



CARITAS LEEDS DAY OF REFLECTION 06 OCTOBER

Caritas Leeds, which calls together all those in the Diocese in our organisations, groups and parishioners involved in charitable activities and social action, held an annual Diocesan reflection day on the first Saturday in October. Opened by Bishop Marcus, it was launched with an introductory reflection on Pope Francis's latest Apostolic Exhortation "*Gaudete et Exultate; On the Call to Holiness in the Church today*" which encourages us to practice "contemplation in a world of action" by recognizing the "Face of Christ in others especially those most in need"



FAITH THROUGH LOVING SERVICE

The workshop broke into "needs' themes" to draw up priorities for Diocesan action in the coming year.

Already our Diocese has two strong working groups focusing on assisting refugees and the "Growing Old Gracefully" project, helping transform us into a 'dementia friendly' Church in the Diocese of Leeds.

The workshops examined four new areas:

- Families and Young People
- Homelessness
- Prisoners and Ex Offender
- those living with Disabilities

The focus was on reaching out and developing new areas of Diocesan and parish work. Each participant took on two different workshops and then was balloted to vote for their top two priorities for Caritas.

Whose need comes first?



People with a disability

Families in need

The homeless

Older people

Prisoners/ Ex-Offenders

Asylum seekers / Refugees

The working group on Families and Young people put forward practical proposals for action which came out on top in the voting. The idea is that the development of Youth Leadership across the diocese should be examined in more detail with a view to recommending some practical actions to the Bishop. Caritas will take this forward in conjunction with Jessica Wilkinson of the Youth Office. This links well with the Synod of Bishops on Youth, currently taking place in Rome. It also links with some pieces of work that the Commission would like to undertake and for which it is seeking external funding.

The second priority voted for was working with prisoners and ex-offenders, focused on the need to support existing projects such as the West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project at Armley jail. The need to support the families of those in prison and the need to support advocacy for change to the presently overwhelmed criminal justice system were also highlighted. A "Leeds Diocesan Criminal Justice Forum" was proposed as a research action project to help our parishioners understand the criminal justice system and how offenders journey through it. Based on this work, recommendations for change could be made to Bishop Marcus and



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forwarded to the Catholic Bishops' conference which has an outstanding record nationally in pressing strategically for changes to turn the criminal justice system into "a place of redemption".

Deacon Joe Cortis, the Coordinator of Caritas Leeds, commented "My aim is that the action plan will have strategic aspects but also practical aspects so that parish groups, Catholic associations, diocesan schools and chaplaincies can contribute in implementing /adopting the plan to their own local needs."

For further information please contact the Caritas Leeds Coordinator Rev. Dr. Joseph D Cortis on

joseph.cortis@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

or telephone the office at

St Monica House, Hinsley Hall on 0113 2618036

Just Spirituality

Saturday 20 October 2018

10:00 (Mass) until 3pm

Good Shepherd Parish Centre,
Mytholmroyd

There is still time to sign up and come along to our Autumn Day of Reflection.

Led by Fr Michael Doody, Vocations Director of the Leeds Diocese, this day will include talks, opportunities for private prayers and reflection as well as time for some discussion.

This event is free to attend but please register by emailing the office. Everyone is asked to bring some food that can be shared at lunchtime





GRACE HOSTING - A LEEDS ASYLUM SEEKERS NETWORK PROJECT (LASSN) by Moira Flynn

When I heard about Grace Hosting I assumed it was called that because there was no money involved and it was a celebration of hospitality and the benefits that brings to both guest and host, but actually it got its name from its first guest who was called Grace!

We heard about it because Brian has been volunteering as a Befriender for LASSN for a number of years. With both our sons now established elsewhere, we found we had room to spare and wanted to use that in some way. I was unsure though, about how I would feel as a woman, if we were to have mainly male Muslim guests given the very different cultural view of women that some of them, I rightly or wrongly presumed, would bring.

Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network

As a first step we decided to volunteer at the Winter Night Shelter when it came to Garforth, hosted by the Methodist church. The people in charge there – Tim and Sue - created a lovely atmosphere of relaxed welcome and volunteers came from four different churches. We did a couple of night shifts which started about nine and involved chatting with the men if they wanted to, and generally being on hand. It was less difficult than I expected and gave me the confidence to go along for the training at LASSN for people interested in becoming Grace hosts.

The way the scheme works is that PAFRAS and the RED CROSS screen and refer guests to Grace Hosting which is managed by Jo Carter the volunteer support worker at LASSN and her team of volunteer coordinators. They place guests referred to them each night, according to which

hosts are available. Some people offer emergency accommodation of one, two or three nights, others short term and some long-term placements. Some hosts work in partnership with each other, so a guest can have longer term security, only moving between two houses. The training emphasised that we are hosting as a team and it is not up to any of us to do more than feels comfortable – this has been really helpful and probably makes it easier to keep hosting for longer. The coordinators are really good at not making you feel bad if you say you're not available when they call to ask.



