



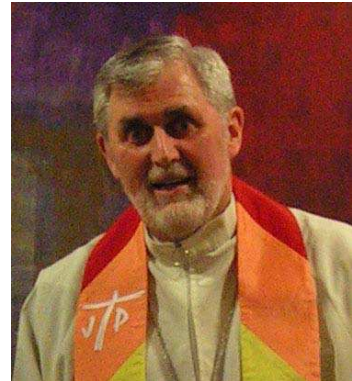
Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



Newsletter Autumn 2009

“On the Road Together: A-mazed by Migration”. Was the topic of this year’s annual National Justice and Peace conference which was addressed by four key speakers before an open space format enabled everyone to discuss the issues and propose actions.

Our own Bishop Patrick Lynch was one of the keynote speakers and he also preached at the Sunday mass. In his talk Bishop Pat pointed out that the political leadership vacuum on the question of migration offers an opportunity for the Church to play an important role. The world has moved from industrialisation to technology and globalisation. "Companies and markets are global, the labour force is mobile and at the touch of a button millions of dollars can be sent from one side of the world to another".



He reminded us of Pope Paul VI’s encyclical *Octogesima Adveniens* in which he spoke about the Church’s responsibility to care for the casualties of social change. Migrants and their families are amongst those who suffer as a result of social change in our world today.

The implications for migrants are of particular concern in this economic recession with rising tensions between British and overseas workers. Under the recently introduced points based system (PBS) it is anticipated that the pattern of immigration into the U.K. from outside the E.U. will allow entry for far fewer unskilled workers. The scheme leaves very little room for the consideration of other factors.

"Our own experience with migrants and their families teaches us that welcoming them and walking with them always leads to empowering so that as people grow in knowledge and skills, in confidence and in hope, they themselves – individually and collectively - are inspired and empowered to reach out to and work for justice for their fellow migrants," said Bishop Pat.

The other speakers were Don Flynn, from Migrants Rights Network, Mary Grey, Professor of Theology at St Mary’s University College, Twickenham and Neil Jameson, founding executive director of the Citizens Organising Foundation and lead organiser with London Citizens.

A fuller report of Bishop Pat’s talk and the talks of the other speakers together with the text of Bishop Pat’s sermon can be downloaded from the National Justice and Peace web site www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or copies obtained from the Southwark JPIC office. A summary of the Open Space discussions will also be available shortly.

Some interesting facts which emerged from the conference:

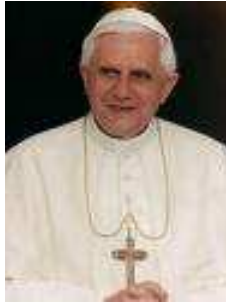
- The BNP polled 943,000 votes in the recent European Elections.
- 56% of the vote in the European elections went to parties other than the Labour, Conservative or Liberal Democrat Parties.
- A report from the Equality and Human Rights Commission has found that it is a total myth that migrants go to the head of the council’s social housing list.
- There are an estimated 750,000 undocumented workers in Britain
- A regularisation of undocumented workers would bring in £1.2 billion in extra tax revenue.
- It would take more than 25 years to deport all of the present undocumented workers at a cost running into several billion pounds.
- Other countries have employed regularisations with success, most notably Spain.

Climate Change or Climate Justice

What does the Church teach us?

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole"

Caritas in Veritate 2009



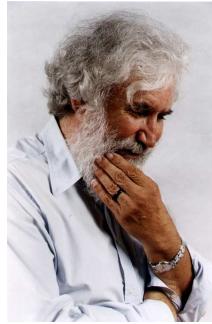
God destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be shared fairly by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity.

Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes- 1965



"The external deserts of the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast. Therefore the earth's treasurers no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction"

Pope Benedict XVI, homily at Inaugural Mass, 2005



"The earth has arrived at the limits of its sustainability. Our task is not to create sustainable development but a sustainable society – human beings and nature together."

"We are living in times of grave disequilibrium of real

war declared against the Earth, against ecosystems which are plundered, war against two-thirds of humankind who do not have the basic goods they need to live in peace"

Leonardo Boff



"If we scan the regions of our planet, we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God's expectations. Man, especially in our time, has without hesitation devastated wooded

plains and valleys, polluted waters, disfigured the earth's habitat, made the air unbreathable, disturbed the hydrogeological and atmospheric spheres and turned luxuriant areas into deserts Man is no longer the Creator's 'steward', but an autonomous despot, who is finally beginning to understand that he must stop at the edge of the abyss".

Pope John Paul II - January 2001

"Christians, in particular, realise that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith"

Pope John Paul II - 1990

Every economic activity making use of natural resources must also be concerned with safeguarding the environment and should foresee the costs involved, which are "an essential part of the actual cost of economic activity". In this context, one considers relations between human activity and climate change which, given their extreme complexity, must be opportunely and constantly monitored... The climate is a good that must be protected.

