

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



JPIC Update April 2013

Campaign Against the Arms Trade

The Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) are looking for support for their campaigns this year.



In late 2013, CAAT hopes to launch a campaign calling for positive alternatives to arms spending. CAAT will also be running campaigns which will challenge sales and promotion of arms to repressive regimes. This will involve lobbying MPs; challenging the London arms fair, (due to be held in London in September 2013); highlighting the involvement of local arms companies; and promoting the Christian Network Day of Prayer on 8th September.

Please go on the CAAT website and sign up to support their campaigns: www.caat.org.uk The arms trade can be challenged because Governments have to listen to ordinary people. We can stop the trade if enough of us speak out.

There are hundreds Justice and Peace groups in England and Wales. This is an appeal to all of these groups to support the work of CAAT and add to your program for this year an activity to oppose the arms trade. The CAAT Christian Network provides resources, both written materials and speakers, which can help.

Single voices can tell us when change is necessary but most change is created by small groups of determined, well organised people. Please help to make this the year when the arms trade is successfully challenged in the UK. If you want to know more, please call John Dowling on 0191 2362703.

Potential Speakers for J&P meetings

Four women from Voices For Creative Non-Violence UK (VCNVUK) visited Afghanistan in December 2012 to work with a local group the Afghan Peace Volunteers (APV) in Kabul. The speakers are able to give your group a perspective often overlooked by Mainstream Media, the voice of the people. They will give your group an up-to-date view from the ground of events in Afghanistan.

Maya Evans, one of the speakers, says We're definitely focusing on the aspect of women in Afghanistan, not only because we're women, but it's one of the worst places on the planet for women.

If you would like to book a speaker please email afghanistanspeakingtour@gmail.com They generally speak for an hour with 30 minutes for Q&A. Only requirements are to pay their travel expenses, a bed for the night if necessary and a veggie/ vegan meal. More details can be found at: <http://vcnvuk.wordpress.com/>

April 23rd - 200th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Throughout this year, but most especially on 23rd April, St Vincent de Paul Society members are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Frederic Ozanam who, with his companions, founded the SVP on his 20th birthday.



Blessed Frédéric, while speaking in defence of the Church in some fiery debates at the Sorbonne university, had been challenged by a young socialist: "What are you doing for the poor now? - Show us your works!".

Struck by these words he and his friends began to live the Gospel command 'show love to your neighbour' by visiting those living in dreadful poverty, and bringing what food and comfort they could. Others were moved by their example to commit themselves to serving the poor. They chose to call their group the Society of St Vincent de Paul, based on the exemplary charitable life led by St Vincent.

From these small beginnings the SVP has grown to number over 700,000 members in 147 countries. If you are not already a member I am sure that your parish SVP group would welcome your help in giving practical assistance and support to those in need in your community. No SVP group in your parish? Well just phone 020 7703 3030 and ask for help in starting one!

OUR SPRING ASSEMBLY ~ Saturday May 11th

10 for 10.30 until 4pm

At The Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Canterbury, CT2 7NA.

“Blessed are the Poor? ~ Social Justice in The Year of Faith”

Our keynote speaker will be Séamus Mulholland OFM who teaches at the Centre

Other speakers include Joanna Waller, writer and long term SVP member and Clive Lambie from the Croydon, Merton and Sutton Credit Union.

Too far away for you? - well why not make a weekend of it in this great historic city.

All Welcome

No charge to attend

Light lunch provided for a small donation.

May 6th (Bank Holiday Monday) Annual Migrants Mass - in honour of St Joseph the Worker.

11am at Westminster Cathedral, preceded by a procession of representatives from London's diverse communities. To take part in the procession come to the Cathedral Hall before 10.30.

All welcome to this vibrant event. The main celebrant will be Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

April 20th - Linking 2Ds: Democracy and Development for Global Peace

Uniting for Peace Spring Conference and AGM 10:30 - 16:30 at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU. Contact Vijay Mehta: vijay@vmpeace.org or Brian Cooper 0131 446 9545 for more information.

May 14th - Taking Responsibility for Peace

Steps towards healing the wounds of the past. An evening workshop with Alexandra Asseily exploring which aspects of ourselves are not fully contributing to peace.

6pm to 8pm at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AG £8 (concessions £5). www.stethelburgas.org phone 020 7496 1610

May 18th - Spiritual Responses to Conflict

A workshop exploring the role of conflict in spiritual growth, and approaches and tools for responding consciously to conflict, led by Justine Huxley.

10 am to 5pm at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AG £65 (concessions £40). www.stethelburgas.org phone 020 7496 1610

May 21st. Feast Day of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter

70th anniversary of his execution. Resources at <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/pubs1.php#lives>

June 8th IF G8 Mobilisation day in London

more details soon, probably ending in Hyde Park. For more information contact: Maria Elena Arana, marana@cafod.org.uk tel 0207 095 5417

June 22nd - Practical Engagement in Justice & Peace - A day of training and workshops to help you make it happen.

Organised by the three London Diocese J&P 10.30—4.00 at the Cathedral Halls, Brentwood.
Workshops on: Catholic Social Teaching, Human Trafficking, How scripture/J&P relates to work in the Community and Lobbying your MP. Choose 2 from 4.

All are welcome. Tea and Coffee provided - bring lunch. No charge to attend but donations welcome.

To book a place email davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org or phone 01277 265234

July 19th to 21st – National Justice & Peace Conference - “Breaking Open the Word: A Call to Faith in Action”

At Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

Keynote speaker Megan McKenna – Theologian, Storyteller, Pax Christi Ambassador for Peace.

For more information and booking forms go to www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or phone 020 7901 4864

Always an inspiring weekend. Supplies of booking forms also available from the office.