

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



JPIC Update Easter 2013

Reading the translation of Pope Francis' Homily at Inauguration of Petrine Ministry Mass I found it striking that he put such emphasis on the need to protect not only the poor and vulnerable but the whole Integrity of Creation.

To quote: ... "Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation! The vocation of being a "protector", however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about..... In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!

Whenever human beings fail to live up to this responsibility, whenever we fail to care for creation and for our brothers and sisters, the way is opened to destruction and hearts are hardened. Tragically, in every period of history there are "Herods" who plot death, wreak havoc, and mar the countenance of men and women. Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment"...

News from parishes - Holy Innocents, Orpington

On 16th March the J&P group invited Mgr. Malachy Keegan, the Catholic Bishops' Prisons Advisor to speak on the re-settlement of prisoners. Mgr. Malachy brought with him an ex-prisoner and two other guests who work for BaCC (Basic Caring Communities) a resettlement project pioneered by Pact, which is aimed at helping ex-offenders settle back into their local communities.

Following an introduction to the project from Mgr. Malachy the ex-prisoner gave a moving summary of his life, his crime (a serious one), his licence now and his future. The support he has received on his release has given him entry into a different lifestyle. A DVD showed details of BaCC's work, the teams of four volunteers helping each ex-prisoner and the praise and support for the difference it is making to the lives of those coming out from prison from Archbishop Nichols. Mgr. Malachy then answered a wide range of questions.

Comments collated from those who attended indicated that they had found the day enlightening and at least one person hopes to join a BaCC group. It was felt to be a truly impressive afternoon with such a good plan to help those at the end of their prison sentence to make a protected restart to their independence and a new life.

If you would like to know more about BaCC and the work of Pact please go to the "our services" page at www.prisonadvice.org.uk or phone 020 7735 9535.

News from your parish? We are always pleased to share information about events held or planned to put into our newsletters and maybe inspire others.

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.

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.

April 13th - Africa / Europe Faith and Justice Network UK

Jubilee Celebration celebrating 25 years of working for fair economic relations between Europe and Africa. 2pm to 6pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall.

A mixture of the information, discussion, reflection and celebration, culminating in a Sunday vigil Mass celebrated by Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, M.Afr. Bookings (essential) to: aefjnuk@btinternet.com
For details go to: <http://www.aefjn.be/index.php/aefjns-25-anniversary.html>

April 15th - Stories of Resistance

Hear personal testimony from visitors from Colombia, Mongolia, South Africa and the USA, representing communities and workers affected by the operations of Anglo American and Rio Tinto. Both companies have their Annual General Meetings later that week. Event will include films, conversation, networking opportunities and ideas for action. 6.30 to 9pm at Amnesty International UK's Human Rights Action Centre Auditorium, 17 New Inn Yard, EC2A 3EA

April 15th - Global Day of Action on Military Spending, morning event.

A photo-op/demonstration in front of Parliament gather in Old Palace Yard from 9.00am. Help swell numbers, give out leaflets, hear messages of support and take part in the theatre stunt. Contact Anne-Marie at <http://demilitarize.org.uk/contact> if you plan to be there. Pax Christi, NJPN and Columban J&P are among the supporters. Read more on the newly created website <http://demilitarize.org.uk/>

April 15th - Global Day of Action on Military Spending, evening event.

'What if military spending were cut?'

5pm-6.30pm, Committee Room 6 at the Houses of Parliament (Please arrive in good time to get through security). Chaired by Bruce Kent, with Caroline Lucas MP, Kate Hudson of CND, John Hilary of War on Want, and Anne-Marie O'Reilly of Campaign Against Arms Trade. There will be the launch of Pax Christi's new short film on the theme of the event. Come to this meeting to hear from inspiring speakers and discuss how we can work for military spending to be redirected to meet human needs.

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 6th (Bank Holiday Monday) Annual Migrants Mass
11am at Westminster Cathedral, all welcome to this vibrant event.

May 11th Joint Pax Christi and National J&P Network AGM.

Guest speaker Prof Tina Beattie.

10.30 for 10.45 at Holy Apostles Church Hall, Cumberland Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 4LY

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.