

SHARE THE JOURNEY

Pope Francis launched the 'Share the Journey' campaign in September 2017.

The campaign is about getting world leaders to endorse new UN agreements on refugees and migration – and they are meeting at the UN in September where there is an opportunity to do this.

There are petitions to sign and, in particular, the campaign is asking church communities across the world to 'share the journey' that refugees and migrants are forced into by undertaking a walk of their own. The hope of the organisers is that altogether, the walk will enable them to say that supporters of the campaign have walked around the world (24,900 miles)!



In the UK CAFOD is a leading partner in this campaign. If your community is really stretched, then the least level of support would be to encourage people to sign the petition to the UK Government asking them to support these new UN agreements. Use the CAFOD link on the next page.

The petition urges the UK Government and other world leaders to develop a united, global response which addresses at a fundamental level many of the problems that we see today:

Here are the key points that the Share the Journey Campaign wants world leaders to address:-

What are we calling for?

We call on world leaders to make a united, global response, through agreements which:

1 - Respect human dignity

- Give refugees and migrants the opportunity to work in host countries to support their families.
- Ensure rapid routes to citizenship. Grant every refugee child a birth certificate and recognise their nationality by law.
- Adopt alternatives to detention, especially for children.

2 - Protect the vulnerable

- Provide safe and legal routes for migrants and refugees.
- Ensure access to education, and provide foster care for young people who have been separated from their families.
- Protect migrants from exploitation, forced labour and human trafficking.
- Ensure all countries host their fair share of refugees.

3 - Support host countries

- Secure full funding by the international community for current humanitarian crises, for example to help South Sudanese refugees in Uganda.

4 - Keep families together

- Ensure family members, including grandparents, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, can stay together or be reunited if separated.

5 - Tackle the reasons for migration

- Promote peaceful solutions in war-torn countries.
- Support the Paris climate agreement, to support people forced to flee their homes due to climate change.



A much more powerful witness would be to organise a 'Share the Journey' walk in your community - or with neighbouring churches or Churches Together groups. CAFOD have a range of resources to help you do this – ranging from how to organise a walk, health and safety advice through to prayers that could be used in parish masses and other services.

The walk doesn't have to be a gruelling ramble! - some communities have just walked around their church. There are all sorts of ways in which you could show your solidarity with refugees and migrants across the world and play an active part in this campaign.

We are particularly promoting this action this month because June 18-24 is national Refugee Week – the UK's largest festival celebrating the contribution, creativity and resilience of refugees.

- Every minute 20 people around the world are displaced.
- Half of the world's refugees are children, and thousands take flight without the protection of parents or other family members
- 3 out of 4 of all the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries

GET MORE DETAILS FROM THE CAFOD WEBSITE



<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey>

or

contact the Leeds Diocese CAFOD Volunteer Centre by emailing leeds@cafod.org.uk

or phoning them on 0113 275 9302

GARFORTH REFUGEE GROUP and NEWMAN PARISH JOIN FOR WALK

Several walks are in the process of being organised within the Leeds Diocese. One definite arrangement has been put in place by the ecumenical Garforth Refugee Group (which includes parishioners from St Benedict's) with support from a new refugee support group that has started up in Newman parish in East Leeds. They have organised a **'Walk of Solidarity' for Thursday June 21st**. The full walk is about 11 miles and takes up much of the day. It will go from St Benedict's Church and the walking bit of it will finish at the Home Office on Kirkstall Road. So, they are encouraging people to join with them for sections of the walk if they feel unable to or cannot take the time to do the whole walk.

One of the organisers, Dot Read, commented that "This is not a sponsored or protest event but simply a way of registering our support for refugees".

The route and stages of the walk are as follows:-



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1. St Benedict's - St Theresa's (3.5 miles)
2. Break at St Theresa's approx 10:45-11:00
3. St Theresa's - St Vincent's Support Centre (3 miles) – where many refugees go for help & support
4. Lunch at St Vincent's approx 12 noon-12:30 (An Excellent café!)
5. St Vincent's - Waterside Court (3.5 miles)
6. Bus into Leeds City Centre and visit to the Conversation Club for Refugees at Mill Hill Chapel



After the lunch break the group will walk onto the Home Office Visa and Immigration Centre located at Waterside Park on Kirkstall Road - another place that asylum seekers and refugees will be familiar with. This is where the formal walk will end. However, everyone is invited to take the bus back into the centre of Leeds and join the English Conversation Club for Refugees at Mill Hill Chapel (in City Square) for tea and cake.

