

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

CAFOD @ AT LEEDS TRINITY UNIVERSITY

By Madeline Woods

Hello, I'm Madeline. I'm a recent graduate and this academic year I am on CAFOD's Step into the Gap programme. The majority of this leadership programme, run by CAFOD, is based at a placement in the UK. For me, this is Leeds Trinity University.

I first heard about the programme from my mother, who is a CAFOD volunteer herself. She recommended that I look at the CAFOD website, which I did. I found myself deeply moved by not only the work that CAFOD are doing but the way it is portrayed – the positive imagery and language used to describe those being helped by CAFOD and partners really struck a chord with me. I believe that this dignity and respect held for everyone really sets CAFOD apart from other charities.



My time at LTU is spent as part of the chaplaincy team. This means that I help with any chaplaincy events, but my unique position as a CAFOD "gapper" means that I can also set up my own events or stalls. The best of these (so far!) was the stall I ran on All Saints Day. This is the university's patronal feast day, as it used to be All Saints College. It was truly a feast day – a busy Mass, food and drinks, bunting... For my stall I chose to run a Guess the Vegetable quiz to promote **live simply**, which is a campaign run by CAFOD encouraging parishes or other organisations to live a simpler, more sustainable and green life. I found the weirdest looking vegetables I could in Morrisons (who kindly donated them!) and had people name as many as they could. The winner, naturally, won the vegetables. This stall was an opportunity to speak to students, staff and the general public about what they believe we as a university could be doing to be more green. They gave some fantastic ideas, some of which are now in the works.

The other aspect of my year on CAFOD's Step into the Gap programme is an overseas visit to see some of the work being done by CAFOD first hand. For me, this involves a trip to Uganda in January for almost 3 weeks. I feel so incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity, if also slightly worried about the heat! Most of CAFOD's work in Uganda is around water, which I think will make me very aware of how much I take it for granted. I think the true benefit of the trip will be apparent upon my return, as I will be able to share stories with people in the UK of those who are helped by the support given by those in the UK. I will be able to create a link between people who live thousands of miles apart. I can't wait to not only have the experiences in Uganda, but also to share them with everyone I can.



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

CAFOD are taking applications now for the 2019 Step Into The Gap Programme



If you think you are interested in doing a role like Madeline's – or know someone who might be interested – then you can get more details and apply online

See the CAFOD website at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year>.

(Some of you will remember last year's Step into the Gap person- Sophie Aulton. She returned recently to the Diocese to talk at a social event at St Benedict's in Garforth about her experiences in El Salvador. Sophie is now working in London for the Million Minutes Organisation.)



SCHOOLS

JOURNALISM COMPETITION

2019

Are you a budding journalist?

We are looking for students (aged 15-18 inclusive) to write an article or make a video report that informs, challenges and raises important issues on the topic:

"The Challenge Of Climate Change"



Do you know a young person who is passionate about climate change? – Show them this competition by the Columbans – which is open now and entries must be submitted by February 8 2019. Entries must be less than 1000 words.

Who could you encourage to take part?

For more details see the Columban website especially for this competition:

www.columbancompetition.com/

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

COMMISSION TAKE PART IN 'FAITH DAY' AT ST. MARY'S, MENSTON



St Mary's Menston Global Warriors group with speakers from their 'Faith Day' & lay chaplain Julia Findlay

Saint Mary's Menston can be justly proud of its active involvement in working for justice and peace for many years. Since its formation three years ago, the new 'Global Warriors' group has been extending this commitment and growing its influence throughout the school. The aim of the group is to raise awareness about issues of injustice that affect people around the world as well as how we need to care for planet Earth itself. Members come from across all the age ranges in the school, meeting each week to discuss concerns, research issues, and plan action that the school might be able to take. The students have organised assemblies, events, fundraisers and campaigns.

On Tuesday 11th December the group had gained permission for years 7 and 8 to be off timetable all morning in order to learn more and be motivated to work for justice. Three organisations - CAFOD, Missio and Leeds Diocese Justice and Peace Commission were invited to share the

morning with the students.

