



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

NEW DIOCESAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES

We have recently had some good news in respect of funding (for a change). The Diocese has agreed to provide £5,000 in this financial year and the following financial year to support our work.

On top of the grant from the Society of the Holy Child Jesus for the parish Family Poverty programme that we are developing, it means that we can start work on some additional projects as we move into the Autumn.

Equally important, this show of support for the work of Justice & Peace puts the Commission in a better position when seeking funding from external foundations and other organisations – it is often a stipulation that some level of matched funding is provided by the parent organisation.



Some of the key work that we do is an ongoing level of communication about what is happening within our diocese or drawing your attention to things happening at a national or international level – principally through the website and newsletter. However, we have changed the way we work so that most of our activities are 'projects'. By budgeting for each project separately we can more easily apply for external funding to support specific pieces of work.

In the current financial year, we are also expecting to receive around £1,500 in regular donations from individuals – up from £250 two years ago. We are very grateful for this show of support from a relatively small

number of individuals within the diocese. Again, this level of financial support from individuals across the Diocese is important when applying for external funding.

Our Treasurer, Steve Higgins, comments, *"In the last twelve months the finances of the Commission seem to have turned a corner. I am hopeful that our income might actually match our expenditure in the current financial year! Of course, if we had more then we could do more – so I would be delighted to hear from anyone else interested in setting up a standing order in favour of the Commission. You can download the form from our website. If you cannot commit to making a regular donation I am also very happy to receive one-off donations towards our work. Again, if you look on our website you will find our banking details to do an online transfer or you can always send a cheque to the Commission's office at Hinsley Hall in Leeds."*

A SPIRITUALITY OF JUSTICE by Trish Sandbach

If human beings are to reach their full potential and flourish, it is necessary that they mirror their creator in whose image they are formed. Thus, we are called to be a people reflecting God's loving justice.

Sadly, from the dawning of history, injustice has damaged human relationships thus hindering human development and well-being. As disciples of Christ, it is a fundamental responsibility to strive for justice



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in all our relationships: with the whole of created life which Saint Francis recognised as our sisters and brothers.

The damage caused by relationships fractured through injustice and the harmony which is fruit of just relationships is especially evident in our interaction with the created order.

Whose heart does not sing when watching a glorious sunset or seeing the first snowdrops of spring? As many mystics, saints and theologians have noted, it is the beauty, diversity and wonder of the natural world which attracts and nurtures us. This necessarily depends upon our having a just relationship with the Earth, our common home, since all living things are connected and interdependent and are the work of our loving Creator. When all these are moving and dancing in harmony they reflect something of God.



All living things have their intrinsic rights and are valuable in themselves: when we deface or abuse them it is not merely a legal or environmental issue; it is a matter of injustice and therefore a moral one.

Pope Francis, because of a deep concern for the whole of God's creation, addressed these matters in his recent encyclical, 'Laudato Si.' We are urged to listen to the cry of the poor and of the Earth. Depletion of resources, extinction of species, extremes of weather causing droughts, famine and

floods are the visual signs of an unjust disregard for the intrinsic rights of the fauna and flora of the Earth. The rape of our Planet and its resources, organic and inorganic, is destroying not only our relationships with the Earth but also those between individuals, corporations and communities, which result in an ever deepening disconnect between rich and poor. Our global distress and pain finds all their roots in the unjust relationships between human beings and the created order.

The unjust distribution of the world's resources, which is creating an increasing number of people in poverty, is significantly augmented by climate change for which they are not responsible. Overconsumption and greed destroy the essential elements of land and sea on which they depend for survival.

A spirituality of justice demands an "ecological conversion", involving transformation, repentance: reflection and prayer, both individually and in community. Being counter-cultural in a consumerist society needs companionship, and the development of the virtues of gratitude and "enoughness". It is only by adopting just attitudes and relationships that we can safeguard our planet and give hope to future generations.

Justice is love in action and we are called by Jesus to love one another. It is an inalienable part of a truly Christian spirituality.

