



Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Newsletter - Winter 2014



Pope Francis Theme for the 48th World Day of Peace - 1st January 2015

"Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters" will be the title of the Message for the 48th World Day of Peace, the second of the papacy of Pope Francis.

Many people think that slavery is a thing of the past. In fact, this social plague remains all too real in today's world. Last year's Message for 1st January 2014 was dedicated to brotherhood: "Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace". Being children of God gives all human beings equal dignity as brothers and sisters. Slavery deals a murderous blow to this fundamental fraternity, and so to peace as well. Peace can only exist when each human being recognizes every other person as a brother or sister with the same dignity.

Too many abominable forms of slavery persist in today's world: human trafficking, trade in migrants and prostitutes, exploitation, slave labour, and the enslavement of women and children. Shamefully, individuals and groups around the world profit from this slavery. They take advantage of the world's many conflicts, of the economic crisis and of corruption in order to carry out their evil. Slavery is a terrible open wound on the contemporary social body, a fatal running sore on the flesh of Christ!

To counter slavery effectively, the inviolable dignity of every person must be recognized above all. Moreover this acceptance of dignity must be anchored solidly in fraternity. Fraternity requires us to reject any inequality which would allow one person to enslave another. It demands instead that we act everywhere with proximity and generosity, thus leading to liberation and inclusion for everyone.

Our purpose is to build a civilization based on the equal dignity of every person without discrimination. To achieve this will also require the commitment of the media, of education and of culture to a renewed society pledged to freedom, justice and therefore peace.

The World Day of Peace, initiated by Pope Paul VI, is celebrated each year on the first day of January. The Holy Father's Message is sent to all the world's Foreign Ministers and also indicates the Holy See's diplomatic line during the coming year.

Educational resources on December 1914 Christmas truces

As the UK commences four years of commemorations of the centenary of World War 1, the Martin Luther King Peace Committee, based at Newcastle University, has released a set of resources to help church leaders and school teachers and mark the December 1914 Christmas Truces. The resources are intended to be used in the weeks before Christmases from 2014 until 2017.

The December 1914 Christmas Truces, when British, French and German soldiers stopped fighting to celebrate Christmas, exchange gifts, sing carols, and even play football, are one of the most extraordinary episodes in modern military history. These were not isolated incidents. Following weeks of spasmodic fraternisation by men unconvinced by war propaganda, the Christmas Truces occurred right down the front from the North Sea to Switzerland. These spontaneous acts of festive goodwill directly contradicted orders from high command and offered an evocative and hopeful – albeit brief - recognition of shared humanity.

To those defending the First World War as somehow necessary or even heroic, the truces can also teach an important message that may otherwise be overlooked in the centennial commemorations. The parish resource is to help church leaders negotiate these debates by using the commemorations to tell a specifically Christian story.

The schools pack contains lesson plans, hand-outs, worksheets and PowerPoint slideshows for a range of subjects including history, English/literacy, geography, modern languages, RE/PSE, art, PE and even cookery. It also contains complete outlines and materials for Christmas Truces-themed assemblies and school carol services. Co-designed with teachers, they are aimed primarily at Key Stage 2 and 3, but can be adapted for younger children and older students. They may also be of use to parents and grand-parents

The resources can be downloaded for free at www.mlkpc.org or copies obtained from our office.

Report from Phil Kerton on the “Rethink Trident” - House of Commons launch - 10th September

Rethink Trident is coalition of organisations and individuals formed to build a broad, unified, civil society opposition to Trident replacement. NJPN is among its supporters. The project brings together the Churches, Trades Unions and peace organisations with a common purpose: to call for the cancellation of Trident. Participants at the launch included members of Pax Christi, CND, War on Want, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, CAAT and NJPN. Many other groups and individuals are supporting the initiative. The event was chaired by Caroline Lucas MP.

In her introduction Caroline Lucas said that one basic presumption is that our governments should participate in global efforts to cut weapons and direct the saving of £100bn towards other causes (see CND report of March 2014 “People not Trident: The Economic case against Trident Replacement). In 2006, 73% of people were against replacement of Trident, and there was the largest back-bench rebellion against the government for over 40 years. 2016 is the new key year in which decisions will be taken.

Kate Hudson of CND was the first speaker. She pointed out that the aim of the “Rethink” initiative is to broaden and deepen civil society initiatives on Trident and coordinate the organisations that share this view. The majority of the public are against renewal and there are some changes of opinion among influencers (e.g., retired senior officers). The launch of Rethink is taking place to galvanise support via many channels and at many levels. The 2010 Security Review by the coalition government indicated that massive weapon systems do not help combat 21st century menaces. Nevertheless the “status badge” of being a nuclear power still weighs heavily (as seen in Tony Blair's autobiography) and must be challenged. The immediate goal is to raise the issue in the run-up to the 2015 General Election and then follow through in 2016.

