

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

FAMILYPOVERTY: FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

This was the title of the workshop we held last Saturday in the Kala Sangam centre in the central Bradford.

About 50 people turned up on a very wet morning to examine in some depth different aspects of family poverty and what is already being done and what more could be done.

Liz Firth led everyone in an exercise in budgeting on a limited income.



people working in table groups trying to get their spend to match their limited income

This was just to tease out some of the issues that people living on a low income face every day: hard choices (or little choice) about how their money is spent. We followed this with some short video clips to hear the voices of people who have to live on low incomes.

Some of these voices related problems they had encountered with the new Universal Credit. To follow these up there was a short presentation about Universal Credit from Pauline Crawford of Incommunities.

Incommunities is a Housing Association managing some 20,000 properties –mostly in the Bradford District. In communities, and other Housing

Associations, are spending a lot of resources in preparing for the rollout of Universal Credit so that they can help their tenants in whatever way possible to ensure they get the money to which they are entitled. You can understand this concern for tenants when you realise that the average household income across the UK is £38,000, the average in Bradford is about 10,000 less and the average household income for a tenant of Incommunities is £17,300. This rollout of 6 benefits into 1 monthly salary-like payment (where the recipients generally have to budget for the different types of spending) represents a significant risk to their rental income. The pilot areas for Universal Credit have shown that debt levels of tenants increase significantly when they are put onto it. Pauline was also able to provide a number of other disturbing statistics (for instance, about the increases in the number of people being sanctioned with Universal Credit or the commitments that people who are already in work have to make in order to avoid being sanctioned (which results in the loss of all or some benefit for a period of time).

It's fair to say that most people attending had no idea about many of the ramifications of its introduction or the impact that it is going to have on families in poverty where at least one person is working (which is the majority of families in poverty).

The phased rollout of Universal Credit hits Bradford in June 18, Leeds in Oct and it has already been rolled out in Kirklees and parts of N Yorkshire.



"...poverty has a face! It has the face of a child; it has the face of a family..."



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The morning session had been entitled 'From Awareness to Solidarity'. The questions that people asked Pauline at the end of her presentation showed the solidarity that people were feeling towards the loss of human dignity that people applying for these benefits have to suffer.

In the afternoon we wanted to focus people more towards what they could do and attendees selected two workshops to attend. Working in small groups again, people heard about refugee and migrant action, various mechanisms for supporting families to stay together, dealing with debt and debt advice and aspects of food poverty. These sessions were made possible by people with specialist knowledge and experience making their time available. These included Lucy Irven (the Diocesan Refugee Support worker), Bernie Jackson (Leeds City Council), John Sheen (Manager of the Rockwell Centre on Thorpe Edge estate in Bradford), Dave Paterson (Unity Poverty Action), Pat McGeever (CEO of Health for All, Leeds), Angus McNab (Trussell Trust) and Paul Grafton (SVP). We are very grateful to them all.

After this Tom Chigbo (Organiser for Leeds Citizens) and Dave Paterson spent a little time encouraging people to take their action up a level by speaking to the people with the power to make lasting change -

MP's and local councillors.

Prior to a final liturgy people were asked to spend five minutes reflecting on what actions they could personally commit to do as a result of coming along to this workshop.

As part of the final liturgy people came up and stuck these onto a giant map of the Diocese.



People pin their action commitments on a giant map of the Leeds Diocese

Although many of the things we found out during the course of the morning were quite shocking, the afternoon encouraged everyone that they could play a part in helping to make lasting change happen.



FAMILY POVERTY: A DIOCESE ACTS – but only if you help!

To follow up on the workshop reported above, we are in the early stages of planning a parish-based set of meetings. The idea is to prepare materials for a series of 4 or 5 meetings. These would explore different aspects of poverty and ask people to reflect on their local situation in the light of the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching and to explore what more they can do in their parish or community setting.

We need your help with two things.

1. We need some people to help plan the programme and oversee it. The commitment would be something like 4 meetings a year over two years with a little work in between meetings. If you are interested then please email chair.jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and we will get in touch.
2. This is only going to work if there are parishes or Churches Together groups who are prepared to take these meetings on. If you think your parish or group might be willing to take part then please email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk to express an interest.

