



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018

REASONS TO HAVE A DAY OUT IN LIVERPOOL IN SEPTEMBER

If you have been unable to obtain a place at the main Adoremus event it is still worth thinking about going across to Liverpool on the Saturday of the main event (Sep 8th). This is because on top of the main programme there is an entire 'parallel programme' of different events.



ADOREMUS LIVERPOOL PARALLEL PROGRAMME

This parallel programme will be taking place in churches across Liverpool and all these events are **free**. A number of these have a social justice theme attached to them. The whole parallel programme is huge and very varied. So, to help you decide, here is a rundown of the main events that might be of interest:

Broken TV Series

*St Francis Xavier Church, L3 8DR
Friday & Saturday 11:00-15:30pm*

Exposition, Mass and refreshments are followed by a screening of some of this series with behind the scenes commentary by director Jimmy Mc Govern. There will also be a discussion with him about the issues raised by this series and about living Eucharist in daily life

Environment: 'On the altar of the World'

*St Philip Neri Church L8 7NL
Saturday 12:00-18:00*

Come and explore a sacramental theology of creation with the Northern Dioceses Environment Network, Together for the Common Good and CAFOD. Talks, discussion, hospitality and family-friendly activities.

Reconciliation & the Eucharist with Pax Christi

*Notre Dame College, Gt Homer St, L5 5AF
Saturday 12:00 – 18:00*

Beginning and ending with meditation on the Icon of Reconciliation and using prayers and stories they will explore a vision of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. The event will include an intergenerational panel of women discussing peacemaking in families, in our country and globally.

Eucharist in the World with CAFOD

*Sacred Heart Church L7 8TN
Saturday Workshops 12:00, 14:00 & 16:00*

A workshop and exhibition showing how the meaning of the Eucharist is brought to life by the many communities and Church partners CAFOD works alongside across the world. Pictures, films, stories and bread will be shared!



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Diakonia: Food for the Hungry: practical responses to physical hunger

*St Vincent de Paul Church, L1 5EE
Saturday 12:00 – 18:00*

A city centre event coordinated by the Liverpool order of deacons, looking at the issues of hunger and food poverty today with input from Church Action on Poverty and Micah (two cathedrals foodbank). Activities will range from panel discussions to opportunities for quiet prayer.

Welcoming The Stranger: Immigration, asylum seekers and refugees

*St Anthony of Egypt Church, L5 5BD
Saturday 12:00 – 21:00*

A look at the history of immigration into the Northwest of England, including current issues. Displays, statistics, stories and voices about what it means to journey in search of a new life in the UK. This takes place in an historic Liverpool Irish immigrant parish.

Many of these events are 'family-friendly' in the way they are put together. The full programme can be viewed on the website for the parallel programme: <http://adoremus.uilcc.org/index.php/parallel-programme/>

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY COMMISSIONED FOR FAMILY POVERTY PROGRAMME

As previously reported, the Commission has obtained a grant from the Society of the Holy Child Jesus to follow up our workshop about Family Poverty with a programme of small group meetings suitable for use in parishes and other small groups.

We are delighted to announce that we are partnering with **Church Action on Poverty (CAP)** to develop the programme of 4-6 meetings. The Project Steering Group has held an initial workshop with CAP and they will be developing the materials over the course of the Summer.

Our aim is to have the materials ready to try out in a limited number of parishes starting in October. After ironing out any wrinkles in the programme our plan is to make it available more widely from the start of 2019.

So far, two parishes have volunteered to work through the programme on a pilot basis.

WAYS IN WHICH YOU COULD HELP US WITH THIS PROJECT:

We need two more parishes or Churches Together groups to volunteer to work through the programme of meetings

We need 1 more volunteer for the Project Steering Grp (4 mtgs per year over 2 years)

Could you facilitate a group through the meetings? – If so then please get in touch (This work is paid)

Just email us if you are interested in any of these opportunities.



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COMMISSION PLANS: THE YEAR PAST AND THE YEAR AHEAD

The Annual Review for the Apr 2017 – Mar 2018 period is now available for download from our website (on the About Us page).



Last year we spent about £11,000 which was not all that different from the year before. What is different is how we funded

that spend. Previously we were using up our quickly diminishing reserves. However, in the last financial year the amount of regular giving to the Commission increased from less than £250 to over £1400 per annum. We owe a big THANK YOU to people who support the work of the Commission in this way. Additionally, we were able to obtain grants towards our workshops of £4,600 and, again, we owe a big THANK YOU to CAFOD, The Grail Trust and the Sisters of the Cross and Passion who helped us to put on some key events. We are also very grateful for an anonymous donation of £3000.