Commission member Marg Siberry represented the Commission at this event. She commented "*It was heartening to witness both the commitment of the school but also the passion of the students, especially the Global Warriors group who had taken responsibility for running the whole morning. Particularly inspiring was the lengthy discussion with the global warriors who shared how being part of the group had not only encouraged them to research and analyse the causes of poverty, injustice and environmental destruction but it had also given them the confidence to stand up before fellow students and staff to campaign for action.*"

Planning for Lent already, they are considering inviting their local MP to discuss the government's actions to fulfil the UK climate change commitment, challenging the school to



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

have better stewardship in its use of paper and talking with the school kitchen about possible ways of reducing the amount of plastic used in take-away items. The students were full of idealism but were not naïve and understood the complexities of environmental issues together with the difficulties they encounter and skills needed to motivate others.

It was clearly evident that within the group there was much encouragement for each other, healthy debate and discussion together with a growing realisation that they could make a difference. They also appreciated the power of social media and were confident in spreading their message through these channels. Marg commented further that *"Far from feeling I had taught these young people anything radically new, I came away uplifted in the belief that we had had a mutually enriching dialogue where any wisdom or experience I could share was matched by their energy, desire to research into issues more deeply but above all their commitment to work for change."*

Madeline Woods (see Page 1) gave a presentation about CAFOD. She commented:

"The faith day was a great opportunity to tell young people about the work being done all over the world by people who are truly living their faith. I really enjoyed talking to the inspiring students, and a huge thank you and well done to Sixth Former Tom for setting it all up!"

Is there anything like this happening in the other high schools or Sixth form college in the Diocese? We would be delighted to share stories from schools about any work related to issues of Social Justice. Let us share what we are all doing to inspire others and celebrate all the action that actually goes on. Email us and let us know.

STOP PRESS: FUNDING OBTAINED FOR NEW COMMISSION PROJECT



Just in the last week the Commission has had confirmation that it has obtained external funding for a two-year project to work on issues of Social Justice with people under 30. If you have been to a J&P event any time in the last 3 years you will know that most of the attendees are over 60. This does not mean that young people aren't just as committed to these issues – as the article about St Mary's Global Warriors shows.

Many young people are involved in such issues – but most of them are doing it outside of the institutional church. This project will be about linking faith and Catholic Social Teaching to action for Social Justice in ways that are engaging for people under 30.

Is this something that interests you? We are looking for people who can join a Project Steering Group to help manage this project over the next two years. We need 5-7 people who can help to shape the project and provide direction for it over its two-year duration. Please email us for more details.



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

FAMILY POVERTY GETTING WORSE by John Battle

Government statistics have all graphically set out the facts of rising poverty in our society. The latest from the teachers representative National Education Union spells out that poverty is having a devastating impact on schoolchildren going hungry and their parents being able to afford clothes. (<https://neu.org.uk/latest/neu-survey-teachers-witnessing-distressing-new-levels-child-poverty-winter-schools>)



They say that a lack of food, decent housing and unsuitable clothing is overwhelming pupils and cash strapped schools. Their spokesperson, Mary Bousted in presenting the report

based on a survey of 1,026 teachers nationwide, said *"The government is out of touch with the distressing new reality of children's daily lives; what it means to live without the basics such as food, shoes, and adequate clothing. It has failed to recognize the human cost of its cuts to schools and other children's services and to the social security system and its failure to address the in-work poverty face by one in five workers."*

She added *"Children can't escape the poverty trap without an urgent change to national policies"*.

Schools are now having to pick up the pieces, providing free breakfast clubs, running school food banks, distributing food hampers and working with local authorities and charities to provide holiday meals. More significant is the reported practical impact in the classroom as lack of food affects a child's capacity to learn and can lead to behavioural problems and for some families the shame of not being able to properly provide results in children's absence and withdrawal. In other words, just as local community groups, charitable organisations and parishes are stepping in to help in the face of a

decreasing wage and welfare support system, now schools are having to step in to support their pupils daily practical needs before the lessons can begin. This withdrawal of the state support systems is now having a detrimental effect on the educational system. In other words, the real increase in poverty is starting to hold our society back at the basic levels of health and education and the price to be paid in the medium as well as the longer term will be paid by us all and not just by the poor themselves.

In our society, in the fifth richest economy in the world, it is now about access to the **basics** of food and appropriate clothing. The St Vincent De Paul Society in many of our parishes has developed a long tradition of members quietly working away helping those in poverty locally in practical personal ways. Notably, the regular prayers of our local SVP parish conferences are set in four key themes; the SVP vocation; to see Christ in the Poor; For social justice; and to be servant leaders. The introductory prayers for Social Justice read *"Lord Jesus help us ... bear witness to your compassionate and tender love so that our hearts beat with the heartbeat of the poor and we come to see poverty through their eyes. May we encourage them to speak for themselves but be a voice for the voiceless, speaking out with courage and charity whenever poverty and injustice is due to unjust laws or structures"*.