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GOOD SHEPHERD MYTHOLMROYD & LIVE SIMPLY by Janet Almond

As with everything, it is getting started that is the initial hurdle. However, as a community, and on an individual basis, members of the Good Shepherd parish have and continue to participate in a number of activities and have made a number of changes that move us in the direction of living more simply, more sustainably and more in solidarity with poor people across the world. We may not have formally signed up to the Live Simply Award scheme as yet but it is a definite intent.

These actions have included

- Installing solar panels to help put energy back in to the system.
- A parishioner has planted and nurtures an orchard on what would otherwise have been a small redundant piece of land beside the car park for the church.
- There is a policy to use/change to Fair Trade and Eco friendly products within the Parish Centre.
- The children are holding fund raising events to create a (CAFOD) virtual village, with chickens, donkeys etc.
- Parishioners are involved in the Ebenezer Food Bank in Halifax and with St Augustine's. This assists refugees. Others help with 'pay as you can' cafes and soup kitchens in the valley.



Food bank talk at Good Shepherd Parish Centre

In June, a parishioner and volunteer from the Ebenezer Food bank came and gave a presentation about the food bank, and the work involved.



The parish centre toilets have been 'twinned' following fund raising by the children and young people of the parish. Toilet twinning is through a charity (toilettwinning.org) linked to Tearfund. They provide toilets/latrines/sanitation/hygiene education in Asia & Africa. For £60 you can twin with one latrine, £240 with a block (in an education centre or similar). The organisation sends you a framed photograph of the toilet you've funded - one of our Parish Centre ones is in Guatemala.

Another thing we've done is arrange for battery recycling from the church. A company called Valpak provides boxes and collection free of charge.

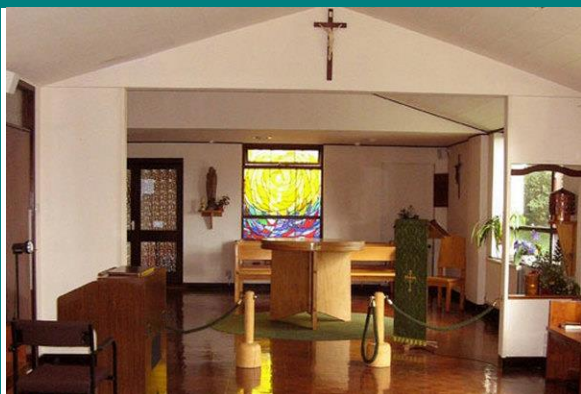
WHAT' HAPPENING IN YOUR PARISH?

What is your community doing to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor?

Share your parish story to help encourage others to take up the challenges of eliminating poverty and the challenges from Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*.

To find out more about the Live Simply Award see the relevant [CAFOD pages](#) about it or email the J&P office and we will help in any way that we can.

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The Chapel at Wood Hall Carmelite Monastery

The Carmelite sisters at Wood Hall near Wetherby have invited us to spend a day with them. It will start with Mass at 10:30. There will be some input from the sisters themselves about how their spirituality helps them relate to issues of Social Justice. There will also be time available for discussion, quiet reflection and, weather

A CARMELITE PERSPECTIVE ON JUSTICE & PEACE

Saturday 10 March 2018

Starts with Mass at 10:30 am

Finishes with Vespers about 4:30pm

This event is free to attend (Voluntary Collection)

permitting, time to walk around the surroundings of the convent in the beautiful grounds of Wood Hall. *This is a repeat of the day that was held last September - which was over-subscribed.*

Numbers are very limited for this event. If you would like to attend this day then please email the office

jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and tell us:

- who wants to come
- if you need a lift to the monastery or if you can offer a lift to anyone else



ROMERO & EL SALVADOR TODAY

**The 2018 Romero Lecture given by
Ruben Zamora**

Tuesday 20 March 2018 @ 7pm

Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds

Ruben Zamora is the former El Salvadoran representative at the United Nations and Ambassador to the USA and has held several key posts in El Salvador. He is currently an advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An opportunity to hear a unique insight into both life of Romero and his home country of El Salvador

ALL WELCOME

This event is free but it would help our planning if you could book a place by going to our website and booking a place via the Eventbrite link.

