

A Poor Church for the Poor?

I want a Church which is poor and for the poor.
- How can we respond to Pope Francis' challenge?
A one-day conference in Leeds on Saturday 9th March 2016.

An opportunity to explore the vision and challenge of Pope Francis in relation to the structural reality of poverty in the UK today. How can we deepen our awareness and action, individually and as communities, and change ourselves and our churches to become a poor Church, with and for the poor?

SPEAKERS

- Michael Czerny SJ, Secretary General, Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission
- John Battle, Chair of the Las Casas Institute
- Marie Houghton, CEO, Catholic Social Action Network, DePaul UK
- Timothy Radcliffe OP, Director of the Las Casas Institute, popular preacher and writer

Where: Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth, Leeds
(transport available from Leeds railway)
Saturday 9th March 2016, 11am-5.30pm
Arrival and coffee from 10.30am
Free entrance. Donations welcomed.
Further info: www.LasCasasInstitute.org
Inquiries: info@las-casas.org or email las-casas@leeds-trinity.ac.uk

This conference is organised by the Las Casas Institute at Blackfriars Hall, Oxford, in partnership with Catholic Social Action Network, DePaul UK, and Leeds Trinity University.

Las Casas Institute
Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford
www.LasCasasInstitute.org
[facebook.com/lascasainstitute](https://www.facebook.com/lascasainstitute)

CSAN Leeds Trinity University DEPAUL

The Commission undertook most of the local organising and marketing for a national conference of Oxford's **Las Casas Institute** about what the Pope meant when he said we needed to be 'a poor church for the poor'. Over 200 people attended this day at Leeds Trinity University. Perhaps the most challenging input came from **Fr Michael Czerny SJ**, of the Pontifical Justice & Peace Commission, when he asked why the poor were not at this conference. **Feb**

A poor church for the poor Post-Conference Pack



The Commission published a follow up pack from the Conference. So many things were merely touched on in the conference and we wanted to give people a way into finding out more and doing more about some of the key themes. **Jun**

Throughout the year the Commission has continued to support **St Monica's Housing** in its provision of temporary accommodation for failed asylum seekers. From a position where the existing property needed to be vacated, the end of year position was much more hopeful thanks to the involvement of new people and support from the diocese.

UK Poverty

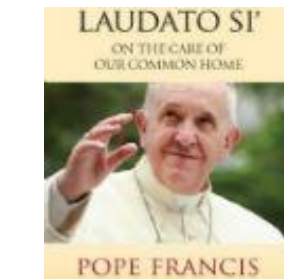
Refugees

The Commission has also been an active member of the **Diocesan Refugee Support group**. This was set up to help coordinate work with refugees across the Diocese and by the end of 2016 a part time worker had been appointed to take this work forward in 2017 and the Commission had taken a lead role in the production of a pamphlet for use in parishes.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER?
What does it mean for us in the Catholic Diocese of Leeds?

Published by Diocese of Leeds Justice & Peace Commission and The St. Vincent de Paul Society with the support of Catholic Care. November 2016.

2016 Year of Mercy



Prayer & Reflection

We organised a Day of Reflection led by Fr Dennis Cassidy from St Joseph's in Keighley. It was a very thought-provoking day in the lovely surroundings of the Dales (it was held in Settle). Afterwards we published his initial talk as a booklet which is available for download from our website. **Sep.**

Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission
Working to bring about God's reign of Justice and Peace

Day of Reflection
"THE GOD I DON'T BELIEVE IN"
SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
ST. MARY & ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
SETTLE
10:30 - 16:30

A Day of reflection for all those involved in action for Social Justice. Take some time from the every day to reflect on, and integrate more deeply, action for justice with our spiritual journey. ALL WELCOME - but **booking is essential!**

The day will be led by Fr Dennis Cassidy, parish priest at St. Joseph's Keighley, and Coordinator for the Spiritual Formation of Clergy in the Leeds Diocese.

If you need help with transport you can indicate this when booking a place. There is no charge for attending, though a collection will be taken to help defray the costs of the day. Everyone coming is asked to bring some food for a shared lunch. Tea & Coffee provided.

