



NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

COMMISSION PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Towards the end of March the Commission met for a workshop about planning for the year ahead. Through a process of articulating why we were there, everyone felt energised and re-connected to the passion that had led them in their faith journey to work for Justice and Peace because:

- The challenge to grow from charity to justice is still very evident.
- Being a prophetic voice in the Church and in the world is still crucial.
- The radical social tradition of Catholic Social Teaching is still not well-known by many Catholics.

With this in mind, we re-committed to our existing priorities of :

- Peace, especially in Israel/Palestine but also looking for opportunities to explore further the new thinking such as the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative.
- Climate Change – leveraging the work of CAFOD and other agencies in this arena to help raise awareness and encourage action across the Diocese.
- Poverty – exploring the underlying causes of poverty (especially poverty in the UK) and providing opportunities for parishioners to reflect and commit to action to eradicate the causes as well as treating the effects.

Over the course of the last 12 months we have been changing the way we look at our activities by dividing them into:

'ongoing tasks'

the newsletter, our online presence and the meetings of the Commission itself and, conferences, workshops, exhibitions – any one off piece of work that has a beginning and end

'projects'

We have done this to help us to apply more easily for grant aid for projects - and it is starting to be a success. The upcoming workshop in June on the Live Simply Scheme (which is related to both poverty and climate change) is being funded by a grant from CAFOD nationally.

Although just at the 'idea' stage at the moment we are also working on:

- A **Day of reflection**-helping us to reflect and integrate more closely our action and our prayer life. This is likely to take place early in the Autumn.
- A Conference focussing on **poverty and families in the UK** – what are the main factors that result in families living in poverty, and what can we do about it? This will take place in the early part of 2018, providing we can obtain funding for it.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP TO DATE – BUT WE NEED MORE MONEY!

Could you consider giving a regular amount to the Commission through a Standing Order?

Since we started our appeal we are getting an extra £100 per month in regular contributions. This is great – it means we are getting close to being able to fund half of our ongoing activities. We need another 50 people giving £5 a month to the Commission to fully fund them. Can you help?

We have no direct financial support from the Diocese and are slowly running out of funds.

We know that people in the Leeds Diocese are generous for all sorts of charitable giving. The role of the Commission is different to direct giving – but it is equally important. Please help us. Compassion is vital, but without attacking unjust structures how will lasting change come about?

<http://www.leedsjp.org.uk/donate/>

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

PARISH RENEWAL THROUGH THE LIVE SIMPLY SCHEME

Come along to this Workshop if you care about our planet and the poor and want to think about how we can create a better world for us all to share



SATURDAY 24th JUNE

10:30 – 14:00 ST BENEDICT’S PARISH CENTRE GARFORTH

What’s it all about?

At a practical level, how do we live out our lives as 21st Century Christians?

Three of the key principles helping us to decide are:

This workshop is FREE but registration is ESSENTIAL

Living Simply

In other words that we are not always seeking ‘more’ but are working so that each of us has ‘sufficient’

Living Sustainably

Are we playing our part in looking after God’s creation? What are we doing about Climate Change?

Living in solidarity with the poor

‘Solidarity’- the ideas that we must all take care of one another - is a foundation stones of Catholic Social Teaching. This particular part of the scheme is concerned with how we show this care towards the poorest – whether that be in our local area or more globally.

This workshop will help people explore these issues in depth but with an emphasis on the practical and with ideas from parishes around the country who have sought to put the principles into practice through working towards the Live Simply Award, a scheme managed by CAFOD.

This is a family-friendly event – so bring the whole family along! We are planning a separate programme of activities for young people.

Places for young people are limited – so please register as soon as possible.

Just follow the link on the home page of the J&P website to register to attend (Free for all the family)

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

THE GENERAL ELECTION – THINGS FOR CHRISTIANS TO THINK ABOUT

Here are some suggestions for getting beyond headlines and soundbites and to find out some of the key concerns that Catholics and other Christians have expressed.

On their website, CAFOD have a good '7 Ways to build a better world' page which is about the general Election. The first way is to 'Go out and vote'. Let's assume that we are all going to do this. As Christians, how do we decide which issues are the crucial ones that need to be kept in mind when deciding who to vote for?