Your continued financial support is vital for us to carry on our work in the coming financial year. Being able to demonstrate that we have a strong supporter base, prepared to support us financially, is important when we apply for funding from grant givers and trusts. Our reserves are nearly all gone but we are hopeful that the Diocese itself may now be in a position to provide a modest level of support, so we can start up some of the projects we have in the pipeline.

UK poverty has been a priority issue for the Commission for a number of years and it remains so. A major project this year is the one on Family Poverty, funded by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and this is moving ahead as reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are starting to plan a Day of Reflection in Autumn as part of our programme of developing a '**Just Spirituality**'. We have also pencilled another one for the Spring of 2019 and, funds permitting, we want to extend our website to include aspects of this work.

Climate Change remains a priority and we intend to do more work about spreading the messages of '*Laudato Si*' and work towards a Diocesan Environment Policy for consideration by the Diocesan Curia.

In the **peace and nonviolence** arena we are looking to partner with the Leeds Pax Christi group as they work towards organising a special remembrance service around the anniversary of the end of World War I. Our aim is to make available to parishes a liturgy resource booklet nearer the time so that parishes can easily incorporate remembrance and prayers for peace into their services around that time.

Of course, we will continue to actively support the work of partners – such as Leeds Caritas, the events put on through the Leeds CAFOD office and the work of the Diocesan Refugee Support Group. We will also be open to opportunities that arise – like the short tour last year organised by Pax Christi about the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative or the opportunity to host the Romero Lecture.

Much of this potential activity depends on increasing our regular contributions, obtaining some finance from the Diocese and one or two successful applications for external funding.

We welcome additional suggestions for work that we should be doing to support you. Anyone is welcome to come along to a Commission meeting and tell us about concerns in your area – just email the office to find out when the next meeting takes place.

CREATION DAY AND THE SEASON CREATION 2018

In 2015 Pope Francis designated the 1st September annually as a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Catholic Church. The period from the 1st September through to the 4th October (the Feast of St Francis of Assisi) is known as the Season of Creation.

Now is the time to start thinking and planning on how you will mark this in your church community.

The theme for the Season of Creation in 2018 is Pilgrimage. Although conflicts across the globe are a prime cause of people being displaced from their homes, climate change is having some impact. The interconnectedness of our world is difficult to avoid. So CAFOD's Share the Journey campaign dovetails with this theme to an extent – making their lovely prayer resources suitable for use.

However, it is expected that communities across the world will make pilgrimages themselves during the Season of Creation. Christian communities will be engaging in symbolic actions in front of coal mines, fracking wells, and other sites of ecological destruction.

Of course, not all of us are able to spend the time or are physically able to trek off to scenes of ecological destruction. All of us can only do what we have the time to do – we all have many pressures on us to do all kinds of things. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the sheer amount of action for social justice that is needed in our world. The previous newsletter, for instance, highlighted the 'Speak Up for Climate Change' week of action between 30 June and 08 July.

If you can go and speak to your MP about Climate Change during that week then great. If you can't then don't feel guilty about it but rather think about what you could do.

Climate Change is a 'clear and present danger' as some quarters might express it. So we do all need to reflect on the messages that Pope Francis conveyed in *Laudato Si* and take action on them. Ensuring that the prayer life of your church community includes Care of Creation is a simpler and more 'doable' action that many more people can take – just download, for instance, some suggested Prayers of the Faithful and get them used in your community. What's stopping you?

**Key Resource: www.seasonofcreation.org**

This ecumenical website is another key place for suggestions on how to incorporate praying for the Care of Creation into your existing worship. Resources are split denominationally, and the Catholic section includes a sample Holy Hour, suggestions for Morning and Evening Prayer, a Way of the Cross as well as suggestions for prayers that can be included during masses as part of the Prayers of the Faithful.

LOCAL SHOPPING By John Battle

Local shopping centres and, now, high streets are becoming ghost towns as more and more shops and stores close. From the latest House of Fraser announcement of 31 of its 59 stores closing to Marks & Spencer closures and Poundworld facing administration following Toys R Us, the places where we shop are increasingly marked with boarded up premises and only the most profitable big chain businesses moving in. Apparently 21,000 shop jobs have been lost in the first three months of 2018. Retail chains at all level are going under.



