



Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Newsletter - Spring 2014



***Where is your brother? (Gen 4:9) Is this a question of Justice?
By Fr Arbogast Lekule, Chair of our Commission.***

After Sunday Mass I stand outside the church and the children tend to come running and shake my hand. After shaking hands, I often purposefully turn to another child who might be closer and ask, and how is your brother? or if she is a girl how is your sister? The response is always a very vigorous denunciation: "No. He is not my brother!" or "No. She is not my sister!" I then take time to explain that he or she is now your brother or sister here in the church. If I am lucky I get a reluctant acknowledgement and shaking of hands. I believe that this is a general illustration of the attitudes of the society in which we live.



People are very busy working hard to materially improve themselves and their loved ones. There is less and less time to spend with others, especially those who may not be part of our family or our cycles of association. As a result we become less and less aware of our individualism and insensitivity to the needs of the creation around us. It is from this perspective that the subject of economic, social and cultural justice arises. This is in itself an integral part of our calling as followers of Christ. I believe there are many committed Christians who may agree with my initial analysis of individualism, until I mention the word "justice". It is a question of justice because the scripture calls us to be our brother's keeper and to be aware that God calls us not only as individual, but as a community called to care for the world we live in.

No one can put this message better than Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*. He speaks of the inseparable bond between our salvation and "genuine fraternal love". That if we do not connect the two and live them out to the full, we may end up losing "our amazement, our excitement and our zeal for living the Gospel of fraternity and justice! God's word teaches that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us". Although the Church does not have a monopoly on the interpretations and solutions of world's social-economic realities, Pope Francis' stands on solidarity with the poor, will stand the test of time.

There is an urgent calling from the Pope, not only to resolve the structural causes of poverty and inequality within nations and among nations, but a change of convictions and attitudes. Sadly, credible structure alone can become oppressive and ineffective and may even end up being "used as a justification for an inordinate defence of individual rights" at the expense of the common good. That is why it is so important to link the issue of justice for the poor with the fact that God is on the side of the poor. Jesus was born, raised, preached and died among the poor. He is the means and the end of our mission to proclaim the Gospel of Justice and Peace. "I was hungry and you gave me food..." Matthew 25:35.

How many times do we fail to acknowledge the one next to us as our brother or sister? Or fail to act in solidarity with the polluted and destroyed creation around us?

An opportunity to save with an ethical bank and help CAFOD

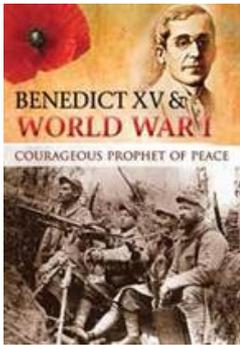
CAFOD has partnered with Triodos Bank so that their supporters can help the world's poorest people as they bank, safe in the knowledge that the money is being responsibly invested where it is most needed.



Triodos is one of Britain's leading ethical financial institutions and for every new savings account opened through the web site link www.triodos.co.uk/CAFOD, Triodos will donate £40 to CAFOD once the balance of the savings in the account reaches at least £100.

Legal advice workshops to help migrant communities

The New Citizens Legal Service (NCLS) was created when six Citizens UK member institutions, 5 churches and the University of East London, approached Citizens with stories of how the migrants in their communities were suffering. They heard awful stories about the impact of the cuts to Legal Aid and 'cowboy lawyers', who charged exorbitant fees and provided bad advice. NCLS now runs workshops and assists people to access reliable, affordable immigration advice through their partnership with law firm Westkin Associates, at a 40% discount. In 8 months, they have had 14 workshops with over 350 people in attendance. These workshops include: 15 minutes of free one to one immigration advice; listening to identify common experiences in the immigration system; and training on good and bad advice, your rights in a stop and search situation and how to make a complaint if your immigration adviser has given you bad advice. If your parish or community is interested in running such a workshop, please contact Daniel Mackintosh Daniel.mackintosh@citizensuk.org.uk



Benedict XV & World War I Courageous Prophet of Peace

Fr Ashley Beck, who is based at Beckenham parish, has produced this 80 page booklet which is available at a cost of £2.50 from Catholic Truth Society, 42-46 Harleyford Road, SE11 5AY, phone 020 7640 0042. www.ctsbooks.org

Giacomo della Chiesa was elected Pope Benedict XV in September 1914, only weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. The booklet examines how he and so many others worked courageously to stop the carnage and extensively details the peace negotiations and efforts made by the Church at a high level.

