



S O U T H W A R K J P I C N E W S

SPRING 2009

4th May - Mass for Migrant Workers

This year's MASS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS at Westminster Cathedral on Bank Holiday Monday (starts 10.30 am), to be followed by another STRANGERS INTO CITIZENS rally calling for a pathway into citizenship for long-term undocumented migrants, promises to be a memorable occasion. Bernadette Farrell, lead organiser of South London Citizens, is arranging music and our own Bishop Pat Lynch is the homilist. The Mass, celebrated by the bishops of the three RC diocese of London, promises to be a colourful, joyful occasion expressing the Church's commitment to standing alongside migrants and making clear to them that the Church is their home, whatever their status.

This year the Mass is one of a number of church services in central London organised by London Citizens – there will also be an Anglican celebration at St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey and a Free Church service at Methodist Central Hall.

The second STRANGERS INTO CITIZENS celebrations will start in Trafalgar Square at 12 midday. The idea is for people to spill in their thousands out into the square, British citizens alongside foreign-born, waving union jack flags and sending a clear message to British public opinion that immigrants make a key contribution to UK economy and society. This will be an historic day – the largest ever public rally in British history standing alongside migrants. Like the movement for the abolishment of the slave trade 200 years ago this is a movement led by Christian churches, especially the Catholic Church, and is a wonderful opportunity to make our presence felt in the public square.

Please be sure to advertise this event in your parish and to speak to your priest about organising a parish delegation, complete with banner, to attend both Mass and the rally. If your parish is attending the Mass gather at 10am at Westminster Cathedral hall with your banner in order to process in at the start of the celebration.

You can download a poster and get more information from www.strangersintocitizens.org.uk

To be sent copies of the A4 poster/flier contact laura.zorilla@cof.org.uk.

For more information contact Fr John Clarke, 020 7622 4282 or e-mail johnraclarke@yahoo.com.br

Cadbury's Dairy Milk goes traffik free

Stop the Traffik is a campaigning coalition, involving organisations such as schools and faith groups as well as businesses and charities, which aims to put an end to human trafficking. The organization aims to achieve its goal through the three-pronged approach of advocacy, education and fundraising.

A recent success has been the announcement that Cadbury's Dairy Milk is to receive Fairtrade certification by late summer 2009. STOP THE TRAFFIK congratulates Cadbury on this ground breaking decision which comes two years into the STOP THE TRAFFIK Chocolate Campaign.

It has long been known that thousands of children are being trafficked onto cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast and across West Africa to harvest the cocoa that makes the chocolate that the world consumes. Despite the fact that industry committed in 2001 to remove all forms of exploitative child labour from the chocolate supply chain little progress has been made.

This is one small step but it is important to remember that all exploited children will not be free until Mars, Lindt, Hershey and all the others put human rights before profit and make similar announcements. Stop the Traffik's next target is Mars. See www.stophetraffic.org for details of their March on Mars campaign.

Seeking to renew the work of Justice & Peace in our Diocese

Catholic Social Teaching

I recently visited Guyana as part of my work as National Twinnage Organiser for the SVP and, on arrival, was presented with a book "Paths to Glory" written by Bishop Benedict Singh. There was a marked stuck at random in the book and I opened the book at that page to find the following synopsis.

During a subsequent meeting I sought and received Bishop Singh's permission to reproduce his work.

It seems that many Catholics do not fully realise the social teaching of the Church is an essential part of the catholic faith.

One reason why the body of catholic social teaching is underappreciated, under communicated and not fully understood is that the principles on which the doctrine is based are not clearly articulated and conveniently condensed. They are not arranged for catechetical purposes like the 10 commandments or the 7 sacraments. So the question must be asked: "What are those catholic social principles that are to be accepted as an essential part of the faith?" The next step of course, is to have these principles "internalised" so that they can lead to action. Catholic social thought touches on a range of issues that go beyond the economic to include family, religious, social, political, technological, recreational and cultural considerations. From the relevant documents available ten social principles can be gleaned.

The principle of human dignity

Every human is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. So every person – regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, employment or economic status, health, intelligence, achievement or any other differentiating characteristic – is worthy of respect. It is not what you do or what you have that gives you a claim on respect; it is simply being human that establishes your dignity.

The principle of respect for human life

Every person from the moment of conception to natural death has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human life at every stage of development and decline is precious and therefore worthy of protection and respect.

The principle of association

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organise our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. By association with others – in families and in other social institutions that foster growth, protect dignity and promote the common good – human persons achieve their fulfilment.

The principle of participation

We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and the vulnerable. The human person has a right not to be shut out from participating in those institutions that are necessary for human fulfilment.