More information and booking at www.leedsjp.org.uk or email us at jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Climate Change

Throughout 2016 member of the Commission gave talks to both Catholic and ecumenical groups about Laudato Si - using CAFOD materials wherever possible



Outreach

The Commission organised a photographic exhibition for churches in the Diocese. 'Silent Voices' is a set of photos taken by young Palestinians from the village of Bil'in, where weekly nonviolent demonstrations are held against the Israeli Separation Barrier. It provides a moving insight into the lives of ordinary people living in very difficult circumstances. **Mar-May**



Peace and nonviolence

PAX CHRISTI

AGM and CONFERENCE: SUBVERSIVE PEACEMAKERS
Saturday 21 May
11:00am - 4:00pm
Oxford Place Centre, Leeds LS1 3AU

All Welcome. Come along and find out about the work of Pax Christi - the national Catholic Peace Organisation in the UK. Please bring some food for a shared lunch.

Register for the event by following the link on the home page of the Justice & Peace Website: <http://www.leedsjp.org.uk/>

The keynote speakers in the afternoon are:
Clive Barrett, chair of the Peace Museum in Bradford. His recent book is called 'Subversive Peacemakers'. It tells the stories of Conscientious Objectors from Yorkshire in the First World War and is a fascinating insight into an aspect of that war which has been ignored by many mainstream commentators.
Linda Perry brings the theme of Conscientious Objection right up to date. Linda founded the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases and is a well-known Yorkshire peacemaker.

This event is supported by **Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission**
Working to bring about God's reign of Justice and Peace

We worked with Pax Christi to facilitate them holding their AGM in Leeds. The keynote speaker was **Rev Dr Clive Barrett**, who re-told the stories of Yorkshire Conscientious Objectors from the First World War. There was also a report back on the recently held papal conference about nonviolence-which will be informing some of our work in 2017. **May.**

The Commission Chair, **John Battle**, gave a lecture at Leeds Trinity University linking the EU referendum debate to Catholic Social Thought. Afterwards we published the text of the talk as a booklet which is available as a download on our website. **Jun**

We hosted a presentation of the **Romero Lecture**. Organised by Pax Christi and the Romero Trust. Over 100 people came to listen to **Fr Francisco de Roux SJ** talk about his experience of peace negotiations in Colombia and the inspiration he finds in the life of Blessed Oscar Romero. **March.**

Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission
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The 2016 Romero Lecture organised by the Romero Trust

Romero Trust

The Violence of Peacemaking
Oscar Romero and the Search for Peace
Speaker: **Fr. Francisco de Roux SJ**
Wed 16 March @ 7pm
Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral

Fr. de Roux is Provincial of the Colombian Jesuits. He is currently supporting the peace talks between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrillas through accompaniment and support of victims and survivors of the conflict.

All Welcome. Please book by clicking on the link on the home page of our website www.leedsjp.org.uk or simply send an email to jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

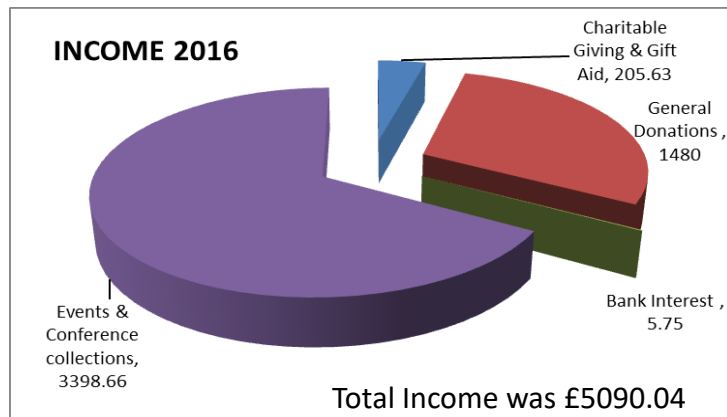
As well as the Romero Trust, this short Lecture Tour is supported by **m3po**, **PAX CHRISTI** and **CAFOD**