New Catholic Internet Radio Station

Based at St John's Seminary Wonash Heaven's Radio FM was launched in November 2013. As well as a wide range of programmes and a listen again service the internet radio station is now showing live broadcasts of Daily Mass.



Each week over 230 services will be broadcast for the housebound and those unable to attend Mass from over 16 different parishes here and in Ireland. Not only can you hear the Mass but you can watch it too as there are live video links. The site is at <http://www.heavensroadfm.com/>

The Holy Father has said "The internet offers immense possibilities ... this is something truly good - a gift from God". Gerry Coates and his team at Heaven's Radio FM offer him their humble efforts to evangelise our faith.

The group are also heavily involved in promoting the artistic development of Catholic Musicians, Poets, Songwriters, Artists, Writers, Playwrights and Film Makers. If you would like to learn more, become involved or would like to volunteer to assist please call Gerry Coates 07906 073376 or Jillie on 07802 211767

Helping the local church serve those people most in need in their community.



The Cinnamon network helps local churches to get projects started by understanding the needs of the community, their resources and how best to match the two to help them work together to deliver more community projects. They offer a menu of over 25 recognised best practice church based

community projects and can provide micro-grants from £1500 to £2000 to help start a Cinnamon Network recognised project. There is more information at www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk

Bruce Kent's - Scrap Trident Tour

As Vice President of Pax Christi and of CND Bruce Kent will be undertaking another *Scrap Trident* tour this coming April. His theme is simple - to spend something like £100 billion on replacing our 4 trident submarines is an immoral use of resources which should be used for real human needs. In 2006 the Catholic Bishops' Conference called on the UK Government to set an example by decommissioning all UK nuclear weapons and so the plans for their replacement goes completely against our Bishops' call.

If you feel that you parish or community could arrange an opportunity for Pax Christi and Bruce Kent to come and discuss the situation of Trident replacement please contact Pax Christi on 020 8203 4884.

It was most encouraging to read of Cardinal Vincent Nichols speaking out against the Government's austerity measures. In an article published in The Daily Telegraph he said that while the need to reduce spending on benefits is widely accepted, the Government's reforms have now destroyed even the "basic safety net". The welfare system, he said, had become increasingly "punitive", often leaving people with nothing for days on end if they fail even to fill a form in correctly. It was, he said, "a disgrace" that this was possible in a country as rich as Britain.

In a letter in The Daily Mirror forty-three Christian leaders challenged David Cameron's claim that his reforms are part of a "moral mission." "We often hear talk of hard choices. Surely few can be harder than that faced by the tens of thousands of older people who must 'heat or eat' each winter, harder than those faced by families whose wages have stayed flat while food prices have gone up 30% in just five years".

Meanwhile a poll released in January by the Energy Bill Revolution, the world's largest fuel poverty campaign, shows that about one in five (19%) of Britons have switched off the heating this winter to save money, despite being cold at home. And almost half of people (48%) said they have cut back on other spending in order to pay to heat their homes, with sacrifices including school equipment and clothing, or food for the family.

Is there anything we can do? Come to our Spring Assembly on 17th May to find out - the topic is "Solidarity with the Poor" and we have some excellent speakers. Full details are on the back page

Our web site www.southwarkjandp.co.uk

Please check out our web site and let us have your suggestions for improvements.

The front page at present has a link to Bill Nighy's Robin Hood tax film which is well worth watching. There are also Lenten Daily Actions and Reflections and Justice & Peace Stations of the Cross together with a link to a paper from the Bishops' Conference - "Sense and Nonsense on Assisted Dying" which the Department of Christian Responsibility and Citizenship, which is led by Archbishop Peter, have issued.

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May - Our annual Mass for Migrants

Everyone is most welcome to join us in Westminster Cathedral for this vibrant celebration of the wonderful cosmopolitan communities in our churches today. There will be a banner procession at 10.30 followed by mass at 11.00 in honour of St Joseph the Worker with Bishop Pat Lynch as the main celebrant.

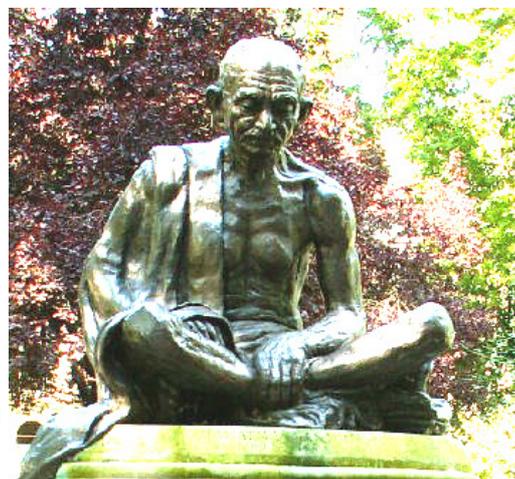
Saturday 28th June—Walk for Peace and Commemorate Peace making between 1914—2014

The Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, together with Pax Christi invite you to join us in a walk for peace. Everyone is welcome, especially families and children.