We have had seven different guests in the few months we have been hosting; most we have invited to return for a second and third night. The majority have been Muslim but there has been no difficulty in terms of cultural difference around views of women. One came for consecutive midweek stays of 3 nights then for a longer 17-night stay while his long term placement family went on holiday. He is busy making us a table at the moment! All have been considerate, tidy and appreciative of the chance to sleep somewhere safe and comfortable with a meal on offer and no questions asked. Most have come with very little in the way of personal belongings, a bus pass provided by PAFRAS or the RED CROSS, and all are destitute having been initially refused Leave to



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Remain by the Home Office. While they are appealing against the Home Office's decision they are not entitled to accommodation or even the subsistence funding of around £35 a week that asylum seekers receive whilst their first claim is being processed. I find it very difficult to imagine having no money at all in my pocket and being totally dependent on the kindness of strangers (as these men are), yet they have all brought good humour and dignity to the situation they find themselves in. This puts any concerns we have into a different perspective and reminds us to enjoy all the ordinary pleasures it's so easy to take for granted like the key to our own home, choosing your own food, relaxing with friends. We've also learned a bit more about some other countries and different ways of thinking about our world from our

guests as well as sharing some of our own pleasures – like the allotment, a trip to the cinema and eating fish without heads on!

If you would like to find out more about grace Hosting or the other work done by LASSN contact information is

Jo Carter – Grace Hosting - Tel. No is: 07927 808372

Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network

4th Floor
Oak House
Park Lane
Leeds
LS3 1EL

- Tel: 0113 373 1759
- Email: admin@lassn.org.uk

WW1 CENTENARY: REMEMBRANCE IS NOT ENOUGH

The *Guild of the Pope's Peace* was a tiny and short-lived peace group founded in 1916 by Sir Francis Meynell and Stanley Morison who were both Catholics and Conscientious Objectors. They had met when working at Burns & Oates, the publishing house run by Meynell's father. The Guild's 'committee' of seven comprised the entire membership. Their main activity was to bring and distribute the peace messages of Pope Benedict XV.

Although impartial, Benedict was not a spectator to the unfolding horror of war.



While his plea for a Christmas truce in 1914 was ignored, his proposals for exchanging wounded prisoners of war and interned civilians – particularly women and children – were enacted. He created a Vatican office that worked with the

International Red Cross; procured agreements that permitted religious services in POW camps and inspections by apostolic visitors. He also contributed 82 million gold liras to support war-related relief programs.

Seeking a "stable and equitable" peace through negotiations, Benedict issued, in July 1915, a plan that included the creation of a free Poland, freedom of the Dardanelles Strait, and the establishment of an international body that would require nations to arbitrate their differences. President Wilson would later incorporate several of the pope's suggestions into his Fourteen Points.

Throughout the First World War, Pope Benedict was the lone voice calling for a cessation of hostilities. And eighty-five years later when Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger took the name of Benedict XVI, he rightfully referred to his



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predecessor of that name “the courageous prophet of peace.” The new group met with a hostile response in the religious press and the disapproval of bishops in England who were determined to prove the patriotic loyalty of Catholics (especially bearing in mind that this was

the period of Irish rebellion against British rule). For the most part the Guild was ignored, as were the impassioned appeals of the pope for a negotiated end to the war, and warnings that humiliating peace terms would perpetuate conflict.



World War I Centenary: Remembrance is not Enough



A Collection of liturgical resources for use in the Leeds Diocese around the Centenary of the end of World War I

Published by the Justice & Peace Commission of the Leeds Diocese working with the Leeds Pax Christi Group

September 2018



This story is included in a new liturgy resource published by the Justice & Peace Commission with the title of ‘Remembrance is not enough’. Copies of this booklet have recently been sent to all parishes and to all high schools.

As Bishop Marcus puts it in his Foreword, “The necessity of remembering has not always sat well with a commitment to *working* for peace...” and he goes to say “we all have a personal responsibility to make the Peace of Christ a reality in our world.” It was these sentiments which led us to work with the Leeds Pax Christi group to produce this booklet to provide a glimpse of prayers and stories that help us to reflect not just on remembering the tragedy of all those killed in World War 1 but also to help us reflect on what it might mean to be a ‘peacemaker’ in our world today. The booklet provides a ‘taster’ of some of the resources that are available and signposts you to places where more detailed information can be obtained.

Copies of this booklet are available from the Justice & Peace office and are free of charge (though we would appreciate any donations you could make towards the costs of postage). Simply email your request to the office using the address above. The booklet will also shortly be made available as a PDF download on our website.



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.

PALESTINE: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The situation of Palestinians is awful at the present time and it has largely disappeared from the mainstream media. Anne Tracey and Tricia Griffin, who are both members of Sabeel in Yorkshire, are offering a different way to bring the plight of so many Palestinians to people's attention. They do this by using Palestinian food as a way of having a discussion about wider issues.