Anyone is welcome to join all or part of this walk. However, if you are joining them part way through then please bear in mind that any timings will be approximate!.

INFORMATION EVENING ABOUT SYRIAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP SCHEME



Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral

Wednesday 23 May, 7pm – 8:30pm

The Diocesan Refugee Support Group invites you to join them in taking another step towards welcoming refugees. The Community Sponsorship scheme is a way to welcome and resettle refugees, putting local communities at the

heart of a family's journey to a new life in the UK. The sponsoring community, which could be a Parish or group of Parishes, assumes responsibility for a refugee family, from first arrival through to settled independence.

We will hear more information about the scheme, first hand accounts from those who have successfully welcomed families, and first hand accounts from refugees themselves. Representatives from the Home Office will also be available to talk about their role and to answer any questions.

(If you live in Craven district there is a similar event on 13 June at St Mary & St Michael in Settle)

THE CRISIS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE by John Battle

The fact that our criminal justice system is broken is regularly distracted by high profile individual cases of the need to 'lock them up' regardless of the conditions or provisions for eventual release. The media driven cry to 'protect the public' trumps all other considerations.

Yet it is a widely acknowledged reality that in Britain that,

- prisons are running at fuller than capacity with over 83,000 locked up
- tensions in overcrowded prisons are resulting in problems of violence and control coupled with
- there is a shortage of prison staff as more and more give up on that particular vocation.

HMP Armley, a remand prison in Leeds, usually houses overnight 1,670 prisoners. It was built to house 600. Many locked up in Armley have real problems with drugs, alcoholism and serious mental health conditions. Many cannot adequately read or write, forty per cent of recently surveyed inmates had spent some time of their childhood in a care home. Because of staff shortages, activities in-prison are drastically reduced which in turn diminishes any chance of rehabilitation work. The former prisons chief Phil Wheatley has warned that the conditions in our prisons are now "seriously unsafe" as a result of budget cut backs and not simply the presence in prisons of dangerous new psychoactive substances. Suicides in British prisons are tragically rising.

More recently, projects designed to help rehabilitation on release such as the pioneering West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project with a good track record in training a wide range of volunteer link workers to assist those coming



out of Armley to find somewhere to live, to help them sort out money, training and work opportunities and regularly meet up with them to offer consistent personal support, have had their project funding jeopardized by subcontracting out the work of probation to a few chosen private companies. The chief inspector of prisons Dame Glenis Stacy has described the 2014 outsourcing as 'an exasperating situation' that in effect has undermined the contribution of the charitable and voluntary sector at the expense of ex-offender support in the community.

Few offenders are locked up literally for life and most have to face returning to the outside world without either in prison help to change their lifestyle or support when they come out. As one offender put it to me "*the wall of the world outside is larger than the walls on the inside*". Another expressed his deliberate intention to reoffend to escape the severe isolation of life outside and to return into the prison community.

There is real need for criminal justice reform: firstly in the numbers sent to prison in the first place (and as research has been showing for decades now far too many women are incarcerated who need not be), secondly, prison overcrowding coupled with demoralized staff and shortages reduces the possibilities of work on rehabilitation during sentence and then there are the real issues of the need to support those on release.

The Catholic Church has an outstanding record of addressing the need for a humanly respectable criminal justice system that works for

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WORKING FOR A BETTER FUTURE?

By Joe Burns

On May 1st (appropriately) I attended a half day event in Manchester organised by CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) that explored the relations between Catholic Social Teaching and thought, relationships with trade unions and what the future of work might hold.

There was much hearking back to Cardinal Manning and his influence over *Rerum Novarum* as well as some references to more contemporary church documents such as *Laudato Si*. Bishop William Kenny was at pains to say that 'work' is not the same as 'paid employment'; we each have a vocation to which we are called, and the activities associated with that vocation (whether paid or unpaid) constitute work.