John Hilary of War on Want spoke next. Aid agencies are concerned that the arms race has diverted money from the development budget for over 60 years, and nuclear weapons are the largest element in that expenditure. The Peoples' Assembly Against Austerity has parallel concerns. But, the economic case pales into insignificance compared to the moral imperative. The underlying reason is that NATO is trying to hang on to its influence against Russia and the emerging nations, trying to halt a massive shift in the balance of power, despite the fact that Europe is on the decline, with an ageing population reliant upon imports – a very different situation to that of the previous 40 years. Contrary to this, we actually need to create a post-industrial and ecological society! It is evident that other nations try to copy us and get their hands on technology for weapons of mass destruction, but politicians seem to be blind and deaf to this trend.

Various matters were raised during discussion,. It was suggested that there is legal opinion that the UK is breaching the terms of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. A formal national referendum would be costly and difficult to manage but an alternative idea would be to organise “peoples' ballots” here and there around the country, and use these events to engage with the public. NGOs and others can press for a better international law to be created, clearer and less equivocal than the NPT obligations which are being evaded in spirit, if not in letter.

It was asked why our three major political parties are thinking out of line with their counterparts in almost every other nation? Our politicians seem to be under the illusion that weapons are essential if the UK is to be taken seriously – whereas, in fact, our stance provokes laughter.

Campaigners should engage with all Faiths about military issues and in this decade, we also need campaigns in social media – and soon. It will be best to agree a limited and realistic objective, such as demanding an independent review of the desirability of Trident replacement, for example, demanding a report on the alternative uses of £100bn public expenditure.

Pax Christi - one of the initiating organisations of Rethink Trident - has produced a leaflet on The Catholic Church and Nuclear Weapons, setting out current church teaching on the morality and legality of nuclear weapons. See:

http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2Catholic-Church_Nuclear-Weapons2014.pdf

Six of our bishops have endorsed the Rethink Trident statement. People and groups can sign up to the project here: <http://act.rethinktrident.org.uk/petition/1>

On 24th January there is a major demonstration “Wrap up Trident” scheduled at 1pm in Westminster. An eye catching mass action linking the Ministry of Defence and Parliament buildings with a long piece of scarf knitted by thousands of people. This will be followed by a rally in Parliament Square.

Further information about this and other events from Rethink: info@rethinktrident.org.uk or via one of the initiating organisations such as Pax Christi.

The Living Wage Nov 2014 achievements - Rosa Shea



There have been some significant recent achievements by the Living Wage campaign. Over 1000 leading employers have now been persuaded to pay the Living Wage and 18 of the UK's FTSE 100 companies are now paying the Living Wage. Much of this has been achieved by www.livingwage.org.uk working with www.shareaction.org.uk and www.citizens.org.uk and their supporters.

There has also been an increase in the Living Wage to £7.85ph outside London and £9.15ph in London.

In September the Church of England, largely in response to CAP (Church Action on Poverty), agreed to pay the Living Wage in all their 4,700 schools to all cleaners, caretakers, dinner ladies and classroom assistants. See www.church-poverty.org.uk

It is good to celebrate but what do we need to do next ?

- ◆ Follow up our appeals to John Lewis to get them to pay contracted out workers such as cleaners the Living Wage. They do pay it to their own staff.
- ◆ Persuade Tesco, the largest public sector employer in the UK to pay (play) fair and pay the Living Wage by contacting the CEO dave.lewis@uk.tesco.com or writing to David Lewis, CEO, New Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, EN8 9SL..... And what about Primark, Sainsbury and Sports Direct ?
- ◆ Start the conversation with the Catholic Church about paying the Living Wage in all our schools.
- ◆ Plan to discuss with the parliamentary candidates before the General Election the issue of establishing the Living Wage in law.

J&P Resources: Many thanks to Anne O'Connor who has updated her excellent "Introduction to Justice and Peace for Young People" resource pack. This can be downloaded from the Resources section of our web site or copies mailed on request. There are a wide range of resource materials on our web site covering many aspect of Justice & Peace.

Christmas Greeting Card Campaigns: Cards and messages of support can bring hope to those suffering torture or imprisonment because of their faith or the work for human rights and will let those holding them know that their plight is known throughout the world. A list giving the stories and addresses of those being held is now available from Christians Against Torture at www.acatuk.org.uk or from the office on request.