The route begins at the Gandhi statue in Tavistock Square at 10am. There will be opportunities to join at other points along the way, with a stop for picnic lunch in the garden behind Lambeth Palace, and the walk will end with a short prayer service at 3.00pm in the Tibetan Peace Garden opposite St George's Cathedral.

For more information and to let us know you are coming please contact office@southwarkjandp.co.uk or phone 0207 928 9742 and leave a message.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND COME AND WALK WITH US



July 18th to 20th National Justice & Peace Network 36th Annual Conference - Called to Life in All Its Fullness

Organised by NJPN Executive Committee with Christians Aware and Vincentians in Partnership. A conference to empower lay people to accept the responsibility of their baptism, provide an opportunity to bring our life experiences and relate them to our baptismal call, be a celebration of life and a renewal of vision. Speakers Sarah Teather MP; Mary Colwell; Gemma Simmonds CJ; Clare Dixon; Chair: Rev Ruth Gee.

A family friendly event with special programmes for children and for young people held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Booking forms now available from Southwark JPIC office or from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. Tel 020 7901 4864

"Solidarity with the Poor" Our 2014 Spring Assembly

Speakers:

Alison Gelder from Housing Justice - "Why Welfare Reform matters to Christians"
Rev. Paul Nicolson from Taxpayers Alliance against Poverty- "Benefits, Debt and Ill Health"
Jackie McLoughlin from National Board of Catholic Women - "Lobbying your MP"

Saturday May 17th 10.30am to 4.00pm
at Holy Innocents Primary School
Mitchell Road, Orpington BR6 9JT

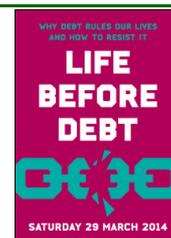
No charge to attend

Tea & Coffee provided

Bring Lunch

March 29th - Jubilee Debt Campaign: Life Before Debt Conference

Six years on from the crash, the ranks of those imprisoned by debt are swelling in the UK and across the world. Join Rowan Williams, Ann Pettifor, David Graeber and debt campaigners from around the world to discuss why debt rules our lives and how to resist it. 10am–6.30pm at School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG



March 29th - A New Momentum For Peace: No Syria Intervention - What Next?

A team of distinguished speakers will explore how UK should develop a new ethical foreign policy based on 'soft power' and UN institutions, following the historic Parliamentary vote rejecting military action against Syria. 12 noon - 4:30pm (AGM from 10:30am - 11:45am) at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU
Registration: vijay@vmpeace.org Free public meeting - all welcome. For more information phone: 0207 790 1999 Email: vijay@vmpeace.org or visit www.unitingforpeace.com

March 29th - Earth Hour 8.30pm - Uniting People to Protect Our Planet

In the UK alone we consume three times our fair share of the planet's resources. The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Earth Hour is the single, largest, symbolic mass participation event in the world inspiring a global community of millions of people in 7,001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories to switch lights off for an hour as a show of concern for the environment. It invites us to think of positive ways to reduce our carbon footprint. <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/about-wwfs-earth-hour>

April 14th - Global day of Action on Military Spending

CAAT, Pax Christi, War on Want, CND and others are joining together to protest against our Government's prioritization of military spending over public services and welfare. Our military spending is a massive £39 billion each year, the fourth highest in the world. The replacement of Trident nuclear weapons is expected to cost £80 billion over the next 40 years but vital public services like the NHS, social housing, sickness benefits, mental health and youth services are being cut. Should we not redirect the huge subsidy currently paid to the arms industry towards renewable energy and energy saving measures?
<http://demilitarize.org.uk/call-to-action/>

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, receive the newsletter by email, get notice of actions or forthcoming events via email, or are able to send a donation, please use the form below:

Name:..... I would like to receive future newsletters by:
Address:..... Post: E-mail: Both:
.....Postcode: Please put me the e-mail list to receive regular updates on Justice & Peace issues:
Email:.....
I enclose a donation of £ towards costs (PAYABLE TO SOUTHWARK JUSTICE & PEACE OFFICE)

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