It was suggested that Cardinal Manning's thinking resonates with contemporary society partly because of the financial crash ten years ago. Since then there has been a resurgence of interest in what 'The Common Good' means. Manning claimed for labour the rights of Capital. For instance, labour has the right to operate collectively and organise into trade unions (and older readers may remember being urged that it was the duty of Catholics to join a trade union!).

This was all very interesting but what does it tell us about the Fourth Industrial Revolution which, as far as anyone can tell, is in the process of taking off right now? How will the advent of the self-driving vehicle, the widespread use of robots outside of factories and the increasing application of artificial intelligence (in fields such as medicine and the law) change the world of work?

There were no straightforward answers provided but the discussion did provide insight into the framework that Catholic Social Teaching can provide to help explore these issues. If the faltering neo-liberal consensus about economics continues to hold sway, then the results will be a

greater disparity between rich and poor and much greater loss of dignity in work than is evident today because of unjust zero hours contracts and extensive monitoring of employee behaviour. The 'gig economy' means that many people are self-employed. How do we develop new forms of organisation that can help protect the dignity of work in this new situation – where each person is a company of one (so going on strike isn't going to have much effect!)?

In *Caritas in Veritate* Pope Benedict talked about a 'civil economy' model where there was recognition that 'Profit' is a shared achievement of capital and labour and must be treated as such – and not thought of as purely belonging to shareholders. Profit must relate to purpose – and work with real social value is what must be pursued.



Capitalists who are speculating most definitely fall outside this idea of delivering real social value. In May 2017 Pope Francis warned workers and business leaders in

Genoa against the highly touted idea of "meritocracy" in the workplace and the economy. The idea, he said, takes a positive, "merit," and "perverts it" by mistaking as merits the "gifts" of talent, education and being born to a family that is not poor. "Through meritocracy, the new capitalism gives a moral cloak to inequality," because seeing gifts as merit, it distributes advantages or keeps in places disadvantages accordingly, he said. Under such a system, "the poor person is considered undeserving and, therefore, guilty. And if poverty is the fault of the



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poor, then the rich are exonerated from doing anything."

Such systems of economy are antithetical to our Catholic Social Teaching. Bishop Kenny remarked that the dignity of each human person must have pre-eminence of over things such as market forces and the freedom of capital, for example.

The discussion felt a bit in isolation. Anna Rowlands expressed this point very well when,

towards the end of the event, she suggested that we needed to find ways to make Catholic Social Teaching a 'living tradition': ways in which it is not just a cognitive process (passing on a body of knowledge) but something that must live in people's lives.

Way back in the 1980's the J&P Commission had a working party on 'The World of Work'. Perhaps it is time to look to set up a 21st Century equivalent?

#SPEAK UP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE 2018

Unfortunately, Climate Change and its increasing impact on the poorest people in the world is still with us and the effects are continuing to unfold. The UK media, however, has downgraded this as something worth talking about because there is so much else that makes good copy – such as the latest antics of Donald Trump or the latest crisis over Brexit.

The coalition of UK charities and campaigning organisations that are seeking further action on Climate Change are holding a national week of Action from Sunday June 30th through to Sunday July 8th.

In a promotional email they write:

Do you remember the folktale of stone soup?

In the folktale, the villagers add small tidbits of ingredients to a pot—a carrot here, a dash of seasoning there—until a wonderful soup is created and able to be shared by everyone. In the story it's just soup perhaps, but what if instead of soup the goal was a cleaner future?



Just like the villagers in the story, we all have unique and important ingredients to give—whether it's adding your story to a fifteen minute heart-to-heart with your MP, or your work on a local clean energy or environmental project. If we all believe in and contribute to this future there's no stopping it from becoming an incredible reality that each and every one of us can benefit from.

And that's what the Speak Up Week is all about. It's an opportunity for each of us to put our ingredients in the pot. And it's a chance to transform them into something even bigger by telling our MPs why we are doing so and encouraging them to become climate champions in Parliament.