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LEEDS DIOCESAN REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP: ONE YEAR ON – 31 Jan 2018

The Diocesan Refugee Support Group meeting at Hinsley Hall was packed out last night with over 100 people squeezing into the room from all parts of the Diocese, including Huddersfield, Mytholmroyd, Settle and Knaresbrough – as well as parishes more local to Hinsley Hall. It was an opportunity to take stock and consider what more individuals and parishes can do.

The meeting was organised by the part time facilitator – Lucy Irven - and was led by two of the Steering Group: Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, and John Battle, Chair of the J&P Commission.

Carol introduced Sean Ryan from Caritas Salford.



He is the National Coordinator for the Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) of the **Community Sponsorship Scheme**. It was a parish in the Salford Diocese that first took up this scheme. It enables church communities to take responsibility for sponsoring a refugee

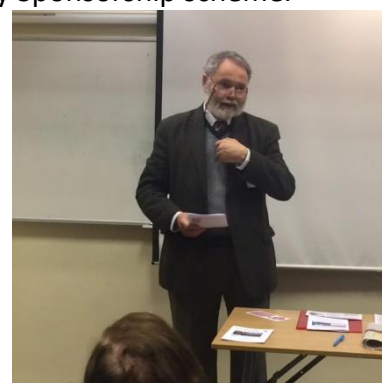
family until they become fully integrated into the local community. There were some very positive stories both in terms of the integration of families into the local community and in terms of bringing all sorts of people in parishes together to share the work and, in so doing, making their parish communities stronger. Is this something that might work in your parish? - This was the challenge that he posed to everyone in the meeting.

John Battle then introduced several organisations working in the Leeds Diocese area who need additional volunteer support. They were each given 5 minutes to describe what sort of work they did and what additional help they needed. John Through **the Refugee Council** presence in Leeds

stressed that, rather than thinking that it was up to everyone at the meeting to individually volunteer it would be so much more powerful if they were to take information back to their local church community and to personally pass it onto at least 3 other people.

Brian Hamill from **Wakefield City of Sanctuary** described the opposite situation to the well-organised Community Sponsorship scheme.

Destitute asylum seekers have no recourse to public funds and Brian was keen to stress the immorality of leaving people without any security of



accommodation or food. He felt this was an area where the Catholic Church could take more of a leading role. City of Sanctuary provides all sorts of services for such asylum seekers – services that are repeated in other parts of the diocese through the efforts of secular and church organisations such as the WYDAN (West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Seekers Network) winter accommodation scheme or Inn Churches in Bradford.

Another organisation working with failed asylum seekers is **St Monica's Housing** and its work was described by John McLaughlin, Commission member, and Sheelagh Pickles, from John Henry Newman parish. They described how they already manage one church property that can house 6 failed asylum seeking women and they are hoping to obtain another property soon in the Harehills area of Leeds. This organisation provides accommodation for up to six months to give the women time to re-apply for refugee status and generally to help sort out their affairs.

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two former asylum seekers told a little of their stories. One has now been in the country for 16 years – but only in the last three years has she obtained leave to remain. The other was on the verge of suicide and it was only the kindness of a GP that enabled her to turn a corner and keep going.

Julie Linley (another J&P Commission member) briefly recounted the work with refugees that takes place at the **St Vincent's Support Centre** on York Road in Leeds. This work is in addition to the



over 100 hundred refugee families that have been helped by individual parish SVP conferences in the Leeds Diocese over the last 12 months. There are English language lessons, legal advice and help with filling out all manner of forms – as well as

A Prayer for Refugees (From CRS)

God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known
That your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time
In a family of refugees
Fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child
And fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
“Will you let me in?”
Give us hearts that break open
When our brothers and sisters turn to us
with that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:

helping people with more general queries. Dot and Helen described the work of the



Conversation Club. It meets every week at Mill Hill Chapel in central Leeds.

Refugees and asylum seekers can drop in and have a friendly conversation, in English, with a group of local volunteers. It is an opportunity to be somewhere where they do not have to explain themselves but can have or join in a conversation or play a game that will help them to develop their English skills in a relaxed and, often, fun setting.

For further information about any of these or other actions that parishes could take then please get in touch with the Diocesan Refugee Support Group Facilitator, whose role is administered through Catholic Care :

Lucy Irven

lirven@catholic-care.org.uk

Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
And so make me worthy
Of the refuge I have found in you.