Pope Francis insists that *"Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it"*. Already many Catholics are active supporters of food banks and many more could be encouraged to join the SVP. But there remains a task of advocacy and challenging unjust structures. As St Oscar Romero put it *"When the Church hears the cry of the*



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

oppressed it cannot but denounce the social structure that give rise to and perpetuate the misery from which the cry arises". In his recent address to the Church's "World Day of the Poor" Pope Francis challenged us to respond in the light of the Gospel's message; "If God can responsively hear thee cry of the poor, why can't we?".

In July our Justice and Peace Commission will be helping the National Justice and Peace Network at their annual conference in Derbyshire get this issue onto national agendas within the Church and society. There are still places available (for more details see <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>).

J&P WORKSHOPS ON FAMILY POVERTY

The Commission has been trialling some materials developed for us by Church Action on Poverty – a series of five workshops to examine aspects of family poverty in the UK and what more we can do about it.

One pilot – covering the Skipton and Barnoldswick area has completed its run through of the materials. The other pilot is being held at Holy Rosary Church – part of the Cathedral parish of Mother of Unfailing Help. They have held two well-attended workshops so far and the other 3 will be completed by early February. In January we will review the feedback so far and make some adjustments to the materials in preparation to getting more parishes to do these workshops. Each participant receives background material – information about Catholic Social Teaching, case studies such as the one illustrated left and other written materials to enable everyone to find out more in between the different workshops (they are called workshops because everyone coming has to do some work!). Each group has a facilitator provided by the Commission. However, we need the parish to provide a 'champion' to promote the workshops and get people to come along. The workshop meetings are a mixture of some short videos, PowerPoints about particular topics and group exercise to get people to explore and discuss the issues in depth – they are very interactive sessions rather than sitting and listening to someone.

During 2019 we will be rolling out this programme of workshops to a number of parishes across the Diocese.

Local stories of poverty

How poverty is changing: Lessons from eight years in a Harehills soup kitchen

There are people and projects across the UK doing remarkable work to ease hunger in their communities. Revd. White has run a soup kitchen in Harehills, Leeds, for eight years. In this interview for Church Action on Poverty's 'Voices from the Margins' project (www.voicesfromthemargins.org.uk), she talks about the changes she has seen in her neighbourhood, and what needs to change at national level:

We offer a free meal every Wednesday, and a food parcel. We also do mini workshops where we give advice and have discussions about money management and jobs and housing problems, and stuff like that, and we help people get other people involved.

We started eight years ago. It was just an idea I had, to use the church hall. I have been coming to church here for some years and noticed the poverty in the area. A lot of families are struggling and some people seem isolated and there were a lot of asylum seekers and refugees struggling, so it was just laid on my heart to get something started. The hall used to operate as an elderly day centre many years ago and that had stopped because the ladies who ran it had got too old. In the early 2000s, there was an after-school club but that had stopped as well, and I thought this was the next vision.

We usually get over 20 people in, and my family and volunteers helping out.

We need to stop the poverty before it gets there. We need to help prepare people to be able to look after themselves. A great deal of people in this generation are expecting to be taken care of, then when that care is taken away we are not prepared. Or they are told to go to work but they are not trained or educated or ready for that work.

But also, there are a lot of zero-hours jobs going around. My son is very qualified and registered with agencies but has not been offered work in over two months, so he had to give up his flat and come back to live with us, after living on his own for 11 years.

I think the Government need to make sure there is enough money and resources available to take care especially of the children. Since we are in this situation, they have to take responsibility for what they have caused and make sure the next generation do not continue in the level of poverty there is now. Children need to be protected and cared for.

A great deal of people here are from Chapeltown, many who come are homeless, we get lots of people from Harehills and we also get people from further away, in LS13, LS12, LS16 and LS17.

When my children were growing up, I did experience a lot of difficult times because I had four children and there were years when we went through hard times, and my husband was working in those times. That was before we moved to the UK from Jamaica, but it was also hard here.

Children need to know that they can rely on adults to take care of them and to prepare them so that when they grow up they can be responsible to look after

Rev. White has run a soup kitchen in Harehills, Leeds, for eight years

It's very distressing. I think MPs should come down my street sometimes.

Could you host a set of these workshops in your parish or Churches Together group?