Thoughts for your Christmas present wish list?

Keynote speaker at the Westminster J&P Study day was John Hills, Professor of Social Policy and Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics. He spoke on the welfare myth of 'them' and 'us', emphasising that the welfare state is something that benefits us all.



His Ground-breaking new book "Good Times, Bad Times" uses extensive research and survey evidence to challenge the myth that the population divides into those who benefit from the welfare state and those who pay into it. It shows that all of us rely on the welfare state throughout our lifetimes, not just a small "welfare-dependent" minority. It is available for £12.99 from all good bookshops or online from www.policypress.co.uk.

An interesting book "review", by the author (!), was in The Guardian. Discontent and its Civilisations: Dispatches from Lahore, New York and London is written by Mohsin Hamid who was born in Pakistan, educated in the USA and has made a home in the UK. To quote from the article "The narrative in the British press is sadly predictable: when a Briton goes abroad he or she is a hero; when someone else tries to come to Britain, he or she is a villain". The book is published by Hamish Hamilton at £16.99. The "review" can be found on The Guardian web site by searching for Moshin Hamid or printed copies sent from the office.

Some Festivals of other faiths in December.

8th December - The Buddhist festival of Bodhi Day - some Buddhists (e.g. Pure Land Followers) celebrate Gautama's attainment of Enlightenment under the Bohdo tree in Bodh Gaya, North India on this day .

16th -23rd December - Chanukkah. The Jewish Festival of Light celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was recaptured by the Maccabee brothers in 165 BC. For eight evenings candles are lit from right to left in a hanukkiyah, a nine branch menorah - one for each evening. Foods are cooked in oil to remember the miracle with oil that kept the Temple lights burning for so many years.

26th December - the anniversary of the death of Prophet Zarathushtra is remembered by the Zoroastrian community. Tradition records that he was assassinated at the age of 77.

December 8th Pax Christi Annual Advent Peace Service

St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Rd. Euston at 7.30.

Followed by Christmas Market and mulled wine. www.paxchristi.org.uk

December 11th - TTIP: Want to find out more about it?

Organised by Trade Justice Movement. 7.30pm at Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LS, near Aldgate East Underground Station. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), a giant trade deal between the EU and US, is currently being negotiated behind closed doors. It could affect every aspect of our daily life as well as impact people around the world. Want to find out more? Want to understand how it will affect people in the global south, the climate, access to food and jobs? Want to meet other people and organisations campaigning on TTIP? Come and join the debate at this free public event. Details are at www.tjm.org.uk

January 18th - Peace Sunday <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

January 31st - Arundel & Brighton Justice & Peace Assembly

Taking Action - in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, refugees and people on the move.

Speakers: Sara Teather MP, Rev Fr Terence Bateman, Louise Zanre.

Contributions from Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and Brighton Voices in Exile.

10am to 4pm at DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley RH10 6RP

For more information or to reserve a place 01293 651164 or e-mail: ruth.gerun@babnet.org

February 15th - Vision of a Good Society 2020

Church Action on Poverty Sunday. www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

Book your place on a Music Workshop for the 10th St Joseph the Worker Mass

The 2015 mass is taking place on May 4th 2015, at [St George's Cathedral, Southwark](#)

Every year we gather across 3 dioceses to celebrate our diverse London workforce and their families. This is a highly successful international annual liturgy which brings together parishioners from across Greater London and surrounding counties, as well as members of London Citizens and many dignitaries.

This year Frances Novello has kindly agreed to run preparatory singing workshops in 3 venues. You are welcome to take part in any of these. We do need to know numbers so please let us know if you are coming. The dates and venues below are in the 3 different dioceses concerned but all are welcome to whichever is most convenient.



Westminster: St Matthew's Northwood, 32 Hallowell Road, HA6 1DW
Sat 17th Jan 2015 1-5pm, contact Barbara Kentish justice@rcdow.org.uk

Southwark: St Teresa's Morden, 250 Bishopsford Road, Morden, SM4 6BZ
Sat 28th Feb 2015 1-5pm, contact Terry Brown office@southwarkjandp.co.uk

Brentwood: St George's Walthamstow, 132 Shernhall Road, E17 9HU
Sat 21st March 1-5pm, contact Davina Bolt Davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org

To book a place, please contact one of the above

Our 2015 Spring Assembly
Saturday April 24th 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), Daniel Hale (Progressio), James Truby (Columbans)