

Thought for the Day – Thursday 29th February 2024

by Revd John Ohen

“I was in prison and you visited me”

We need more and more volunteers in many areas of our society today. We should encourage as many people as possible to volunteer in places like the hospital, police, prison and even in Churches.

The Prison system needs reform. Prison needs to be a place of reform and redemption as in Matthew 25.40 when Jesus reminds us that “I was in prison, and you visited me.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky the Russian playwright once said that “A society should not be judge by how it treats its citizens but how it treats its criminals.”

Our prisons are overcrowded and contributes to a whole set of new problems, such as violence, suicide and riots. Our penal system here in Britain has reached a breaking point. Our prison is overused and undervalue alternative sentences.

In June last year the total UK prison population reached 95,526 according to the Catholic Mission. This is composed of 85851 in England and Wales, 7775 in Scotland and 1900 in Northern Ireland. We all need to do something as soon as we can. The more volunteers who minister in the prison system the greater the opportunity to show what conditions are really like and to advocate for change.

Bible Passage:

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

- Luke 6:36-38