



Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Newsletter – Spring 2015



The election is coming!

With many in our communities disillusioned with our politicians and considering either making a protest vote on May 7th or just not voting at all we really need to take every opportunity we can to raise awareness of the issues and encourage people first to make sure they are registered to vote and then to vote!

The Catholic Bishops have produced a four page letter to Catholics in England and Wales which is signed by Cardinal Nichols and our own Archbishop Peter. This should be available in all parishes but if you cannot find it, and I understand that it was not put out in all parishes immediately it was launched, copies can be downloaded at <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Election-Letter2> or can be obtained from the office.

Our Bishops have emphasised several areas of concern, giving some background relevant to Catholic social teaching and thoughts for topics to raise with your candidates:

- Respecting life, where do our candidates stand on respect for the sanctity of life.
- What are our candidates commitment to support marriage and family life.
- Where do our candidates stand on helping the poorest and most vulnerable in our society
- How will they ensure the best education for the poorest and will they support faith-based education
- Where do they stand in protecting the values of solidarity and subsidiarity in the debates on Europe
- How would they work to assist the voluntary sector in tackling rising inequality and increasing loneliness
- Do they support the Living Wage and the dignity of human work
- Where do they stand on issues of asylum and immigration
- Will they support human rights and religious freedom here and across the world
- Will they protect our government's commitment to spending 0.7% GDP on overseas aid
- What are their views on tackling climate change and supporting sustainable development.

Please do get a copy and read it in full, it has not sparked the controversy that the 56 page pastoral letter from the Anglican Bishops caused (This expressed the hope for political parties to discern "a fresh moral vision of the kind of country we want to be" - and can be downloaded from www.churchofengland.org) but I understand that we can expect a further 8 papers from various Bishops regarding their particular areas of responsibility including one from our own Bishop Pat Lynch on migration - so there is yet time to cause a stir.

Hustings: To get the voters out and quiz our candidates on their thoughts many parishes group together to organise hustings, inviting all candidates to attend. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have set up a web site especially for the election <http://ctbielections.org.uk/> which has a section dedicated to finding, organising and registering hustings. Sadly the finding is incomplete so if yours is not registered please ask elsewhere.

2020 Vision of the Good Society is an excellent publication produced by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The '2020 Vision' is drawn from a common desire to see a society that works for all – in which each of us are valued and which respects the Earth. It focuses on five key areas – wealth and inequality, home, children and young people, livelihoods, and the environment and climate. The full document or a two page synopsis can be downloaded or ordered from <http://ctbielections.org.uk/>

CAFOD and CSAN have four questions for candidates and would like to hear the responses you receive:

Q1: What will you do to make work pay?

Q2: What will you do to guarantee access to a genuinely affordable home?

Q3: What will you do to speak out for the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world?

Q4: What will you do to make tackling climate change a priority and to prevent it pushing people deeper into poverty overseas?

Email election2015@csan.org.uk or T:020 7633 4971 to give responses received relating to Q1 & Q2.

Email election2015@cafod.org.uk or T:020 7095 5692 to give responses received relating to Q3 & Q4.

The Migrant Manifesto, which can be downloaded from the front page of our web site, lists six changes we need to bring fairness into immigration policy and calls for a different approach towards immigration after the election. It aims to contribute to an open and honest public discussion about migration and how the Government could do better. At the heart of the manifesto is the urgent need for politicians to make the immigration system fair and equal for all, to seek to get our leaders to promote a more generous vision of the support that people from different backgrounds can offer to one another and to be raise awareness that our society, if it is to prosper, must remain at ease with cultures and politics that move constantly beyond borders.

Sanctuary Campaign. Citizens UK are trying to at least double the number of refugees the UK has agreed to resettle (currently 750). There is a resettlement campaign asking local councils to take in 50 refugees. So far only two in our diocese have agreed. The Leader of Kingston Council is particularly enthusiastic and said he would write to other Councils in support of the resettlement campaign. If people know of empty properties in parishes where the UN refugees could be housed Citizens UK would like to know.

Bringing in your Spouse: At present you have to be earning £18,600 a year to bring your spouse into the UK, and then to bring your children into the UK you have to be earning even more. Citizens UK want the amount required to be set at the London Living Wage (with no more money required to bring children into the country).

Indefinite detention: Immigrants can be put into detention with no specific limit of time. **Criminals** when sentenced are given a specific sentence. **Immigrants**, most of whom are totally innocent, and have never committed a crime, can be detained indefinitely. Citizens UK want a time limit to be established. A recent cross party MPs inquiry has called for an end to indefinite detention calling it “expensive, inefficient and unjust” (sadly in that order but it was cross-party).