The principle of preferential protection for the poor and vulnerable

In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the last judgement (Mt. 25:31), and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. The common good requires this. The opposite of rich and powerful is poor and powerless. If the good of all, the common good, is to prevail preferential protection must move towards those affected adversely by the absence of power and the presence of privation.

The principle of solidarity

Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one family. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that loving our neighbour has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

The principle of stewardship

The catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. The steward is a manager, not an owner. In an era of rising consciousness about our physical environment, our tradition is calling on us to a sense of moral responsibility for the protection of the environment – croplands, grasslands, woodlands, air, water, minerals and other natural deposits. Stewardship responsibilities also look towards our use of our personal talents, our attention to personal health and our use of personal property.

The principle of subsidiarity

This principle deals chiefly with the responsibilities and limits of government, and the essential role of voluntary organisations. The principle of subsidiarity puts a proper limit on government by insisting that no higher level of organisation should perform any function that can be handled efficiently and effectively at a lower level or organised by human persons who, individually or in groups, are closer to the problems and closer to the ground. Oppressive governments are always in violation of the principle of subsidiarity; overactive governments frequently violate this principle.

The principle of human equality

Equality of all persons comes from their essential dignity. While differences in talents are a part of God's plan, social and cultural discrimination in fundamental rights are not compatible with God's design. Treating equals equally is one way of defining justice, also understood as rendering to each person his or her due. Underlying the notion of equality is the simple principle of fairness; one of the earliest ethical stirrings felt in the human person is a sense of what is "fair" and what is not.

The principle of the common good

The common good is understood as the social conditions that allow people to reach their full human potential, and to realise their full human dignity. The social conditions presuppose "respect for the person", "the social well-being and development of the group" and the maintenance by public authority of "peace and security" Today, an age of global interdependence, the principle of the common good points to the need for international structures that can promote the just development of the human family across regional and national lines.

These 10 organisational categories can accommodate every conceivable social issue: they can provide any social problem with an analytical home. Analysis and reflection targeted on this material can become the basis for moral instruction and formation of conscience.

Catholic social teaching rests on one basic principle: individual human beings are the foundation, the cause and the purpose of every social institution. We are by nature social beings. By God's design we are also raised to an order of reality which is above nature.

'PUT PEOPLE FIRST' 28TH MARCH,

The date had been in my diary for weeks and I had been watching the weather reports with a prayer for a good day.

A good day would mean more people willing to get out there and be seen. One week before it seemed my prayers were to be answered. We had the first warmish week of the year and even the sun had come out

Then just a few days before 'Our' day, the weather people started to say that on that day, just that day, the clouds would be back, the rain would fall and the lovely temperatures of the past week were to tumble; which they did. Saturday arrived so cold, very grey and with drizzle on my windows.

But undaunted, just more prepared, I set off to Westminster to the Central Methodist Hall to join in the Ecumenical Service arranged, for 11.00 am, from which we were to then join the March.

And what a wonderful, inspiring and uplifting gathering it was. The songs we sang set us all in a good mood for the march. The various speakers gave an insight into why we, as Church, have a part to play in this movement of people from many different organisations; of how Christians are called to take action as part of our Gospel Values and beliefs.

Once the service was over, everyone made their way outside to link up with whichever group they were connected with to take their place in the march.

It was good to see so many Christian organisations, together with all our banners, making a clear statement that 'We Are Here'. Tearfund, CAFOD, Progressio, Christian Aid to name a few.

I found the CAFOD banners and set off with a group of people who I discovered had come from Wales and Manchester and who became my marching companions for the four miles to Hyde Park. And a great walk of witness it was.

But most wonderfully of all, when we stepped out of the Methodist Central Hall, the sun was out and the sky had become a glorious blue! And it stayed that way all the length of the march for us.

This article is now on news section of our website and gives some web links I've selected (including one with the songs and one with a video of the rally) that will inform of the events of that day and which may hopefully inspire anyone who has felt unsure about taking such action to see what a powerful and also enjoyable way of taking Action with a capital A this can be. One that can really make a difference. *Mary McCartney*

CAFOD Climate Change Campaign

In December 2009 political leaders will be meeting in Copenhagen to negotiate a new international deal to tackle climate change.

Poor communities in developing countries are already experiencing increased floods, droughts and extreme weather - the realities of a changing climate. They did least to cause this problem, so CAFOD believes that a new international deal which puts poor communities at its heart is urgently needed in order to achieve 'climate justice'.

The deal needs to address the causes and effects of climate change and puts the needs of the world's poorest people right at its heart. But world leaders will only do this if they hear our voices in support. By living simply and speaking out we can show world leaders that we're serious about making a change that makes the world a better place for everyone.