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NEWMAN PARISH TAKES PART IN WYDAN WINTER NIGHT SHELTER SCHEME

By Anne Tracey

The middle of January this year saw some very wintry weather, with rain, wind and sleet seeming to take it turns. And this was the week that we in Newman parish had offered to help with providing a night shelter for asylum seekers who might otherwise have had spent these freezing nights on the streets. We were not sure how it would work out and some of us were a little nervous about it.

Six local churches were involved in the project which was set-up by WYDAN, the West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Seekers Network. Cross Gates Methodist church provided the accommodation, and with other local churches – St James Manston, Christchurch Methodist/ URC Halton, Newman parish, and Colton Methodists provided all that was needed. In total an astonishing 84 people volunteered to help. Others donated food, clothing, and cash, - £685 from Newman churches alone. The plan was to provide the shelter for just one week, after which another group of churches in Leeds would take over the task, in this way hopefully providing safe places to sleep through the worst of the winter.

On the first day our nine guests were welcomed by volunteers and helped to feel at home in the church hall - now transformed with beds, a dining



table, settees, and board games. Each evening

REFLECTION: Red Brocade

Naomi Shihab Nye, 1952

The Arabs used to say,
When a stranger appears at your door,
feed him for three days
before asking who he is,
where he's come from,
where he's headed.
That way, he'll have strength
enough to answer.
Or, by then you'll be
such good friends
you don't care.

Let's go back to that.
Rice? Pine nuts?
Here, take the red brocade pillow.
My child will serve water
to your horse.
No, I was not busy when you came!
I was not preparing to be busy.
That's the armor everyone put on
to pretend they had a purpose
in the world.

I refuse to be claimed.
Your plate is waiting.
We will snip fresh mint
into your tea.

أهلاً وسهلاً،
يا حبايبي!

Be welcome and at ease, beloved friends!

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delicious meals appeared from the adjoining kitchen. - The Punjabi curry cooked by our own Michael Clayton on Wednesday night was a real feast. Teams of volunteers provided friendship and company during the evenings, some stayed overnight, others arrived each morning to prepare breakfast and packed lunches. A dentist offered free dental treatment for our guests. There were many donations of clothes and money.

Our guests make no mistake, are in a terrible situation. They have often have suffered danger and great loss to get here and the future is an unknown, even supposing they get permission to stay in this country. Most speak little English, yet they need to find their way through complex appeals procedures, helped if they are lucky by an overworked charity sector. Some asylum seekers are highly skilled and educated but all are forbidden to work and survive on just £5 a day from the Home Office. And, invaluable as schemes such as ours are, imagine depending upon such make-shift and uncertain shelter week after week. Their treatment is simply shocking, inhuman. Yet, in spite of all this, there was an amazing spirit of joy in that church hall. Both guests and volunteers gave so much of themselves in friendship and cheerfulness. The kindness of God felt present.

At the beginning of the week, we were a crowd of strangers, - men from Syria, Eritrea, Iraq, Pakistan and Sudan... volunteers from different Christian traditions..... we were Moslems, Christians and those of no faith.- And yet, out of this mix, a remarkable atmosphere of friendship, and at times of pure celebration, emerged. It was such a pleasure and an honour to be part of that brief community.

Revd Susan Greenhart of Cross Gates Methodist church recorded these comments from our guests:

"This is the first time I've felt safe in a long time."

"It is good to share food together."

"I live this day. No past. No future. All is gone. The future? Only God knows. Now is all I have."

"I am happy for this place. It is good. But family. I

need family."

"My heart is warm when I meet good people. A week passes. I have to say goodbye, and my heart hurts."



Some of our volunteers offered these thoughts – 'It surprised me that in spite of everything they'd gone through, there was no bitterness. In fact there was a feeling of peace. I was so impressed and moved by them.'

'I was talking to one of our guests in the middle of the night as he couldn't sleep, he left me with a sense of his hopelessness. A young man with his life ahead but with no plans and no hope, can't be right.'

What struck me about the men I met was their very real gratitude for what they were receiving, and in receiving they wanted to share.'

'I was asked if I could take four men to Dewsbury for urgent dental treatment on Saturday. I was happy to do this and the trip went very smoothly and everyone received the treatment needed at Dewsbury town hall where the dental clinic was set up. I will be more than happy to do it again.'