Amnesty UK calls for Government priorities to be to stop torture particularly rendition by the UK and to maintain the Human Rights Act. They call on their supporters to act directly by letter writing, visiting candidates and inviting them to meetings and then indirectly by attending hustings and other event, writing letters to press and signing relevant petitions from Avaaz, 38 Degrees and others.

A campaign to raise awareness in Parliament about the arms trade

The arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security. The UK plays an active role in the trade. In the first six months of 2014 alone, the UK granted arms export licences to 18 of the 28 states on its official blacklist; states about which the Foreign Office has significant human rights concerns (source: The Observer, 9th November 2014). This includes states with long histories of repression, intimidation and violence. The arms trade can be challenged because Governments have to listen to ordinary people. The trade can be stopped if enough people speak out.

A campaign is being organised by John Dowling from Newcastle Upon Tyne to try to get people to write to Government asking that the UK withdraw from its role in the global arms trade. If you are interested in being part of this, please write to him at the following e-mail address: jjthegeordie@outlook.com. John writes that “This should not place an onerous commitment on anyone. The idea is that two or three times a year, I will write a draft letter on issues around the arms trade and send it to those in the group. The people in the group will be asked to personalise it and then send it to the relevant Member of Parliament responsible for the arms trade. The letter will be concerned with the major issue of the day, usually one those brought to public attention by organisations such as Campaign Against the Arms Trade”.

Cycling Pilgrimage to Paris

For the 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate, Justice and Peace are uniting with groups of Christians and of different faiths and backgrounds who want to see an international agreement on the reduction of carbon emissions at the UN Paris Climate talks in December 2015.

To highlight the huge importance of these talks Westminster J&P are planning to cycle to Paris to take part in rallies of support for climate justice and to meet other people of faith who want to see a change in our profligate use of fossil fuel. Phase 1 London - Newhaven we be from Aug 29 – 31st 2015. Phase 2 Dieppe – Paris will be from December 1st - 6th 2015. There will be a Lobby of Governments for a binding agreement on carbon reduction - December 6th & 7th.

To get take part or help out email office@southwarkjandp.co.uk saying how you would like to be involved.

Congratulations to St Augustine's Tunbridge Wells who have become the second parish in the diocese to qualify for the LiveSimply parish award, a national prize for Catholic parishes putting their faith into action. For any parish members looking to strengthen the bonds of their community and nourish the spiritual life of their parish the LiveSimply award gives an excellent structure to follow. Go to: <http://livesimplyaward.org.uk/> or ask the office to send you more information.



37th Annual Justice & Peace Conference
"The Things That Make for Peace"
Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick
17 - 19 July 2015

This year's theme is 'The Things That Make For Peace' and the speakers include Professor Paul Rogers, School of Social and International studies, University of Bradford and Fr Edu Gariguez who is a religious leader and environmentalist. The conference chair is Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi. There will also be theological reflections from Rev Dr Martin Poulson, SDB, a lecturer at Heythrop College.

There will be a creche for children under 5s, and a Y-Kids programme for 5-11 year olds and 12-16/18 year olds will also be catered for by activities led by the InReality Youth Team from Hallam diocese.

As ever this should be a thought provoking and exciting weekend for individuals and families: to book your place(s) please contact admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NB: Agencies will be displaying goods and resources at the 'Just Fair' marketplace throughout the weekend. This would be an excellent opportunity for any organisation to sell publications, display materials, and promote campaigns to a sympathetic audience. Fees for a stall are £25 or £10 for small organisations.

Who Made Your Pants? So - who did make your pants, the ones you're wearing right now? Where were they made? How far have they travelled? Have they been to more countries than you? Have you ever thought about it? Most of us don't but once you start asking questions, it's hard to stop.

Now there is an alternative, Who Made Your Pants is a campaigning lingerie brand based in Southampton, UK. A workers co-operative, they employ women who are primarily refugees, many from Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan. They may have been educated or worked, they may not, so their needs are all different and training and support varies in relation to need. The co-operative buys fabrics that have been sold on by big underwear companies at the end of season, stop them ending up as waste and turn them into gorgeous new pants that have a great start in life.

Their web site is www.whomadeyourpants.co.uk or phone 023 8022 5536. As well as a wide range of products, only ladies pants at present, Gift Vouchers are also available.

