

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



JPIC Update - September 2016

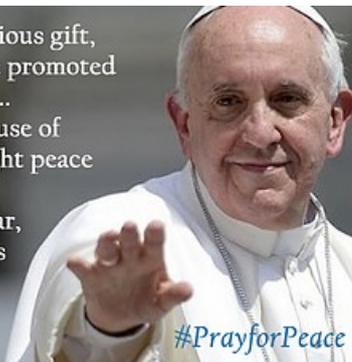
A Call to Mercy — Hearts to Love and Hands to Serve

Peace is a precious gift,
which must be promoted
and protected...

Never has the use of
violence brought peace
in its wake.

War begets war,
violence begets
violence.

Pope Francis
Reflecting on Syria, 9/1/13



In September 2015 the UK government committed to resettle 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees. A sponsorship scheme was set up to enable local authorities and various faith and community groups to commit to providing support and assistance to refugee families. To date 9 London councils have taken up the Refugee Sponsorship Scheme. If you think your community could do the same find out more at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/community-sponsorship-scheme-launched-for-refugees-in-the-uk>

Ironically just a week after World Humanitarian Day on which world leaders met to decide how to respond to the refugee crisis. French authorities began demolishing the refugee camp sites resulting in the destruction and devastation of their insignificant makeshift homes. For their part, the British government has started work on building a 4m high wall, costing almost £2 million, along the motorway boundary and around the Calais jungle. This will not remove the humanitarian crisis, but compound it even further as the numbers arriving at the camps increase daily and the brutal war on Aleppo drags on. [www.change.org/stop demolition of Calais jungle](http://www.change.org/stop-demolition-of-Calais-jungle) also see <http://www.msf.org> or <https://thesyriacampaign.org>

Lord Alfred Dubs originally a child refugee rescued from the unimaginable terror of the Nazis in 1938 was brought to safety in the UK, eventually being reunited with his father. Under the Dubs Amendment to The Immigration Act, over three hundred unaccompanied refugee children, currently stuck in the 'hell on earth' on the French border are entitled to do the same, some have families already in the UK. However, the government is dragging it's feet. Please sign the petition at avaaz.org to get Prime Minister Teresa May to act. More information is available in the children's section at www.refugeecouncil.org.uk.

Homes for Families Citizens UK are looking for homes for resettled refugees and are asking landlords to register if they have an empty property and are prepared to offer Syrian refugee families suitably sized rental accommodation. Go to http://www.citizensuk.org/help_find_homes_for_syrian_refugees

Lambeth Council agreed to resettle 20 families as well as unaccompanied children. Five Syrian families have arrived already. Corpus Christi parish in Brixton are co-ordinating community groups to organise what the refugees need, helping to build key relationships, providing language support, counselling and therapies. Members of the parish have been to Calais and seen for themselves the desperate situation people are living in. What can we do where we are stand? Join our Autumn Assembly to find out more and meet our new JPIC Co-ordinator, Marie Bullard.

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF MERCY

A mass to celebrate the feast of Stella Maris, Our Lady of the Sea took place at St George's Cathedral on the 20th September concelebrated by Archbishop Peter Smith. He asked for prayers for the efforts of all seafarers under very harsh and treacherous conditions and to give thanks for their contribution to global trade. 90% of world trade is transported by ship, and more than 100,000 ships-visit British ports each year. The life of a modern seafarer can be dangerous and lonely. They may spend up to a year at a time away from home, separated from their family and loved ones. Apostleship of Sea chaplains and ship visitors welcome seafarers to our shores - regardless of their colour, race or creed and provide them with pastoral and practical assistance. They recognise them as brothers with an intrinsic human dignity which can be overlooked in the modern globalised maritime industry. For more information contact John Green, Director of Development on 020 7901 1931 or email johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY 2016

Saturday 5th November

**10am to 4pm (10am Registration & Refreshments for a 10.30am start)
at 'The Pavillion', CAFOD, Romero House,
55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB**

ENTITLED: THE REFUGEE CRISIS: PRACTICAL ACTIONS
Organised together with CAFOD and CSAN

Guest Speakers: Dr Phil McCarthy of Director of CSAN
Workshops by T. Doherty of Housing Justice &
J. McLoughlin on behalf of The Refugee & Migrant Network on
welcoming & hosting destitute migrants, asylum seekers & refugees.

Meet Marie Bullard, new JPIC Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Southwark

For more information or to book a place please
email: office@southwarkjandp.co.uk or phone 020 7928 9742

Please keep a look out for buildings that have been empty on a long term basis in your local area, if you think they could be converted into suitable housing accommodation email the name, address to the JPIC Co-ordinator at office@southwarkjandp.co.uk or email Seeking Sanctuary at migrantsupport@aol.com

Progressio set to close but still campaigning

After over 75 years in existence Progressio is set to close at the end of March 2017 due to a cut in funding by the Department for International Development, Progressio will continue to support the projects they are currently working on until their date of closure. Chairperson Martin McEnery sent messages of thanks to people for their support and dedication enabling them to carry out their extensive work in Latin America, the Caribbean, Middle East, Asia and Africa. For further details go to supporters@progressio.org.uk

CAFOD Retreat – Proclaiming the Mercy of God, Saturday 12 November 10am to 4pm

At Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Westminster, London SE1 7HY. Please bring food to share for lunch. Similar retreat events are taking place throughout England and Wales please contact your local CAFOD Office for details.

Justice & Peace Deanery Meeting, St Aidans, Coulsdon—Saturday 15th October 10am to 12 noon.

A Deanery meeting for Justice and Peace Groups takes place at St Aidan's Church Hall. The new Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Co-ordinator for the Archdiocese of Southwark will be joining the meeting to talk about her work and the aims of the Commission. We hope to meet others involved in educating and increasing awareness of Christian and Catholic Social Teaching, as well as exploring issues on which we can all work together. If any parishes wish to set up a Justice and Peace Group please do come along. Tea, coffee & biscuits available at 10am for 10.30am start. Contact Jim Jones on 07743 916471 or Chris Sciberras on 8654 6150 for more information.

National Justice & Peace Network Open Networking Day 19th November 10.30am to 4pm

At CAFOD, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. Speaker to be confirmed.

Hosting Schemes for Refugees and other homeless groups - Praxis Community Projects, Monday 10th October, 6pm to 8pm. At Pott Street, London E2 0EF (nearest station Bethnal Green). Tel no. 020 7729 7985 or email admin@praxis.org.uk for more information.

The Connection Tuesday 15th November 6pm to 8pm St Martin-In-The Field, 12 Adelaide Street, London WC2 4HW

Volunteers needed to help at the Autumn Assembly on the 5th November either on the welcome desk or with refreshments please do get in contact using the details below.

If you are planning a Deanery Justice and Peace event for the coming months and would like it mentioned in our monthly Update please email me the details at the address below.