CAFOD themselves, in conjunction with **CSAN** (Caritas Social Action Network) have come up with a good two-pager of considerations and questions relating to international development, climate change and poverty in the UK: <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/General-election-candidates>

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have also issued a two page open letter to people highlighting the main issues that they want to bring to people's attention (there are ten of them)

http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/bishop_sc/pdf/2017/gen-elec-bsh-msg-2017-090517.pdf

If you are looking for a more ecumenical approach then you could do worse than review the offerings from the Joint Public Issues Team:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/politics-and-elections/general-election-june-2017/>

If you want to do something more practical then the Refugee Council are promoting their 'Refugees Welcome' pledge and are asking people to get their parliamentary candidates to sign up to it. It is about ensuring that the UK remains a welcoming place of safety for those forced to flee war or persecution:

https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/refugees_welcome_pledge

REFLECTION

Solidarity, one of the cornerstones of Catholic Social Thought, is something that should be uppermost in our minds when thinking about voting in the upcoming General Election.



[wikimedia commons license](#)

As Martin Luther King puts it:-

Through our scientific and technological genius, we have made of this world a neighborhood and yet we have not had the ethical commitment to make of it a brotherhood. But somehow, and in some way, we have got to do this. We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the way God's universe is made; this is the way it is structured.

John Donne caught it years ago and placed it in graphic terms: "No man is an island entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." And he goes on toward the end to say, "Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind; therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." We must see this, believe this, and live by it if we are to remain awake through a great revolution.







Martin Luther King Jr 'Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution', Address at Morehouse College Commencement, 2 June 1959

Our Newsletter is shorter than usual this month – back to normal next month.



NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

EVENTS

 Sun 28 May	<p>DIOCESE OF LEEDS PERU COMMISSION AGM <i>Institute of Mercy Convent, Cemetery Road Yeadon, LS19 7UR 15:00 – 17:00</i></p> <p>The Peru Commission is chaired by Fr Jonathan Hart and he invites everyone to come along to their AGM to hear about the work that the diocese is doing and a discussion to help decide how the Commission’s resources are allocated.</p>
 Sat 03 Jun	<p>THE PARISH IN THE GLOBAL REALITY <i>Christ the King Parish, Kings Approach Bramley LS13 2DX 11:00-13:00</i></p> <p>Fr Paul Redmond is celebrating 40 years of priesthood. As part of this Bishop William Kenny (Auxiliary bishop of Birmingham) will give the above talk. All are welcome to come along to the talk and to mass before (at 10:00) and to a parish reception afterwards at 12:00.</p>
 Mon 05 Jun	<p>WCC PENTECOST PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND</p> <p>Join with a special service from Mount Zion, Jerusalem, by Livestreaming the event. More details from the WCC website: https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-calls-for-prayer-for-just-peace-in-the-holy-land.</p>
 Fri 16 – Sun 18 Jun	<p>THE GREAT GET TOGETHER</p> <p>A weekend to celebrate the memory of Jo Cox MP (who was killed in her constituency one year ago) and to celebrate that we have more in common than that which divides us. Take part or why not organise an event yourself – it doesn’t have to be anything grand. More details from http://www.greatgettogether.org/</p>
 Sat 24 Jun	<p>PARISH RENEWAL THROUGH THE LIVE SIMPLY AWARD <i>St Benedict’s Church, Aberford Road Garforth LS25 1PX 10:30 – 14:00</i></p> <p>The Live Simply Award Scheme is a national scheme administered by CAFOD. To obtain the award, parishes have to demonstrate how they ‘live simply’, ‘live sustainably’ and live ‘in solidarity with the poor’. The scheme provides wonderful opportunities for both individuals and parish communities to reflect more deeply about their faith, and particularly how they care for the earth and care for the poor. Come to this workshop to find out more about the scheme and think about how it might work in your parish community. Limited crèche facilities available and limited places for a young people’s programme during the event. A simple lunch will be provided.</p>
 Fri 21 Jul – Sun 23 Jul	<p>NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK CONFERENCE: A SABBATH FOR THE EARTH AND THE POOR – The challenge of Pope Francis <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire</i></p> <p>Speakers at this weekend conference include:</p> <p>Dr Ruth Valerio who is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director for Tearfund, Fr Peter Hughes SSC. has spent most of his life as a missionary in Peru, working in some of the most impoverished communities in Lima. He is an advisor to the <i>Instituto Bartolome de las Casas</i>, working in programmes of leadership and social justice. Kathy Galloway is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland and was leader of the Iona Community from 2002-2009. She is currently head of Christian Aid Scotland. She is also a published poet, author and hymn writer.</p> <p>Lots of other elements to the weekend and there is a completely separate programme of activities for young people. See their website for full details and booking arrangements:- http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</p>



‘Like’ our page on Facebook and ‘follow’ us to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.

Please forward this E-News to 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.