Trish is a member of the J&P Commission and a parishioner of St. Benedict's Garforth, where she is involved in their Live Simply group.



Just Spirituality

Autumn Day of Reflection



Saturday 20 October 2018
10:00 (Mass) until 3pm
Good Shepherd Parish Centre,
Mytholmroyd

Take time out to join us to reflect more deeply on action for Social Justice in this Day of Reflection led by Fr Michael Doody, Vocations Director for the Leeds Diocese.

This event is free to attend **but** please book places by Emailing
jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Our venue is right next door to Mytholmroyd station. If you can offer a lift or need a lift then please tell us when booking and (nothing guaranteed) we will try and sort out an arrangement.

The day starts at 10:00 with the normal Saturday mass for the Good Shepherd church community. Everyone is asked to bring some food that can be shared at lunchtime. Teas & coffees will be provided. There will be two talks by Fr Doody with time for private reflection and some time for discussion as well.





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FAMILY POVERTY PARISH PROGRAMME PROGRESS

We are working with Church Action on Poverty to produce a series of 5 meetings to be undertaken in parish groups to explore issues of family poverty.

We now have drafts of the materials and they are being reviewed by the Project Steering Group. We are hoping to try out the programme on a pilot basis in the Craven district of N Yorkshire, Bradford and Leeds, starting later in the Autumn.

Many parishes already do a lot to help low income families in their area through SVP conferences, the UCM and other organisations. We commonly talk about the 'Catholic Family' and family values are very important in the life of the Church. One of the biggest threats the Commission sees to those values today is the strain put on families by having to work in insecure jobs where you do not know from one week to the next whether you will have enough money to properly feed and clothe your children. Yes – this is Yorkshire in 2018 that we are talking about. Ask an SVP member if you find it difficult to believe.

This set of meetings is about exploring the dignity of the human person and getting to grips with the public policy and systems that deny families that dignity and considering what we can do as Church to change the situation. We welcome expressions of interest from other parishes – just email the Justice and Peace office and someone will get in touch.

SEASON OF CREATION

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was on September 1st. However, if you missed this then there is still the opportunity to help your community reflect more on our relationship with the rest of God's creation as the Season of Creation runs until October 4th (Feast of St Francis of Assisi).



During this time parishes are especially asked to keep in mind our duty of care towards all of God's creation. Simple ways to do this could be including a prayer of Intercession about trying to live more sustainably with the Earth. Perhaps it is time to take the plunge and learn a new hymn? – Church music has come a long way since 'All things bright and beautiful'! (take a look at

Marty Haugen's 'God of Day and God of Darkness, for instance).

The theme for this year's celebration is "walking together," and there are endless ways for your community to show it is on a journey toward better care of our common home.

For ideas about prayers to use and other resources see

CAFOD's range of resources about *Laudato Si* <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical> or take a look at the Season of Creation website <http://seasonofcreation.org/>



CARITAS LEEDS ONE YEAR ON: REFLECTION DAY

Caritas in the Leeds Diocese was launched one year ago in September and their plan included getting together one year on to review what the needs are in our local areas, what local parishes are already doing and what needs remain unmet. This event has now been organised and the details are:



FAITH THROUGH LOVING SERVICE

CARITAS LEEDS DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday 6th October 2018

Notre Dame 6th Form College

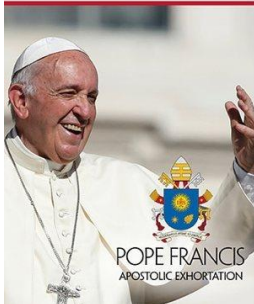
St Mark's Avenue, Leeds LS2 9BL

10:00 – 15:00

Please bring a packed lunch

Refreshments and registration will both be available from 09:30.

REJOICE AND BE GLAD
GAUDETE ET EXULTATE



After some opening prayers led by Bishop Marcus, there will be an introduction to Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate* (On the call to Holiness in the Modern World) followed by small group discussions about the implications.