For some time there has been concern about how to resurrect smaller 'out of town' shopping parades that face local businesses closing. Initiatives to attract new outside investment have generally got nowhere. Meanwhile the owners of shopping centres have been putting increasing pressure on retailers to pay them more rent. Landlord property companies such as Legal & General and Westfield and Land Securities, some of the biggest, are resisting government support through 'company voluntary arrangements' to reduce rent payments. The landlords argue that their companies represent pension and investment funds and need to maximize their profits. As a result more and more small businesses (and now some large) are closing down and shops boarded up.

But what about an alternative of local shopping facilities to serve local needs? Traditional corner

shops and specialists such as flower shops and butchers in the past have had to survive against the move to the great all selling supermarkets. Locally our flower shop was priced out of the local Bramley shopping centre by the Berkshire owning property company raising the rents. A money lending shop moved in.

But imagine if a local community took over the management of a local parade of shops as a community "social enterprise". In our neighbourhood for example the social enterprise could fix the rents on a community "non-personal profit" basis. Existing tenants need not be evicted but perhaps companies such as betting shops and money lending companies could be charged a higher rent to make up for what they extract from the local community. The flower shop could be moved back in at an affordable rent. A mums and tots centre could be set up, a local credit union shop blending in financial services advice including helping get cheap energy and communication deals, could take up a unit. A local garden produce market could be moved in as well as local crafts and sharing supplies, such as lending equipment and time exchanges. In other words, the real social and economic needs of the local economy could fill the premises and a social enterprise shopping parade would manage the premises and keep the rents low. A local social enterprise shopping centre serving real local economic and social needs is the kind of alternative 'base upwards' and community participatory model that has been suggested for years in Catholic social teaching from Saint Pope John XXIII and more recently in Pope Emeritus Benedict's Encyclicals through to the working



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models of “economy of communion” practiced worldwide in the Church by the Focolare movement. The “Economics of Communion”

provides a real alternative. It now needs to be experimented with on a wider local scale.

THE BIBLE, JUSTICE AND THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CONFLICT

A book Review by Anne Tracy of Newman parish

At least sixty Palestinian people died in May protests at the Gaza fence. It is hard to understand what can account for such violence and such resistance. History, politics and theology are bewilderingly intertwined in this tragedy. This book offers a clear narrative through the eyes of a Palestinian Anglican priest who founded the Sabeel Ecumenical Centre for Palestinian Liberation Theology in Jerusalem. Sabeel, which now has support groups in many countries, (including one here in Leeds), seeks ways towards a just peace.

Rev Ateek was born in a Palestinian town near the River Jordan in 1948 - the same year that the newly established State of Israel, drove 750,000 indigenous Palestinians into internal or external exile. – This was ‘the Nakba’, the Catastrophe, for Palestinians. His own family were forced out of their home at gunpoint. The book traces the origins of the Nakba and the steadily worsening position of the Palestinian population since that time. Ateek works for justice and reconciliation achieved through non-violent means.

Palestinian liberation theology, like all liberation theology, is contextual, ‘a lived theology’. It offers ways of analysing social injustice through the eyes of the poor asking - Given what we know

from his words and actions as recorded in the gospels, how do we imagine Jesus might respond to this situation? How can we as his followers speak and act in the light of his example? How might we work towards a just peace in the Holy Land while remaining faithful to his commitment to non-violence and reconciliation?

Liberation theology enables us to read scripture from the perspective of the poor and marginalised and in doing so we may rediscover the bible with a new perspective and urgency. For example, Ateek asks us to consider from within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, how we as Christians might understand Old Testament references to the ‘Promised Land’ and the ‘Chosen People’?

He accepts the deep desire and right of Jewish people for a homeland. But he insists that Palestinians too, both Moslems and Christians, have a right to a just share in the land that has been their homeland for centuries. He believes that a truly just solution would benefit not only the Palestinians but ultimately the Israelis too.

As an approach to the problems of the Holy Land from a Christian Palestinian perspective this is a thought provoking and very helpful book.



A Palestine Theology of Liberation -The Bible, Justice and the Palestine-Israel Conflict by Stifan Ateek. Published by Orbis 2017.



just settlement to the Israel-Palestine Conflict) have a meeting scheduled for July 11 with a speaker from Palestine – see the events listing at the end

The Leeds Sabeel Group (Sabeel campaign for a

of this newsletter.