The materials are equally suitable for use in parish groups such as SVP groups, UCM groups or Catenians as well as with older students in High Schools.

Simply email the office if you would like more information. It would be a good parish programme for Lent, for instance.

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

LIVE SIMPLY UPDATES

CAFOD's Live Simply Award scheme is starting to take off across the country and, slowly but surely, across the Leeds Diocese as well.

Here are some brief updates on parishes in the Leeds Diocese who are working towards the award.

What is stopping your parish from taking up the challenge to Live Simply?

Good Shepherd church community, Mytholmroyd Janet Almond reports:



The Good Shepherd RC Church in Mytholmroyd is yet to submit our finalised and formal plans but none the less have made a good start. Our children and youth are leading by example. At the end of November they helped with a Fair-trade Tombola stall at the Mytholmroyd Christmas Fair and the following week held their home Christmas Fair. Over £450 was raised, enough for 1 cow, 3 pigs and a mosquito net, purchased through CAFOD's World Gifts. In addition, the children are making 'Live Simply' pledges, and encouraging family and parishioners to do likewise. Weekly suggestions are published in the bulletin.

Our Lady of Kirkstall parish, Leeds Michael Emly reports:

The Live Simply Project is continuing very well in its second year:

- the "year 2 relaunch" at all Masses on October 6/7th made a real impact;
- the Live Simply Day of Reflection in October was attended by 20 people and was very well received;
- the parish collected toiletries again this December; these will be distributed to refugees by the St. Vincent Centre;
- the monthly Live Simply bulletins continue to maintain a high standard, with a number of different people contributing content;
- the ongoing monthly gardening sessions have made it much easier to keep the church grounds tidy;
- interest and engagement continues to be shown by various groups and individuals across the parish.




We are now starting to think in detail about how we might invite assessment for the Live Simply award in the Spring of 2019.



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

St John Mary Vianney parish, Leeds



St. John Mary Vianney Leeds
Living Simply

Parish Cafod Group Advent 2018

Will St. John Vianney be a Live Simply award community?

Living:

- simply
- sustainably
- in solidarity with the poor

We're up for the challenge!

We know that some of the biggest issues we face - rich and poor alike - arise from the impact of Climate Change and the effects of environmental damage.

We're already experiencing some of the effects - and the young will be affected even more as they grow up. But the people suffering most of all are the poor.

The 423 million people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are already living in extreme poverty.

WE HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Our faith encourages us to take action. The Cafod Live Simply challenge is an opportunity for Catholic communities to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in *Laudato Si'* to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".


Parishes, schools, chaplaincies and religious communities all over the country are invited to work towards the Cafod Live Simply Award. To take significant steps together to respond to the call to live simply, that others may simply live.

It's about living more sustainably in solidarity with the poor. Finding out first of all and celebrating the various things parishioners are already doing and then setting goals, some simple, some a little more ambitious, for us to achieve together as a community.

* Information taken from the Cafod website.

Diocese of Leeds Charity No. 24948

Children's Letters to Pope Francis




Three years ago Pope Francis wrote a letter to the world about caring for our common home - otherwise known as the encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

Earlier this year schoolchildren from England and Wales wrote back to him thanking him

Dear Pope Francis, I hope people listen to you... cause this is getting out of hand. Kind regards, Charlie Year 4

In July Cafod's Head of Education, Monica Conmee, delivered the letters to the Pope at the Vatican.



Monica said afterwards: "The Pope looked thrilled to receive the letters: and it seemed he couldn't wait to look through the album"

The Parish Action Group (formerly the Women's Group) has taken on board the Live Simply initiative under Julie Brownrigg's direction. Open parish Live Simply meetings have taken place involving mainly members of the PAG and members of the CAFOD Group and its wider group of Supporters.

They have launched the scheme to the whole parish for Advent with the leaflet shown being given to all parishioners at the two churches of the parish. An adapted version of the Live Simply prayer is being said before masses during Advent and they have had positive feedback about this.

They are in the process of meeting with sacramental groups at both churches and asking them to get involved with the challenge. They intend to use a Calendar of Major events for 2019 to find ways of incorporating the themes of Live Simply into these events.

Julie Brownrigg added, "*We hope to develop our actions in the New Year. Our next focus will be Fairtrade and during Lent*

we intend to hold several meetings on Laudato Si and presentations on what is climate change and how it is affecting the poorest in the world.