'As I said goodbye to one of our guests we shook hands, and he said 'Goodbye, my sister. That said it all for me.'

WYDAN hopes to extend the Night shelter scheme next year. To find out more go to www.wydan.org.uk.

Also, of course, they are always grateful to receive donations.

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POPE FRANCIS IN AMAZONIA, THE PERIPHERY OF THE PERIPHERIES

By Julian Filichowski

Julian, originally from Normanton and an old boy of St Michael's College in Leeds, is the former Director of CAFOD and Chair of the Romero Trust.

This article appeared first on the Tablet website.

Pope Francis brought a message of hope to the Church and to the whole people of Peru. But after a minimum of formalities in Lima, his very first call was to the periphery of the country. It was a joy-filled pilgrimage to Puerto Maldonado, the capital of the Madre de Dios (Mother of God) Region of Peru to meet with the Amerindian peoples of Amazonia.

Soon after his plane touched down, the Pope was there in the midst of the throng of indigenous people from the Peruvian rainforest, greeting their leaders and exchanging gifts with them. He listened with great attention to their stories and their witness; he watched their dances in their colourful costumes and heard their songs; and he responded with a hard-hitting prophetic address, picking up many of the concerns they had expressed. The event was superbly choreographed by the local Dominican bishop, David Martinez. But it was not celebrity theatre. Francis interacted with the gathered communities – it was an authentic dialogue.



And very significantly, there in the heart of the rainforest, he fired the starting pistol on the preparations for the Pan-Amazon Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in 2019. As a guide and interpreter for the English-speaking bishops of the Guyanas, I

was a privileged witness to this great encounter of Pope Francis with the native Amazon peoples of Peru, joined by their sisters and brothers from the jungles of neighbouring Bolivia and Brazil. Any lingering stereotypes were dispatched in watching an Amerindian representative with luxuriant feathered headgear pull out an iPhone from under his loincloth to take a picture of the podium party! In his opening words to the packed Coliseo stadium, Pope Francis named - one by one - 21 different native peoples present. In their faces were reflected the colossal diversity of Amazonia. He said that those of us living outside needed their wisdom and their knowledge to enter in, without destroying the treasures that the region holds. "Praise the Lord for all the biodiversity that these lands embrace".

The Amazon is a land disputed on many fronts. Francis chided 'neextractivism' – reliance by left-leaning Latin American governments on destructive mining activities to finance social reforms - alongside fierce criticism of those big business interests that direct their greed on oil, gas, timber, gold, and agroindustry monocultivation in Amazonia. His words were strong, and they were directed far beyond his listeners in Puerto Maldonado. "We have to break the historical paradigm that views Amazonia as an inexhaustible source of supplies for other countries without concern for its inhabitants."

In the context of proposals for great 'Pharaonic' development projects, like dams and highways that affect and can destroy Amerindian lands, Francis underlined that they themselves, whose history is marked by exclusion and discrimination, should be the principal prior dialogue partners. His praise and affirmation were unambiguous. "And if, for some, you are viewed as an obstacle to progress...allow me to state that you are a living memory of the

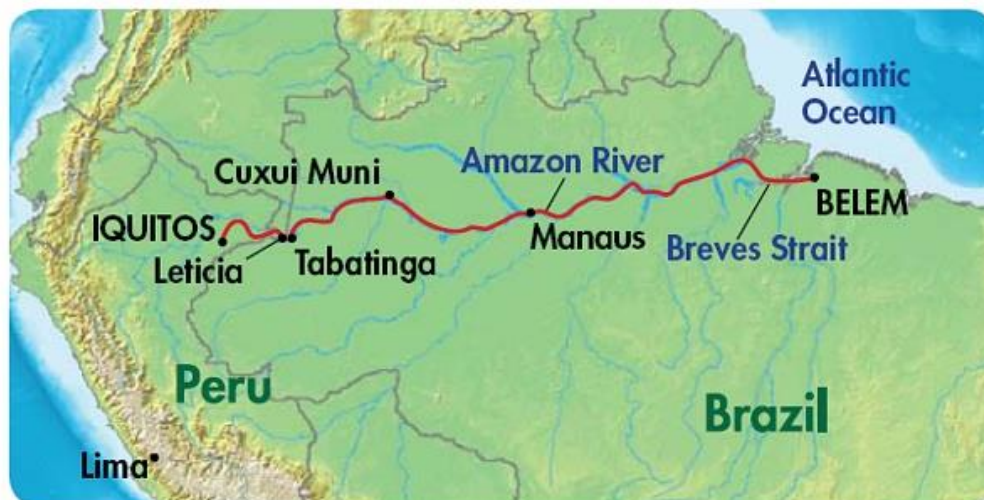
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mission that God has entrusted to us all: the protection of our common home.” It was the *Laudato Si* encyclical pithily restated in the context of the Amazon people.