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REFLECTION:

The biblical commands to be generous and to be just apply in all areas of our lives, without exception. The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) and commands to be merciful as God is merciful (generous to all, especially the undeserving, Matthew 5:43-48) do not cease to apply at our jobs and in our work and in our organizations. They are not simply for the personal realm. Their manifestation may look different in each area of life. But these principles of justice and generosity still apply in every area of life and we must be diligent to apply them in all areas. So, here's one example. Let's take the workplace. Being just and generous in the workplace means that, if you are in authority over people, you use that authority in the service of everyone you interact with — including those in the organization who directly work for you, those

From Matt Perman's blog

around the organization who don't work for you but you are in a position to influence, and those outside the organization that you interact with. It means you see yourself as the servant of all, and that you see your authority and position and role as existing not as some statement of how great you are or how hard you've worked, but rather as existing for the sake of those around you. Your authority exists to do them good.



What's Best Next, Dec. 12th 2011

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rehabilitation through the Bishops' conference now led by the Bishop for Prisons Bishop Moth, through the advocacy work of the Catholic Social Action Network and the work of the charity PACT which like the ecumenical Community chaplaincy in Leeds works with prisoners and their families supporting those committed to prison to enable them to change their lives and contribute more positively to the development of society. As Bishop Moth has noted recently the issue of staff

shortages of prison officers is at last encouragingly being addressed by the government. Some years ago the Bishops' conference published a report entitled "Prisons ; A Place of Redemption". They are far from that at the moment and the support work for those who are released is more important than ever and remains a challenge in the work for justice and peace.

AFTER PRISON, WHAT NEXT?









For more information about the West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project (WYCCP), and the volunteering possibilities they offer, please see their website

www.wyccp.org.uk/



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EVENTS

 Wed 16 May	<p>IS A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD POSSIBLE? <i>St Mary & St Michaels Parish Hall, Tillman Close, Settle BD24 9RA 19:30 – 21:00</i> The Speaker is Professor Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor at the Bradford School of Peace Studies -so you are guaranteed an interesting evening. This event has been organised by the Settle Churches Together J&P Group.</p>
 Sat 19 May	<p>CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade) YORKSHIRE CAMPAIGN DAY <i>Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane Leeds LS2 9DX</i> Are you concerned about the Arms Trade? Free to attend but you need to take some food to share – and it would be a big help if you could let them know by emailing kirsten@caat.org.uk</p>
 Wed 23 May	<p>SYRIAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP SCHEME INFORMATION EVENING <i>Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral, Cookridge St Leeds 7pm – 8:30pm</i> There is a Government scheme whereby whole communities such as parishes can sponsor a refugee family. Come along if you find this idea interesting.</p>
 Wed 13 Jun	<p>COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP OF SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES <i>St Mary & St Michaels Parish Hall, Tillman Close, Settle BD24 9RA 19:30 – 21:00</i> The speaker for this evening meeting will be Sean Ryan, National Caritas Community Sponsorship Co-ordinator. If you want to do more about refugees and live in Craven district, then this is a great opportunity to find out more about this scheme and how whole church communities can become involved. This event has been organised by the Settle Churches Together J&P group.</p>
 Mon 18 Jun -Sun 24 Jun	<p>REFUGEE WEEK 2018 <i>National Week of action</i> This is the largest UK festival celebrating the contribution of refugees and promoting understanding of why people seek sanctuary. If you are not organising something in your community then look out for a nearby event that you could support.</p>
 Wed 11 Jul	<p>RESTORING LIVELIHOODS, RESTORING HOPE IN PALESTINE <i>Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB</i> This Sabeel Yorkshire event is an inspiring and moving story of community cooperation, sustainable development and nonviolent resistance in the West Bank village of Battir, as told by their special guest from the region, Hassan Muamer</p>
 Fri 20 Jul – Sun 20 Jul	<p>IT IS IN THE SHELTER OF EACH OTHER THAT THE PEOPLE LIVE <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU</i> This is the National Justice & Peace Network Annual conference. Not cheap! – but always a fantastic opportunity to meet others working for social justice and hear some inspiring and challenging speakers. See their website for more details. https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/</p>
 Find us on Facebook	Follow us on Facebook to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.

Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.

See our website for full details of these and other events that may be of interest