for millions of people around the world. Racism and intolerance can take various forms – from denying individuals the basic principles of equality to fuelling ethnic hatred that may lead to genocide – all of which can destroy lives and fracture communities



21 MARCH

International Anti-Racism Day

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE - 20th Feb

The UN World Day of Social Justice marks the efforts of the international community towards poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.



United Nations officials mark this day with calls on the international community to take practical steps to break down the barriers of inequality by doing more to empower individuals through decent work, provide adequate social protection, and ensure the voices of the poor are heard.