Illegal mining, he declared, leads to another devastating assault on life – human trafficking, slave labour and sexual abuse. “How I wish we would all hear God’s cry – ‘Where is your brother?’ Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Let us not pretend and look the other way. There is greater complicity than we think. The issue involves everyone” And again: “The cry of this people is often silenced or not allowed to speak. That prophecy must remain alive in our Church which will never stop pleading for the outcast and those who suffer.” Francis’ message over and over again was: Advocacy for the poor yes! Silence, complicity, inaction and resignation – no!

His final plea to the gathered communities was “Help your bishops, and help your men and women missionaries, to shape a Church with an Amazonian face”. This became a key directive to the first Synod preparatory meeting which followed that same afternoon, convened by Cardinal Baldisseri from the Roman Curia, and organised by REPAM (the Panamazonic Ecclesial Network of the Latin American Church).

Bishops from eight countries, along with advisors, met to collect together the baskets of concerns of the Amazon peoples and to list the many and varied pastoral challenges facing the Church across the Amazon basin. Much of this material will eventually be incorporated into the preparatory documentation as the road to the Synod is mapped out. It already seems clear that the principal reference texts will be the



Although it may have caused some minor dismay in governmental quarters and in the board rooms of extractive industries, there is not a scintilla of doubt that the Amazon visit was a stunning success, especially for the Amerindian peoples and for the local Church. It beautifully paves the way to the Pan-Amazon Synod in 2019. As Pope Francis left the auditorium, the chant went up ‘Francisco, Amigo, La Selva Está Contigo’ (Francis, Our Friend, the Forest People Are With You).

encyclicals *Laudato Si* and *Evangelii Gaudium*, the conclusions of the 2007 CELAM Conference in Aparecida and, logically, the Pope’s Address delivered there in Puerto Maldonado.

There was a palpable excitement that, through this Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis wants the Amazon periphery, its peoples, their lives, their cultures and their lands, to become a real and serious concern for the whole universal Church. Surely, our only possible response is to echo Francis of Assisi: ‘Laudato Si, O Mi Signore’!

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FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2018: FAIRTRADE OPENS DOORS – COME ON IN

It's a shocking fact that millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. It's time for this injustice to end.






Fairtrade Fortnight in 2018 runs from **26 Feb through to 11 Mar**. The tagline – 'Fairtrade opens doors' is reflective of the powerful effect on poor communities of them getting a fairer share of the results of their efforts. It is also reflective of the change to shopping habits of so many people that have made Fairly traded products available in all major supermarkets – though, as the recent Sainsbury's changes highlight, we cannot take these changes in trading practices for granted; they need to be justified

on a continuing basis – though it is a lot easier now than 25 years ago!

Many parishes in the Leeds Diocese are already Fairtrade parishes. Are you holding a stall in your parish during Fairtrade Fortnight? – What about going further to make people more aware of the whole range of fairly traded goods that are now available – including clothing.








Many schools are also involved in Fairtrade activities and the [Fairtrade foundation](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) have good resources for use both with primary and secondary schools. On the 1st March there is a secondary schools conference for all schools across Yorkshire – the 'Fairandfunky Fairtrade Conference' (organised by community interest company [fairandfunky](http://www.fairandfunky.co.uk)) which will be held at Honley High school, South of Huddersfield. The following day there is a similar event for primary schools at the creative media and studio school in Huddersfield. On the same day in Leeds in the Civic Hall there will be the Leeds Fairtrade Schools celebration.