We are inviting people to join in our campaign action: sign a card to the Prime Minister or send an email via the CAFOD website. The card calls for an agreement that:

- * recognises and supports the rights to sustainable development of people in developing countries
- * provides additional, sufficient and secure funding and technical support from industrialised countries to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change
- * commits industrialised countries to at least 30-40 per cent cuts in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, based on 1990 levels.

If we act together, we can make a difference. In the words of the Bishops of England and Wales in 'The Call of Creation' - "Individual actions may seem insignificant but together the small steps of many people can have an astonishing impact."

CAFOD Southwark, together with our colleagues from Brentwood, Arundel & Brighton and Westminster is holding a Campaigners day on Climate Change on Saturday 9th May from 10am to 4.30pm at the YMCA 40-46 Stockwell Road, Stockwell, London SW9 9ES

Fairtrade Palestinian Olive oil

In an unintended consequence of Israel's offensive in Gaza last month, sales of Palestinian olive oil in Britain are soaring, importers have said.

Olives are the most cultivated tree crop for Palestinian farmers, and more than 100,000 people work in the industry but farmers face severe difficulties because of the security situation. Orchards have been bulldozed in the course of the conflict, and to make way for new settlements.

The village of Anin, west of Jenin in the West Bank, has seen 1,100 hectares of olive orchards cut off by Israel's security fence. Permits from the Israeli authorities are difficult to obtain and there are severe time constraints for visits, making it so hard for farmers to tend to their trees that some have given up altogether.

The Palestinian Fair Trade Association is working with farmers in nine cooperatives – about 2-400 farmers in each – to develop fair trade practices. Aburaha says some of them have processes that stand comparison with the best Italy has to offer.

Winning Fairtrade certification is an important breakthrough for Palestinian oil producers as they will now have access to mainstream British supermarkets such as Co-op, which has been working closely with Equal Exchange to get Palestinian products on to the shelves. Fairtrade also means better prices for olive growers. The oil is now being sold in the UK under the Zaytoun brand.

www.zaytoun.org for details of where to buy.

Diary of Events:

Sat May 2nd **An afternoon with Mary.**
Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Hartley.

Mon May 4th **Workers Mass and Strangers into Citizens rally.**
10.30 am Westminster Cathedral. Mass for migrant workers followed by Stranger into Citizens national rally in Trafalgar Square at 12 noon.

Sat May 9th **CAFOD Campaigners Day on Climate Change**
10am to 4.30pm at the YMCA 40-46 Stockwell Road, Stockwell, London SW9 9ES

May 10 - 16 **Christian Aid Week**
This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo. Contact Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk for more details.

May 17th **Not for Sale Sunday**
An opportunity to say that womens', childrens' and mens' bodies are Not for Sale.
www.notforsalesunday.org.uk

May 19th **Basic Caring Communities**
The launch of an exciting new resettlement project pioneered by pact. HMP Wandsworth 10.30 - 12.30

June 14th **Arms Trade Day of Prayer**
A Farewell to Arms Fairs. www.caat.org.uk

June 15th - 22nd **Refugee Week**
Different pasts, shared future.
Details from www.refugeeweek.org.uk

July 12th **Sea Sunday**
For information: www.apostleshishopofthesea.org

July 31st - August 2nd
"Contemplation & Social Action". Finding balance in our lives. Peace & Justice Retreat at Worth Abbey.
A residential weekend retreat led by Fr Paul Fleetwood OSB and Jane Ozanne. Booking forms available from toc@worthabbey.net

If you would like more information from any web site mentioned but do not have internet access please let me know and I will print out and post to you.

Our Spring Assembly Aylesford Priory - May 30th

The Keynote speaker will be:
Dr Patrick Riordan SJ from
Heythrop College

talking about the Church's social teaching in these troubled times.

NJPN Annual Conference Swanwick 17th - 19th July

On the road Together: A-Mazed by Migration
People on the move. How does the Church respond in a changing world.
Main Speakers include: **Bishop Patrick Lynch**

Is your parish committed to Fairtrade? If so you could register with the Fairtrade Foundation and receive a pack of materials including a Fairtrade Church certificate to display in your church.

Contact the JPIC office for further information.

New Diocesan Coordinator for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

As the recently appointed JPIC coordinator this is my first newsletter and I hope you have found it of interest.

The Southwark Justice & Peace Newsletter is sent free to all on our mailing list. Donations towards costs are always greatly appreciated and any donations towards the cost of a new computer for the JPIC office would also be welcome at this time.

Your thoughts and comments on the content and style of the newsletter would be particularly welcome as would any contributions to be included in future issues.

With thanks for your continuing support

Terry Brown
JPIC Coordinator

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:

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Please send to: The Coordinator, Southwark J & P Office, Cathedral House, Westminster Bridge Rd, London, SE1 7HY