Action by Christians Against Torture Easter

ACAT-UK is seeking our help to send Easter cards specifically to victims of torture, persecuted Christians, Human Rights groups and individuals under threat. There is a full list and more information at <http://www.acatuk.org.uk/EastercardList2015.pdf> or a link from the front page of our web site. Lists also available on request from the office

Victims of torture, human rights groups and individuals under threat and persecuted Christians need our support and our prayers. This Easter we can all take the opportunity to let them know that they are not forgotten. A card can mean so much to them. Eskinder Nega, a prominent Ethiopian journalist serving an 18 year sentence has said that his greatest fear is to be forgotten, not his appalling prison conditions.

Please put a little light into a prisoner's life. It is quite safe to add one's address and does give prisoners a slightly greater link to the sender, which will be important to them. It is unknown for there to be any comeback to the sender from an oppressive government. Cards tell the authorities that prisoners are not forgotten and can result in improved prison conditions, in a new investigation leading to a retrial and, on occasions, even to freedom.

May 4th (Bank Holiday Monday) - Mass in honour of St Joseph the Worker

In St George's Cathedral with principal celebrant Archbishop Peter Smith. Come and join workers, migrants and civic leaders in a joyous morning of reflection and celebration in support of all Migrant Workers. Please arrive by 10.30. There will be a buffet lunch afterwards sponsored by The Tablet as part of their 175th anniversary celebrations.



Singers Final Rehearsal: Friday 24th April, 7-9pm in Amigo Hall at Southwark Cathedral. A gathering of all the singers who have prepared music for the Mass at any of the workshops. This is the final rehearsal, so it's essential for everyone to come along (with the music handout you received at the workshop) to find out final details about the music, meet singers from the other Dioceses, and enjoy another run-through of the music from all around the world we'll be singing together on 4th May. Please contact the office to let us know you're coming so we have a good idea of numbers. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Our 2015 Spring Assembly
Saturday April 25th from 10.30 to 4.00
in the New Barn, Aylesford Priory

“From prayer to action and back again - learning and doing together”

A day to meet others, for discussion and discernment of how to work together
in the run up to the General Election and beyond.

Group Facilitators will include Susan Kambalu (CAFOD), Louise Zanre (JRS),
Barbara Wilson (London Citizens), James Truby (Columbans) and Daniel Hale

March 21st - Romero Week Ecumenical Romero Service

"Romero's Martyrdom - a faith that does justice" to celebrate the 35th anniversary of his martyrdom.
11am at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square. Cardinal Vincent Nichols will preach. Details of other
events at www.romerotrue.org.uk

March 21st - The Churches' Refugee Network Annual Conference

"Providing Sanctuary in an Age of Austerity - A Christian Response" 11.00 to 3.30 at Islington Centre for
Refugees & Migrants, 16-18 Cross St, N1 2BG

March 21st - Music Workshop for the St Joseph the Worker mass.

1-5pm at St George's, Walthamstow, 132 Shernhall Road, E17 9HU. Contact Davina Bolt
Davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org.uk to book a place.

March 21st - John Lewis Living wage protest.

The Oxford Street customer protest group will be holding a protest outside John Lewis's flagship store at
2pm to support the cleaners' demand to be paid the living wage

March 27th -Stations of the Cross

An event organized by London Churches highlighting the human stories of refugees and migrants. Starting
3pm at Westminster Cathedral via St Martin in the Fields and Westminster Central Hall and finishing at 6pm
in Westminster Abbey. You can join at any point <http://www.londonchurches.org.uk/4.html>

April 24th – Celebrate UN Earth Day

6pm to 8pm at Old Harbour Station, 1 Elizabeth Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9FE. Deal UNA and Canterbury
UNA joint meeting to discuss what reforms will be needed to the United Nations to achieve the Green
Economy objective from the 'The Future We Want' document agreed at Rio in 2012. Speakers: Stephen
Hockman QC and Dr Frank Biermann. For more information contact Ms Emily Shirley 07753 779074

May 12th Embrace the Middle East Annual Lecture

To be given by Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dr Rowan Williams 6.30 to 8.00 at St James's Church, Piccadilly. The talk
is entitled 'Warrior archaeologists: making and remaking history in the Middle East (how archaeology can be
used to make political points in an overheated political atmosphere). Tickets are free but must be booked in
advance: www.embrace.org/events

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Please send to: The Coordinator, Southwark J & P Office, Cathedral House, Westminster Bridge Rd, London, SE1 7HY
Phone/Fax: 020 7928 9742 Email: office@southwarkjandp.co.uk