Are there any other parishes out there who are thinking about taking on this challenge? There is much support available directly from CAFOD and the Commission itself will help in any way it can. And, of course, if you do start to work on it please let us know what you are doing in your parish. Each parish is different and responds to the challenges of the Live Simply Scheme in different ways. Commission member Trish Sandbach (from St Benedict's parish - still the only parish in the Leeds Diocese to have obtained the award) comments "I recently took part in a Live Simply evaluation at a parish in the Middlesbrough Diocese. What they have done is quite different to the actions that we took at St. Benedict's - I think this is one of the strengths of the scheme: that it has the flexibility to bring renewal to very different sorts of parishes and get people to link their faith with action for Climate Change and to act in solidarity with the world's poorest".



For more information about the Live Simply Scheme then, in the first instance, take a look at the CAFOD web pages and resources about it. It typically takes parishes 1-2 years to undertake a programme of activities that get them to the

point where they feel they can apply for the award. Here is the relevant link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-Campaign/Livesimply-award>





NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

MAKING PEACE IN BRITAIN TODAY

by Fr Rob Esdaile, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton, Surrey



Sharing the Peace of
Christ with our world



The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's Peace Sunday (20 January 2019) seems amazingly appropriate to the situation in England and Wales as we approach Brexit's March 29 deadline: *'Good politics serves peace'* – and, whatever your view of the 2016 referendum, the last two years of negotiation or the current state of play, it is obvious that we need such 'Good Politics' right now.

People are hurting. The UK is divided. Our national conversation has broken down. Whether you're one of the 52% or the 48%, or someone who wishes you'd voted the other way, or someone who simply wishes you'd voted; whether you're a younger voter who blames the old or an older voter who feels misunderstood by the young, I can't remember a time when we have felt so at odds with each other, so angry with each other. It isn't simply that there are

'Brexit' and *'Remain'* parts of the country. It is families and friendship groups which are divided.

What is the Christian response? Many believers have a strong conflict-avoiding reflex. We shrink from the ding-dong of party-politics. We seek the middle-of-the-road, remembering the beatitudes of meekness and mercy. But some of the other beatitudes are less tractable: hunger and thirst for justice, persecution in the cause of right, even the mourning for something lost which touches many at the moment. What do these ask of us in the midst of our current national disunity? Do they call us to stand up and be counted, whatever others think? What does that sixth beatitude – of purity in heart – require – a searing honesty about our take on things or keeping our counsel? And what of the seventh one – Blessed are the peacemakers?

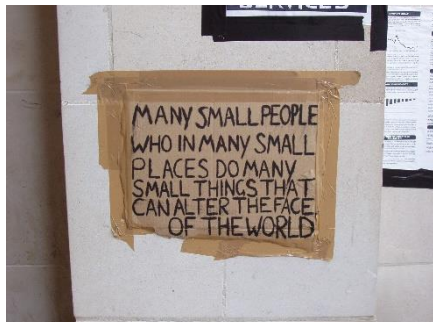
Perhaps our first contribution as Christians really ought to be to shut up – not in a quietist, 'keep-your-head-down-and-don't-make-trouble' sort of way but in prayer. Before we can help others we need to address our own jangling nerves, listen to our own hearts and hear therein a voice that speaks of peace. There is a profound prayer prayed by Dietrich Bonhoeffer during his imprisonment by the Nazis: *'I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me ... Lord, whatever this day may bring, your name be praised'*.

Then we can hope to be freed from the tyranny of our own emotions and political reflexes. Then we can begin to see that those who disagree also voted honestly and sought the good as they saw it. In sorrow rather than anger, we can begin to recognise what has been badly argued and what should never have been said (by ourselves or by others). We can reach out to rebuild shattered trust, to imagine together a



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

better future for our country and to resist all that is merely xenophobic, prejudicial, narrow-minded or founded in fear.



We tend to think of peace-making as something which needs to be done overseas – and surely there will be bridges to be rebuilt with our European neighbours, whatever the next few months may bring. Yet it seems that our calling may be nearer to home. As we head for March 29, 2019 (assuming anything will actually change on March 29!) our task becomes clearer – at least in the form of the questions we must ask: How can I personally reach out to people who think differently from me? How together can we rebuild community? How

can we protect those left vulnerable or hurt? How can we rebuild our national conversation, our national politics and our national identity to create a space where all can thrive and fear is not the motor of debate or the deciding factor in policy decisions?