There will also be the opportunity to explore

some topics in more detail in small group work - including families and young people, homelessness, ex-offenders and prisoners, disabled people, older people and asylum seekers and refugees.

After lunch the Diocesan Youth Service will present a showcase of the Faith in Action programme which has recently been introduced in this Diocese for young people.

With some more opportunity for small group discussions around Faith in Action followed by the official launch of some diocesan initiatives, there will be some closing prayers and the event is expected to finish ahead of 3pm, with time for talking to one another at the end.

To book a place (attendance is free but anyone coming is asked to register so Caritas have an idea of numbers) please either email joseph.cortis@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or register via Eventbrite using this link <https://tinyurl.com/yayzwsxq>

Everyone coming is asked to bring a packed lunch with them.

REMEMBRANCE IS NOT ENOUGH by Joe Burns

Last month Tim Devereux wrote why he thought that 'Remembrance is not enough'. One main point is that it is right to remember all those soldiers killed in conflict, but we must also remember all the civilians who have been killed

and all those whose lives have been shattered because of conflict. In our own time all those refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and the Rohingya Muslims fleeing oppression in Myanmar are just two examples.



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Moreover, just because there has been a declaration of an end to hostilities in a conflict does not mean that there is 'peace'; far from it.

At the end of the First World War the punitive reparations demanded by the Western Allies resulted in the great hardship endured in Germany in the 1920's which led, ultimately, to the rise of Nazism and the horrors of the Second World War. Learning lessons from this, the Marshall Plan ensured that there was no repeat of this situation in the period following the end of World War II. It is a sign of hope that, sometimes, we can learn lessons from history (Something that seems particularly relevant in 2018).

We often talk about 'building the peace' and this is another reason why remembrance is not enough. So many people are traumatised by conflicts that some are never able to achieve a fulfilling life again whilst for others it may take the rest of their lives. This is one element, at a personal level, of building the peace. Peacemaking, something that Jesus singles out in his Sermon on the Mount, is a *process* – an ongoing set of actions. It is the responsibility of all of us who call ourselves Christians.

What does that mean we have to do? Well, it is no accident that within the Catholic Church the word 'Peace' is so often accompanied by the word 'Justice'. This is because the Gospel of Jesus points us to working for Justice as the way to engage in this process of 'peacemaking'. Our religion obliges us to involve ourselves in civil society to ensure that the foundations of peace – just laws, structures, ways of working and supporting the poorest in our society – are ones that are enacted through public policy.

To help explore some of these wider aspects of Remembrance and peacemaking the Commission is working with the Leeds Pax Christi group. Towards the end of September we will be publishing a short booklet with some liturgical suggestions for exploring these wider aspects and with some prayer suggestions for use around the time of Remembrance Sunday.

Also, the Leeds Pax Christi group has organised a service called 'Remembrance is not Enough' for the 10 November at which the Anglican Theologian Andrew Shanks will speak. The details are given below



Centenary of the end of World War I: Remembrance is Not Enough **Saturday 10 November 2018 at 2:30 pm**

Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB

A special service of more than just Remembrance on the eve of the centenary of the 'War to end all wars'. The guest speaker at this service will be the Anglican theologian Andrew Shanks.

The Justice & Peace Commission are working with the Leeds Pax Christi Group to put on this event and prepare a special liturgy booklet that will be shared across parishes in the Leeds Diocese. This should be available around the end of September.





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REFLECTION: ALL NATURE POINTS TO GOD’S LOVE

All nature conceals its great secrets and cannot reveal its hidden wisdom and profound beauty if we do not listen carefully and patiently. John Henry Newman sees nature as a veil through which an invisible world is intimated. He writes:

“The visible world is...the veil of the world invisible...so that all that exists or happens visibly, conceals and yet suggests, and above all subserves, a system of persons, facts, and events beyond itself”.

How differently we would live if we were constantly aware of this veil and sensed in our whole being how nature is ever ready for us to hear and see the great story of the Creator’s love, to which it points. The plants and animals with whom we live teach us about birth, growth, maturation and death, about the need for gentle care, and especially about the importance of




patience and hope....