Compendium of the Social Teaching of the Church – 2004

We can gain inspiration from our literature:

"Love all of God's creation, love the whole, and love each grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of God's light. Love animals, love plants, love every kind of thing. If you love every kind of thing, then everywhere God's mystery will reveal itself to you. Once this has been revealed to you, you will begin to understand it ever more deeply with each passing day. And finally you will be able to love the whole world with an all-encompassing universal love".

Doestoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov

And even learn from our politicians:

"An unstable climate risks some of the drivers of conflict – such as migratory pressures and competition for resources – getting worse".

Margaret Beckett when Foreign Secretary, speaking at the UN Security Council

And now we can stand up and be counted:

This December world leaders meet in Copenhagen for historic climate change talks. We'll can give them a send-off they can't ignore – a human wave of tens of thousands of people flowing through London on 5th December in support for climate justice.





THE WAVE

COME TOGETHER TO STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

LONDON 5.12.09

Time to pray

Christian worship with Archbishop Rowan Williams
and Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

Time to march

Family-friendly, peaceful march around the Thames.

This December world leaders meet in Copenhagen for historic climate change talks.

We need them to commit to a fair climate change deal so that all God's creation can flourish. Bring your own banners to demand action at, and after, Copenhagen.

Join with fellow Christians at the ecumenical service. United by our faith, a deep concern for the poor and for all creation, we will worship and pray together. Led by Church leaders we will join the Stop Climate Chaos march

Christian service, followed by a peaceful march to the Thames. Please wear blue or bring blue banners to join The Wave.

Christian service:

11am, Westminster Central Hall, London SW1H 9NH.

Activities for children and young people:

12 noon, Westminster Central Hall.

The march:

Service and activities lead straight into the march.

If you can't make the service, head straight to Grosvenor Square, W1A from 12pm. The March leaves at 1pm.

If you can't make the wave, or even if you can add your Wave for Climate Justice - Upload your photo to CAFOD's Wave Wall and call for climate justice at forthcoming climate change talks. You'll receive a link to your photo on the wall which you can forward on to your friends. www.cafod.org.uk/climatejustice
This is my picture, kindly?? taken by a CAFOD photographer.

If you would like to take part in events in Copenhagen CAFOD has places available. Contact Maria Elena on 0207 733 7900 or e-mail marana@cafod.org.uk by 30th September.



Our Justice and Peace website:

Please log on to our web site www.southwarkjandp.co.uk you will find that there have been many changes. Let us know what you think of the layout, what is missing and what could be improved.

October 17th Our Autumn Assembly

At St Peter's Woolwich 10.30 to 4.00

Free – all welcome

“The changing face of Britain” celebrating the 25th Anniversary of CARJ (Catholic Association for Racial Justice).
and the Climate Change Campaign - in advance of the Copenhagen Summit.

To get a poster please check our web site or contact the office.

St Peter's, Woolwich is just 300 yards from Woolwich Arsenal Station. Direct trains from Waterloo East, London Bridge, Chatham, Gillingham & Dartford or DLR from Lewisham (via Bank)

October 2nd Harvest Fast Day



October 17th 10.30 am Aid to the Church in Need annual mass.

Sung Latin mass in Westminster Cathedral followed by talks in the Cathedral Hall at 12 noon (tickets £5).

October 16th to 18th StandUps Against Poverty

StandUps are a simple, brief and uplifting social justice activity shared among hundreds of thousands of pupils and teachers and parents and parishioners all across the country - standing up in assemblies, classrooms and Masses simply to read out six Promises to the Poor. www.just1.org.uk

October 19th 7.30 pm



Nobel Peace prize winner, Professor Mohan Munasinghe, a renowned expert on energy, sustainable development and climate change, will tackle the subject of how to solve climate change and poverty together.

Royal Commonwealth Society, 25 Northumberland Av., WC2N 5AP

Preceded by Progressio's AGM 6.15 to 7.15

October 18th to 25th One World Week

Hungry for One World www.oneworldweek.org for information and materials.

also Week of Prayer for World Peace 020 8968 4340

October 24th United Nations Day

www.unmeditation.org

November 8th 4.15 pm South London Inter Faith Group

Prayers for Remembrance Sunday at Southwark Anglican Cathedral

November 15th Prisoners' Sunday

PACT (Prisoners Advice & Care Trust)

November 19th Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) open debate

The banking crisis has receded, and stability has returned. Lessons about excessive risk-taking have been learned. Or have they?

4.30-6.15 p.m. Friends House, Small Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Entrance is free. www.eccr.org.uk/News.html.

If you do not have internet access but want more information from a web site mentioned please contact the office and we will post the information to you.

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