

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



JPIC Update New Year 2013

A New Year resolution for your parish?

livesimplyaward

livesimply so others can simply live!

The *livesimply* parish award scheme was launched in Southwark at the J&P Assembly in May 2011. The scheme aims to raise awareness of our impact on the lives of those in developing countries and on the lives of future generations. The Bishops' Conference document "The Call to Creation" tells us that "Individual actions may seem insignificant but together the small steps of many people can have an astonishing impact"

At present we are only aware of two parishes in our diocese, Petts Wood and Tunbridge Wells, which are moving towards this award. If there are more please let the JPIC office know.

These parishes have, with the support of their parish priests, set up a *LiveSimply* group and carried out a parish self-assessment by brain-storming all the current activities of the parish.

There is information on-line at www.livesimplyaward.org.uk and a full printed information and resources pack, which is available from the JPIC office (office@southwarkjandp.co.uk or phone 020 7928 9742) or direct from CAFOD Southwark (01322 294924), provides a systematic approach to the whole process.

Roger Wright from St James the Great, Petts Wood, says "the list surprised us but we decided not to rest on our laurels, and instead asked the parish to raise the bar a little higher. The planning phase involved talking to representatives of various parish groups to see what they could offer, the intention being to eventually hand responsibility to such groups and individuals for organising the *LiveSimply* activities.

We then set about drawing up our action plan to cover the three Principles of *LiveSimply*: to Live Simply, Live Sustainably and Live in Solidarity with the poor, engaging with these through Reflection and Worship, in Practical ways and by Reaching Out. We had to choose one Substantial action and at least two Supporting actions for each Principle. By this summer we were ready to submit our plan to CAFOD, which was accepted, and we became registered".

The chosen Substantial actions are to create an outdoor worship space and wildlife garden, to reduce the church premises carbon footprint by 10%, and to support the CAFOD Connect2 scheme for Bangladesh. Supporting actions include a loaves and fishes picnic, a tree planting scheme, collecting children's shoes to send overseas (the Shoe Rafiki project), and to enhance our liturgy with appropriate music and prayer.

The progress of *LiveSimply* at St James' is being charted on the parish website at <http://stjamespettswood.org/livesimply.html>; there you can read the complete action plan".

St Augustine's, Tunbridge Wells are at an earlier stage but already have a small but very active organising committee and a list of 24 parishioners who have offered their assistance and support.

Their plans include full parish audits of energy use and recycling; a scheme which will promote Fairtrade produce more actively by providing price comparisons with non Fairtrade supermarket goods; investigating moving the parish energy supplier to one with a focus on renewable energy supplies; and organising a *LiveSimply* mass with a parish walk and picnic. They would also like to do as much as possible to encourage the involvement of the younger members of the parish community.

So why take on the *LiveSimply* award? The award will give recognition to the work your parish is already doing and inspire other parishioners to become more involved. It will enable you to share good ideas with others and, perhaps most importantly, by working collectively we can achieve more impact and raise awareness outside our immediate community.

January 20th - Peace Sunday - "Blessed are the Peacemakers"

In this Year of Faith, as we reflect on the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second Vatican Council, a section from Gaudium et Spes is perhaps particularly relevant for Peace Sunday "As it points out the authentic and noble meaning of peace and condemns the frightfulness of war, the Council wishes passionately to summon Christians to cooperate, under the help of Christ the author of peace, with everyone in securing among themselves a peace based on justice and love and in setting the instruments of peace" §77



Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, have sent materials to every parish and I hope that we will all have an opportunity to support them in their work for peace and reconciliation. More information at www.paxchristi.org.uk or phone 0208 203 4884.

January 27th was designated Holocaust Memorial Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

HMDT is a charity which works to raise awareness of Holocaust Memorial Day and provides an opportunity for everyone to learn lessons from the Holocaust and subsequent genocides and apply them to the present day to create a safer, better future. They share the memory of the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur in order to challenge all forms of hatred and persecution in the UK today.

If you, your J&P group or your parish would like help to organise an event or activity www.hmd.org.uk will send you a free Campaign Pack which contains posters and advice on holding your activity.

February 8th - Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking

Saint Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869 in Darfur, Sudan. At the age of 12 she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders and sold and resold five times in the slave markets of North Africa. The trauma was so intense that the saint forgot her given name. The name we venerate her by today is a combination of the Christian name she took for herself as an adult--Josephine--and the name her captors gave her--Bakhita, which means "lucky" in Arabic.



Saint Josephine suffered great brutality at the hands of her slave owners but her final owner, who was an Italian diplomat, brought her to live with him and serve as a nanny for his daughter in Italy. In Italy she was able to gain her freedom and in 1896 she professed vows with the Canossian Sisters.

Saint Josephine's order recognized her charisma and reputation for sanctity and asked her to write her memoirs and give talks about her experiences, which she did. After her biography was published in 1930, Saint Josephine became a noted and sought-after speaker, using her gifts and experiences to raise money for her order and its causes.

After her death in 1947, Saint Josephine's body lay in repose for three days as thousands of the faithful paid their respects. She was canonised in 2000 and is the patron saint of Sudan.

Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. It is estimated that about 2.4 million people worldwide fall victim to international traffickers. These victims are forced into unpaid labour, debt bondage, prostitution or sexual servitude, often under the direction of international organized crime rings. The trafficking of human beings is the third largest source of profit for international organized crime, after drugs and arms, with revenue amounting to billions of dollars each year.

The Bishops' Conference commends the request to observe the feast day St Josephine Bakhita as a Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking and those who work to combat it.

If you are concerned about any particular situation the Metropolitan Police have set up a freephone number 0800 783 2589 where victims, and those who suspect trafficked victims are living in their community, can pass on information in confidence to the police. Experienced officers will investigate all cases and take action against the perpetrators where possible. Where this is not possible they will provide appropriate care and advice to victims in conjunction with their partners.