It is sad that in our days we are less connected with nature and we no longer allow nature to minister to us. We so easily limit ministry to work for people by people. But we could do an immense service to our world if we would let nature heal, counsel and teach again. I often wonder if the sheer artificiality and ugliness with which many people are surrounded are not as bad or worse than their interpersonal problems.










Henry Nouwen: Clowning in Rome

EVENTS

 01 Sep – 04 Oct	SEASON OF CREATION The time in the Church’s year when we especially remember our relationship with the rest of God’s creation. How sustainably are we living as individuals, communities and countries? See page 4 for suggestions for how you might include this into your liturgies.
 Tue 11 Sep	J&P COMMISSION MEETING 7pm – 9pm Anyone from the Leeds Diocese is welcome to come along to one of our Commission meetings. If you would like to attend simply email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and we will send you the details.
 Wed 12 Sep	PALESTINE – HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE? <i>Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square, Leeds 18:30 – 20:00</i> This is a Sabeel in Yorkshire meeting, open to all, and will be a discussion exploring ideas, possibilities and campaigns. Refreshments available from 6pm



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 Sat 15 Sep	<p>FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT CAFOD <i>St Mary's , Gowthorpe, Selby YO8 4HS 10:00 – 14:00</i> Have you ever considered becoming a CAFOD volunteer or want to find out more about the work that CAFOD does and how they go about it? – This workshop might be for you! Please email leeds@cafod.org.uk to tell them you will be coming along or for more info.</p>
 Sat 06 Oct	<p>CARITAS LEEDS ONE YEAR ON: DAY OF REFLECTION <i>Notre Dame 6th Form College, St Mark's Avenue, Leeds LS2 9BL 10:00-15:00</i> All who are involved in social action in parishes are invited to come along to this day to reflect on what social action is taking place in our parishes and where our efforts should be directed.</p>
 Sat 20 Oct	<p>J&P COMMISSION DAY OF REFLECTION -Part of our <i>Just Spirituality</i> programme <i>Good Shepherd Parish Centre, Royal Fold, New Road, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA 10:00- 15:00</i> See the advert on page 3</p>
 Sun 21 Oct – Sun 28 Oct	<p>ONE WORLD WEEK: THE WORLD IS CHANGING – HOW ABOUT US? This year the theme is around how human activity is destabilising Earth's natural systems: from extreme weather to pollution to species extinction. Could you organise an event around a global justice issue during this week? You will find lots of ideas and resources on their website. https://www.oneworldweek.org/</p>
 Sat Oct 27	<p>FAITH AND POLITICAL ACTION TODAY <i>St George's Centre, Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3BR 09:45 – 16:00 Free – all welcome</i> This Project Bonhoeffer conference features talks and workshops with: Dr Jennifer McBride (McCormick Theological Seminary & International Bonhoeffer Society); Dave Paterson (Unity in Poverty Action + St George's Crypt); Student Christian Movement, and so much more!</p>
 Sat 10 Nov	<p>WORLD WAR I CENTENARY: REMEMBRANCE IS NOT ENOUGH <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB</i> A special service of more than just remembrance organised by the Leeds Pax Christi group at which the guest speaker will be the Anglican theologian Andrew Shanks. ALL welcome.</p>
 Sat 10 Nov	<p>LEEDS CAFOD RETREAT: Countering Consumerism-lessons from <i>Gaudete et Exsultate</i> <i>Hinsley Hall, Headingley Lane Leeds LS6 2BX 10:00 – 16:00</i> This one-day retreat organised by CAFOD is free for anyone in the Leeds Diocese to attend. Booking is essential – see their Eventbrite page (put 'cafod countering consumerism' into Google or other search engine to find it)</p>
 Thu 15 Nov – Tue 11 Dec	<p>LEEDS PALESTINIAN FILM FESTIVAL The mainstream media carries very little about the life of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. This festival (the fourth) provides unique opportunities to find out more about their plight. See their website for details http://www.leedsppf.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