



**Prisoners'**  
Sunday  
12 October 2025

Dear Parish Priest / Parish Secretary,

During this Jubilee Year, we have two opportunities to pray for those in prison. The first is Prisoners' Sunday – the national day of prayer and action for prisoners and their families. Prisoners' Sunday offers an important opportunity to direct our thoughts and prayers toward those in prison, their families, and all who work to support our brothers and sisters affected by the criminal justice system. The second is the Jubilee for Prisoners on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

At the start of this Jubilee Year, the late Pope Francis opened a Holy Door in a Roman prison, calling it “a sign of the door of our heart.” He reminded us that we each have the grace to “fling open” our the door to hope, and urged us never to lose hope, even in difficult times, for true hope never disappoints.

The number of people in prison in England and Wales is increasing, and our prisons are in crisis. In our communities, there are children and families with loved ones in prison and who may be struggling with stigma, isolation and perhaps hardship, as a result. However, the work of Pact brings hope.

Pact is the national Catholic charity working to support prisoners, people with convictions, and children and families. Pact's work is deeply rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and continues to restore hope and dignity to thousands of people affected by imprisonment. Staff and volunteers work in 70 prisons across England and Wales. Their care and practical support help people in prison stay connected with their families. We know that retaining strong family bonds is a significant factor in preventing reoffending.

In this pack, you will find more information about Prisoners' Sunday, including bidding prayers and a parish poster. I ask you to lead your parish in prayer on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October for all those affected by the criminal justice system. I would also encourage you to hold a retiring collection to help continue the work of Pact in the year ahead. Together we can help prisoners and their families make a fresh start

Please include the following in your newsletters, the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> October and the weekend before:

**Prisoners' Sunday - 12th October. We will remember Pope Francis and his call to support prisoners and their families at Mass this weekend. Prisons are in crisis, and life for prisoners and their families in our communities is challenging. Pact, the national Catholic prison charity, supports prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around. There will be a second collection to support Pact's important work in the year ahead.**

The support of Catholic communities makes a huge difference to Pact and to the impact the charity can make for people living through what may well be the worst times of their lives. I express my wholehearted gratitude, on behalf of Pact, for any support you are able to offer.

Do contact Pact's Head of Faith in Action, Julia Corcoran, by email at [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk) with any questions or concerns.

With the assurance of my prayers,

Yours in Christ,

**Rt Rev Bishop Richard Moth**  
**Liaison for Prisons**  
**Bishop of Arundel & Brighton**



# Prisoners' Sunday

12 October 2025

## *"I was in prison and you visited me"*

This Prisoners' Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on Pope Francis' legacy and put our faith into action. It invites us to consider how we as individuals, as a Church, and as communities are serving our brothers and sisters affected by imprisonment.

Last year, our dedicated staff and volunteers supported more than 550,000 prison visits, including nearly 111,000 for children and young people. We also awarded 596 emergency welfare grants to people leaving prison and the children and families of people in prison. For thousands facing hardship or seeking a fresh start, our work is a vital source of support and hope.

### **A message from His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols**



As President of Pact, the national Catholic charity for people in prison and their families, I invite you to join with me in supporting this year's Prisoners' Sunday, on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Pact supports people throughout England and Wales, whatever their beliefs. Pact's work is varied, and includes care for children whose parents have been sent to prison, as well as offering practical assistance to people leaving prison, who are trying to make a fresh start and put their past behind them.

Pact workers can be found inside many prisons, working alongside chaplains, to support people who may be experiencing mental illness or losing hope. An important element of Pact's work is to support prisoners and their families to maintain their family bonds, recognising the anxiety, isolation and perhaps hardship they may be experiencing while a loved one is in prison. This work has been hugely influential, and it is now recognised that it is one of the most effective means to reduce the risk of re-offending by former prisoners.

Jesus himself commended those who showed concern for prisoners: 'I was in prison and you visited me'. Pact continues to rely strongly on the support of Catholic parishioners. I encourage you to play your part in its important work, whether through prayer, volunteering or financial support, putting the values of the Gospel into action and working for the common good of all.

**Cardinal Vincent Nichols**  
**Archbishop of Westminster**  
**President of Pact**

## Prisoners' Sunday Bidding Prayers

God of mercy, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison and for their children and families. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. May your love overcome struggle and heartache and bring new life.

Lord God, we commend to you all who work or volunteer, in courts, prisons and communities. May they know your presence with them as they work and may their efforts inspire us to share your love ever more widely.




### Pray, Act, Give — Ways your parish can get involved

- Please hold a second collection for Pact on Prisoners' Sunday, or on a Sunday of your choice.
- Use the resources in this guide and on our website during your Mass on Prisoners' Sunday, to raise lasting awareness within the parish community.
- Take a look at our Prisoners' Sunday events guide on our website and consider holding an event for your parish or group:  
[www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisoners-sunday](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisoners-sunday)
- Encourage parishioners to consider whether they might be called to volunteer for Pact, from home or in a local Pact service.
- Please invite people to consider leaving a gift to Pact when making their will. Pact is a member of Your Catholic Legacy -  
[www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk](http://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk)

## More resources for Prisoners' Sunday

 [www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisoners-sunday](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisoners-sunday)

 07710 170 942

 [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk)

**If you're unable to celebrate Prisoners' Sunday on 12<sup>th</sup> October, please do consider celebrating Mass for prisoners and their families on another day.**



Name of Church/Parish:

Contact name for Parish:

Our Church/Parish has raised

for Prisoners' Sunday 2025

This was raised by:

Mass collection

☐

Special event

☐

Other

☐

Please tick this box if you would like us to contact you about ways for members of your congregation to volunteer for Pact in your local area.

**Please send cheques to: Pact, Homework Southfields, 265-269 Wimbledon Park Road, London, SW19 6NW Remember to include all gift aid responses you have received. Please do not send cash.**

### To pay by BACS —

Bank name: NatWest

Sort code: 60-00-01

Account name: Prison Advice and Care Trust

Account no: 49089307

Kindly supported by

**CCLA**  
GOOD INVESTMENT



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



@PactFaithAction

The Prison Advice & Care Trust (Pact)  
Charity no. 219278 | Company no. 356443