EVENTS

 Wed 21 Feb	CAFOD: SHARED LUNCH & TALK WITH ZIMBABWE WORKER <i>CAFOD Volunteer Centre, St Monica's, Hinsley Hall, Leeds LS6 2BX 12pm-1pm</i> An opportunity to listen to and talk with Livison Chipatiso, who is currently working for CAFOD in Zimbabwe. Everyone is welcome but you are asked to bring a little something to share and to email the office (leeds@cafod.org.uk) so they have an idea of how many will be coming along.
 Fri 23 Feb	CAFOD LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY This lent CAFOD are focusing on the work that they do in Zimbabwe – so why not encourage people to go along to the CAFOD lunch event on 21 February as well as contributing money from Family Fast Day itself?
 Mon 26 Feb to Sun 11 Mar	FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT Many church communities will be having Fairtrade stalls during this period. The Unfairness in global trade is a scandal that goes back in history a long way. The Fairtrade Foundation have achieved so much – let's all work to take it to the next level. See https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/ for more information and ideas on what else you could do in your parish



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 Thur 01 Mar	<p>WHERE ARE WE HEADED WITH ISRAEL/PALESTINE? <i>Oxford Place Centre, Leeds LS1 3AU 6:00pm – 8:30pm</i> Professor Jeff Halper is the director of ICAHD (Israeli Committee against House Demolitions), a university teacher and has written numerous books. He also participated in the first (and successful) attempt of the Free Gaza Movement to break the Israeli siege by sailing into Gaza. Jeff and ICAHD are currently involved in a joint Palestinian-Israeli grassroots initiative to formulate a political settlement based on the creation of one democratic state. refreshments from 6pm with the presentation starting at 6:30pm. This event is organised by Yorkshire Sabeel, is free and everyone is welcome.</p>
 Fri 02 Mar	<p>TRAVELS IN EL SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA – CAFOD LUNCH WITH SOPHIE AULTON <i>CAFOD Volunteer Centre St Monica's, Hinsley Hall, Leeds LS6 2BX 12pm-2pm</i> Sophie, the CAFOD Step into the Gap volunteer, is based at Leeds Trinity University. CAFOD sent her on an exposure visit to El Salvador and Nicaragua at the end of January. She will be sharing some of her experiences and everyone is welcome to come along for this lunchtime event. Lunch will be provided – so if you are intending to go to it please let the CAFOD Volunteer centre know so that they get the lunch and refreshments right. Just email leeds@caofd.org.uk This event is free but there will be a collection to go towards the amount that Sophie has to raise towards her trip.</p>
 Sat Mar 03 Tue Mar 06 Sat 10 Mar	<p>WOMEN OF PALESTINE –THE ONGOING NAKBA <i>Sat 03 Mar – Oxford Place centre, Leeds LS1 3AU 2pm – 5pm</i> <i>Tue 06 Mar – Delius Arts centre, 29 Great Horton Rd Bradford BD1 7AA 6pm – 9pm</i> <i>Sat 10 Mar – Queens Road Neighbourhood Centre, Halifax HX1 4NE 2pm – 5pm</i> Celebrate the resilience of Palestinian women over 70 years through poetry, personal stories and a stunning art installation. Free but donations welcome. Organised by Northern Women for Palestine.</p>
 Sat 10 Mar	<p>DAY OF REFLECTION: A CARMELITE APPROACH TO JUSTICE Carmelite Monastery, Wood Hall, Linton Nr Wetherby 10:30 – 4:30pm See the half page advert inside for more details. Numbers are limited to 20 so you must book a place by emailing the office jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk</p>
 Sat 17 Mar to Sun 25 Mar	<p>FLY KITES NOT DRONES WEEK OF ACTION Fly Kites Not Drones INTERNATIONAL week of action – an ‘uplifting’ campaign for all ages, to raise awareness about the use of armed drones, and moreover to show solidarity with civilians (especially children) living under the threat of armed drones. See http://paxchristi.org.uk/product/fly-kites-not-drones/ for their education pack about this.</p>
 Tue 20 Mar	<p>ROMERO LECTURE <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB 19:00-21:00</i> Ruben Zamora, the El Salvadoran UN representative, will be giving this year’s Romero Lecture tour and we are having a presentation of it in the Leeds Diocese. ..See the advert inside for more details. This lecture is free to attend but it would be helpful if you could book a place so we have an idea of numbers. Simply go to the J&P website and follow the link.</p>
 Find us on Facebook	<p>Follow us on Facebook to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.</p>

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.