Leeds Trinity University

What's the EU got to do with Catholic Social Teaching?
Thursday 9 June

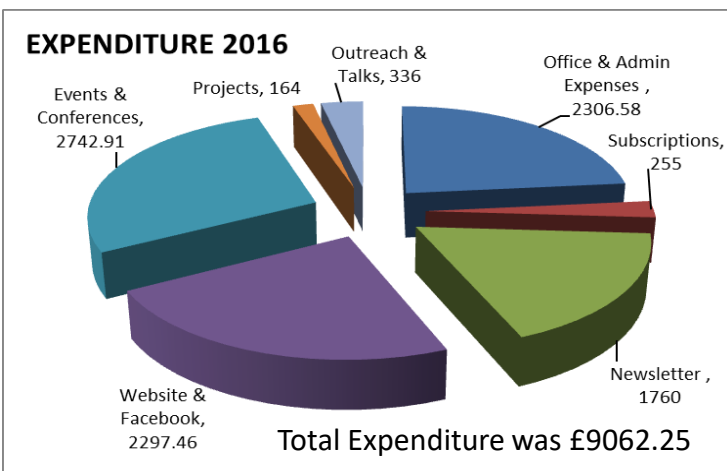


FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2016



INCOME

Gift-Aided charitable giving declined in 2016. General donations were received from the Mercy, Presentation, Cross & Passion and Carmelite Sisters and SS Peter & Paul (Wakefield), for which we are very grateful. For the Las Casas Conference, the Las Casas Institute and Leeds Trinity University paid a substantial proportion of the overall costs as did CAFOD for the Romero Lecture.



EXPENDITURE

Spending on the website and the newsletter comprised almost half of our expenditure – reflecting our commitment to share and celebrate what is happening about social justice issues across the Leeds Diocese. 'Projects' is a new category of spend- to help us better separate the core ongoing costs of updating the website etc. and doing one-off pieces of work that may be able to attract funding from external agencies.

The Excess of Expenditure over Income in 2016 was £4772.21. This was met from the Commission's dwindling reserves. As at the 31 December the Commission had a bank balance of £9711.48. Funding is being sought through various channels-including encouraging individuals to give a regular amount to the Commission – just 20 people giving £10 a month would provide over 30% of our core costs.
Steve Higgins (Treasurer)

Keep in Touch

sign up for regular updates on our website and follow us on Facebook



Contact us to **FIND OUT MORE** and to **DO MORE**

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Promoting awareness, discussion and action throughout the Leeds diocese about the 'Just' Gospel response to the key issues of today



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Leeds Diocese Justice and Peace

ANNUAL REVIEW : 2016



SIGNS OF THE TIMES 2017

By John Battle, Chair

In these days of febrile politics, it is getting harder "to read the signs of the times". We are in an age of 65 million refugee and displaced persons in a world still riven by conflict and war.

While the international media focus on the new American President's lack of a bathrobe, 14 million people in Yemen are at risk of requiring food aid, and are crushed by arms sold by Britain to Saudi Arabia. Nearer to home; far too many are dependent on food banks and are becoming homeless.

In his introduction to "DOCAT", the Church's social teaching for young people, Pope Francis writes;

"When I invite you all now to get to know the social doctrine of the Church I am dreaming not only of groups that sit under trees and discuss it... my dream is of something greater, a whole generation who are for their contemporaries 'walking, talking social doctrine'. Nothing else will change the world but people who with Jesus devote themselves to it, who with him go to the margins and right into the middle of the dirt. Go into politics too, and fight for justice and human dignity, especially for the poorest of the poor....Become active yourselves. When many people do that together, then there will be improvements in this world and people will sense that the Spirit is working through you"

(6th Nov 2015).

In the past year our Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission has managed to raise modest resources to host conferences and workshops on the Papal encyclical "Laudato Si", on the "Church of the Poor", reflection days on the spirituality of the Church's social teaching and we have promoted the national campaigning work of CAFOD, Pax Christi, Church Action on Poverty and Housing Justice. Our Commission actively supports St Monica's project for failed asylum seekers and, with the SVP, regionally supports refugee support work. Thanks to Joe Burns we have established a strong 'social media presence' with a regular e newsletter and in-house publications. Please encourage people to sign up to receive them. Let us share and celebrate more all the social justice activity that is happening in the Leeds Diocese.

Catholic Social Teaching is a "call to action" urging us to follow through in practical action the Gospel challenge to serve the Lord in our neighbour.