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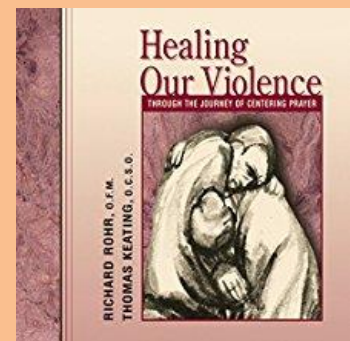
All great spirituality teaches about letting go of what you don't need and who you are not.

Then, when you can get little enough and naked enough and poor enough, you'll find that the little place where you really are is ironically more than enough and is all that you need. At that place, you will have nothing



to prove to anybody and nothing to protect. That place is called freedom. It's the freedom of the children of God. Such people can connect with everybody. They don't feel the need to eliminate anybody.

From
Richard Rohr and Thomas Keating, *Healing Our Violence through the Journey of Centering Prayer*, Franciscan Media 2002



EVENTS

 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>
 Thu 21 Jun	<p>LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE RIVERS – EXPLORING FAITH-BASED SOCIAL ACTION <i>The Thornbury Centre, Leeds Old Road BD3 8JX 14:00 – 16:00</i> This event is organised by Welfare Reform Impact Bradford. The speaker is Rev Chris Howson, chaplain to Sunderland University and city centre. To book a place email richardpaley48@hotmail.com or for more details phone Gordon Dey on 01274 674565</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>
 Thu 28 Jun	<p>MEET CAFOD'S HEAD OF REGION, AFRICA AND COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE FOR SUDAN <i>CAFOD Volunteer Centre, St Monica's Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane LS6 2BX 11:30 – 13:30</i> An opportunity to find out more about CAFOD's work in Africa and their international work more generally. Please bring some food that can be part of a shared lunch. ALL WELCOME – but it would help if you could email leeds@cafod.org.uk so they have an idea of numbers.</p>



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 Sat 30 Jun - Sun 08 Jul	<p>SPEAK UP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE 2018 <i>National week of action</i></p> <p>Many major charities (such as CAFOD) invite people to become part of a national conversation about how Climate Change is affecting our lives – and to have that conversation with people that can change things such as our MP’s. For more information simply google ‘ The Climate Coalition’ and take a look at their website for ideas and resources.</p>
 Wed 04 Jul	<p>MENWITH HILL – INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA DAY</p> <p><i>Main Gate, Menwith Hill US Spy Base (The Golfballs!) near Harrogate 16:00 – 20:00</i></p> <p>The annual call for Independence from America will be made at the main gates of Menwith Hill with speakers, music, stalls and food. Speakers: Kate Hudson, General Secretary of CND; Shaughan Dolan (Conscience, the Peace Tax Campaign) & Chris Bluemel (Trident Ploughshares). Music: The East Lancs Clarion Choir; Janet Russell & The Commoners Choir</p>
 Fri 06 Jul - Sun 08 Jul	<p>GREEN CHRISTIANS 2018 RETREAT: A HEART FOR THE EARTH</p> <p><i>Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Consett, Co Durham</i></p> <p>A weekend with members of the Green Christian’s Way of Life Community. For more details see the Green Christians website www.greenchristian.org.uk/</p>
 Wed 11 Jul	<p>RESTORING LIVELIHOODS, RESTORING HOPE IN PALESTINE</p> <p><i>Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB 18:30 – 20:30 (refrshmnts from 18:00)</i></p> <p>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 More info from madofls12@outlook.com</p>
 Fri 20 Jul – Sun 22 Jul	<p>IT IS IN THE SHELTER OF EACH OTHER THAT THE PEOPLE LIVE</p> <p><i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU</i></p> <p>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>
 Tue 24 Jul - Fri 27 Jul	<p>KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA YOUNG PEOPLE’S SEMINAR: BEING A YOUNG CATHOLIC TODAY</p> <p><i>Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds LS6 2BX</i></p> <p>The detailed programme for this is still being worked out as we go to press – but as their motto is ‘serving Christ by serving others’ it’s worth looking https://www.ksc.org.uk/</p>
 Sat 01 Sep	<p>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION <i>Global</i></p> <p>Inaugurated by Pope Francis in 2015 he said ‘ day of prayer gives individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God’s help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God’s forgiveness for sins committed against the world in which we live. See www.ourcommonhome.org.uk for resources and ideas on what to do in your parish.</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.

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