Tricia explains *"We will demonstrate a simple Palestinian recipe and give everyone a chance to taste the result. At the same time you can learn something about the lives of Palestinian families living in the West Bank."*

Anne has visited Israel and the West Bank on in-depth study tours; Tricia spent 3 months in Palestine and Israel as an Ecumenical Accompanier, and has also helped with the Palestinian olive harvest in small villages close to Nablus.

If you would like to discuss organising a session with Anne and Tricia please email Anne, annetracyis@yahoo.co.uk or Tricia, tricia.keith@btopenworld.com

They are happy to offer the session to women's groups, church groups or any other group of interested people. **Contact them now for bookings throughout 2019.** They do not charge a fee; they simply request a donation to a Palestinian charity. All they need is a table and access to water - they don't require an oven as they bring along samples that have been made earlier.

2018 Film Festival

Leeds
Palestinian
Film Festival

Leeds Palestinian Film Festival 2018

4th LEEDS PALESTINIAN FILM FESTIVAL

This runs from 15 November through to 11 December.

See their website for the full programme <https://www.leedsdff.org.uk/>

This year it is bigger than ever. The organisers comment, "we think everyone – regardless of their starting point – will find something of interest in our varied programme. Q&A sessions follow many films, with the Director or other expert, so you can look forward to some helpful

reflection and time for discussion."

Some of this year's highlights include:

'**Wajib**' a family drama by award-winning Palestinian Director, Annemarie Jacir.

'**Disturbing the Peace**' a brave peace initiative by Israeli and Palestinian fighters who turn against violence.

'**Roadmap to Apartheid**' a fascinating look at the apartheid analogy often used about Israel – how appropriate is it?



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REFLECTION:

“Tell me the weight of a snowflake”, a coal tit asked a wild dove.

“Nothing more than nothing”, was the answer.

“In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story”, the coal tit said. “I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow - not heavily, not in a raging blizzard: no, just like in a dream, without a sound and without any violence. Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952.

When the 3,741,953rd dropped onto the branch -

nothing more than nothing, as you say - the branch broke off.” Having said that the coal tit flew away.



The dove, since Noah’s time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself: “Perhaps there is only one person’s voice

lacking for peace to come to the world.”

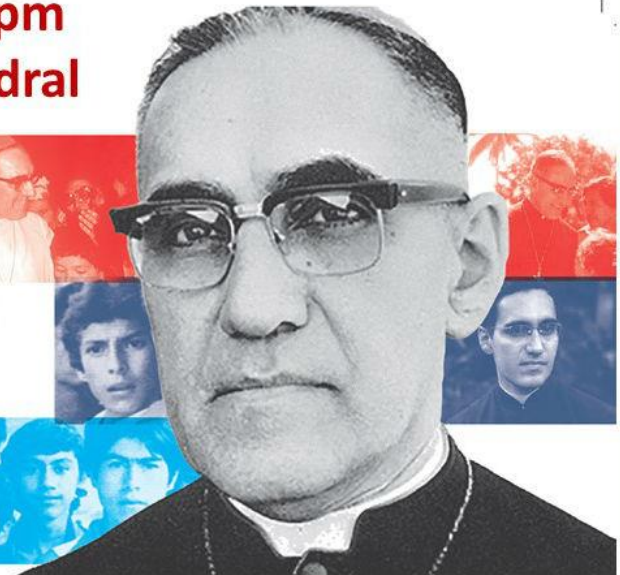
In ‘New Fables, Thus spoke the Marabou’ by Kurt Kaufer

Thur 18 October 2018 @ 7pm
Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral

THE
CLAIM

**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO, HIS PEOPLE
AND POPE FRANCIS**

A Television Suisse documentary






A rare opportunity to see this film (75mins) about the life of Saint Oscar Romero – which is being screened in the week following his canonisation. ALL WELCOME.



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EVENTS

 Thu 18 Oct	<p>FILM SHOWING: THE CLAIM - OSCAR ROMERO <i>Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral, Great George Street LS2 8BE 19:00 – 20:30</i> ALL WELCOME to this free film presentation about the life of Oscar Romero with an introduction and opportunity to ask questions to Julian Filochowski, Chair of the Romero Trust.</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 2</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! Just google ‘Bonhoeffer Conference Leeds’ and it will be near the top</p>
 Sat 10 Nov	<p>WORLD WAR I CENTENARY: REMEMBRANCE IS NOT ENOUGH <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB 14:30 – 15:30</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 (google ‘cafod countering consumerism’ 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.leedsdff.org.uk/</p>
 Tue 11 Dec	<p>J&P COMMISSION MEETING 19:00 – 20:30 Anyone in the Leeds Diocese is welcome to come along to a Commission meeting. If you are interested then email the office and we will send you the details.</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