

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



JPIC Update August 2014

***Statement on Gaza by Bishop Declan Lang', Chair of the Bishops' International Affairs Department, .***

It is with a sense of deep sorrow that I find myself condemning yet again in the strongest possible terms the spiralling violence that has gripped both Israel and Palestine. Indeed, my mounting concern witnesses the indiscriminate and relentless attacks by the Israeli military machine on the civilian population of Gaza. I condemn in equal measure the firing of rockets by militants from Gaza into populated civilian areas across Israel. Those increasing levels of violence have reached unsettling proportions following the tragic murder of teenagers in both Israel and Palestine.

Yet this recurrence of violence does not happen in a vacuum. It follows the collapse of the latest chapter of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians and the ever-receding prospects for the establishment of a two-state solution that would put an end to decades of enmity and lead to a just peace that ushers in sovereignty and security for the two peoples.

The answer to violence cannot be more violence. As Philip Gordon, White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region, stated in the recent Ha'aretz Conference for Peace, "the inability to resolve the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians inevitably means more tension, more resentment, more injustice, more insecurity, more tragedy, and more grief." Rather, it is at its core an end to occupation of Palestinian territories, to the building or expansion of settlements and to the blockade of Gaza where 1.7 million inhabitants live in a walled prison.

Today, I join my voice to that of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries in the Holy Land. In their Call for a Courageous Change of 8th July, the church leaders call for replacing hatred and revenge with a different language that accepts the neighbour as a fellow human being with equal rights and responsibilities.

Perhaps politicians should take a leaf from the families of those dead Israeli and Palestinian teenagers who have called for calm and reconciliation. Here, the Arab Peace Initiative remains one viable instrument that could ensure a future where Israel and the League of Arab States would recognise each other and live in peace. It is the instrument that would transform the lives of Palestinians from one of subjugation and pain to one of freedom and dignity so that the whole region could be transformed - as the Call for a Courageous Change also urges all parties - "from a Wilderness of darkness and death into a flourishing garden of life".

Faced with the inanity of political violence and the burden of human pain made manifest (e.g. on social media in #IsraelUnderFire versus #GazaUnderAttack), I prayerfully remind Israelis and Palestinians that 'blessed are the peacemakers': my prayers today go out to the men, women and children of Palestine and Israel.

***Ninety Minutes for Peace***

An "Interreligious Match for Peace" will be held on 1 September at 8.45 p.m., at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. The event will involve the participation of world level players and coaches such as Lionel Messi, Gianluigi Buffon, Zinedine Zidane, Javier Zanetti, Roberto Baggio, Andrea Pirlo, Yuto Nagatomo and Samuel Eto'o, and the proceeds will be donated to charity.

The idea for the match originates from April 2013, when the Pope met with the Argentine and Italian teams following a friendly match between them. On that occasion, the footballer Javier Zanetti communicated to the Pope his idea of organising a sporting event uniting people of different religions. A year later, the idea took shape. Tickets for the event will be available from Friday 25 July, and all the proceeds will be donated to "Scholas Occurrentes" and to the P.U.P.I. Foundation.

Scholas Occurrentes is an educational organisation, supported by Pope Francis through the Pontifical Council for Sciences, that uses technology, art and sport to promote social integration and the culture of encounter. The P.U.P.I. Foundation is a non-profit organisation created by Paula and Javier Zanetti over ten years ago, promotes and supports distance adoption programmes and assistance for children in difficult social conditions.

## **World War 1 Commemorations**

To mark the centenary of the First World War, and remember all those who lost their lives in this terrible conflict, the Bishops of England & Wales are encouraging the Catholic community to participate in local civic or ecumenical commemorations.

The six key dates identified for particular anniversary commemorations are:

- 4th August 1914 centenary of entry of the British Empire to the war.
- 25th April 1915 the Gallipoli campaign
- 31st May / 1st June 2016 the battle of Jutland
- 1st July 2016 the battle of the Somme
- 31st July 2017 start of the 3rd battle of Ypres (Passchendaele)
- 11th November 2018 Armistice Day

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## **Faith in Foodbanks?**

A series of resources to help Christians tackle questions surrounding the issues including Bible studies, worship resources and practical actions to make the connection between our lives, our worship and the work of our local foodbanks. Download at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/faithinfoodbanks](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/faithinfoodbanks)

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**Situation Vacant** - Housing Justice is looking for a new Shelter Project Coordinator to take forward their work with Night Shelters nationally. The role may be divided as a job share. For details and an application pack see <http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/pages/jobs-jobs-at-housing-justice-92.html>

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## **August 4<sup>th</sup> – Silent Vigil at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square**

12.00 - 14.00 with the message 'War no More-War Never Again' to mark the anniversary of start of first World War. There is also a call for silent vigils in city/town centres at this time across the country  
<http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/first-world-war-peace-plans/>

## **August 4<sup>th</sup> - Vigil Liturgy – The dying of the light**

10 to 11pm in Rochester Cathedral. Prayers and Reflections commemorating the outbreak of war. During the weekend there will be a 'countdown to 11pm – A 'peace and war' installation on the Pulpitum Platform in the cathedral nave with graffiti sprays of the alliances of nations and powers leading to war.

## **August 4<sup>th</sup> - No Glory - No More War evening event**

6.30pm, Parliament Square London. MPs, actors, historians, campaigners, war veterans and others will be speaking and reading from anti-war authors and activists in 1914-18. 020 7561 7484 for more information.

## **August 6<sup>th</sup> - Hiroshima Remembrance Service, Aylesford Priory**

For the past 29 years the Kent Justice & Peace Group have organised a commemoration service in the Choir Chapel at Aylesford Priory to mark the anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bombs in 1945. Starting at 8.20pm with a simple service of prayers and readings, followed by a short walk to the river where flower petals are strewn, and then return to The Priory for refreshments. All most welcome.

## **August 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> August, Annual Pax Christi stall/vigil for Hiroshima & Nagasaki**

Outside Westminster Cathedral. 6th August, 10.00 - 5.00pm with prayers at 11.30 and 3.00pm.  
9th August 10.00 - 1.30 pm with prayers at 11.30. To help please contact Pax Christi 020 8203 4884

## **August 9<sup>th</sup> - Franz Jägerstätter annual memorial service.**

6.00pm in the Sacred Heart Chapel of Ease, Horseferry Avenue, Victoria, London SW1P 2EF (walking distance from Westminster Cathedral). Followed by annual Nagasaki Day interfaith peace walk to Battersea Peace Pagoda.

## **September 7<sup>th</sup> - CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer**

For an end to the arms trade. Email [enquiries@caat.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@caat.org.uk) to order a pack.

## **September 11<sup>th</sup> - Housing Justice Social Housing Walk and Social**

6.00pm - 7.30pm. Meet at the Housing Justice office: 256 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3UJ, Come and explore the history of social and public housing in Southwark Contact [info@housingjustice.org.uk](mailto:info@housingjustice.org.uk) for details

## **October 18<sup>th</sup> - Our Autumn Assembly**

**10.30 to 4.00 in Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral**

**This year's Justice & Peace Assembly is being organised in conjunction with CAFOD and will mark the Southwark launch of their "One Climate, One World" campaign**