We need new peace-making skills right here at home. Fortunately the Catholic Peace Movement, *Pax Christi*, has a long history of promoting conflict-resolution and sharing the Gospel of Peace. To find out more about their work, or to join, contact:

Pax Christi, Christian Peace Education Centre, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY.
www.paxchristi.org.uk/ e-mail: info@paxchristi.org.uk

Climate Change

What we all need to know

- It's warming
- It's us
- We're sure
- It's bad
- We can fix it

This meme was spotted recently on the website of a fairly new group: Climate Action Ilkley (<http://climateactionilkley.org/>) – which you may want to check out if you live nearby.

There was a long article in last week's New Scientist explaining the 1.5 C limit and the complications around measuring the extent of global warming. It is complicated because the earth's weather systems and how they change over time, whilst much better understood than 50 years ago, are still the subject of intense academic study.

This meme cuts through all of that to give us the essential messages that we need to take to heart. Whilst we can do things in our own lives, Pope Francis was eager to stress the need for 'community action' – and this includes badgering our lawmakers to make sure that Climate Change stays at the top of their agenda. This is all the more important following the somewhat disappointing meeting in Katowice of COP24.



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

WHY NOT SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES?

For some time now, we have had a section on our website called 'Views'. As it implies, it provides a platform for us to dialogue about different issues.



For instance, the poverty we see around us in the UK today is an issue that many people in the Diocese of Leeds not only care about but to which they also respond compassionately through their action. They do this either directly in organisations like the SVP or the UCM or through giving to collections of money and of goods for foodbanks and similar organisations. But poverty in the UK is getting worse. Do we just try and give more and more??

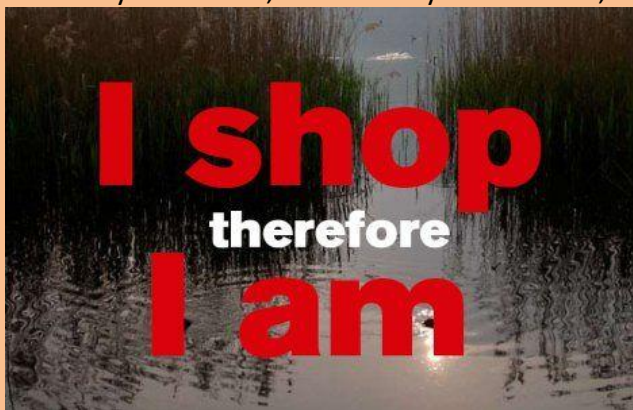
This is where we need to dig deeper to both understand the root causes of these situations and work out what we should

be doing about them as Christians – what does Catholic Social Teaching have to say about them?

Our 'Views' section is about just such exploration of root causes and discerning the authentic Christian response to them. So, in that post-Christmas gap, as we ponder the New Year and what it might bring, why not put down some of your thoughts and send them in to include as a 'views' article? - We really would welcome hearing views from across the Diocese of Leeds.

REFLECTION: Catholics do not have a monopoly on 'Care of Creation'!

"The emphasis is on mastery over the self and the discovery of the self, not mastery over nature,



external forms, and beings. Sikhism teaches

against a life of conspicuous, wasteful consumption. The Guru recommends a judicious utilization of material and cultural resources available to humans.

The Gurus taught humans to be aware of and respect the dignity in all life, whether human or not. Such a respect for life can only be fostered where one can first recognize the Divine spark within oneself, see it in others, cherish it, nurture and fulfil it.

"This little shrine of the human body! This great opportunity of life! The object is to meet the Beloved, thy Master!"









[Taken from longer internet passages based on articles by Dr Rajwant Singh and Bhai Manvir Singh]

Many Thanks to **Suzanne Oakes** of Our Lady of Kirkstall parish in Leeds. She has provided most of the reflection quotes for the newsletter since we introduced this feature.



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018

EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
|  Sat 22 Dec | <p>PEACE AND JUSTICE VIGIL <i>Huddersfield Market place, 12:00 – 13:00 Organised by Huddersfield Quakers</i> The theme will again be 'Stop Selling Arms to Saudi', with banners and fliers for the public. For those able to stay, everyone is invited to go to a nearby cafe afterwards.</p> |
|  Fri 18 Jan Fri 25 Jan | <p>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY <i>Organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland – look out for events in your local area</i> The theme for 2019 is based around Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...'. Material for 2019 originates from the churches of Indonesia, where there is a strong emphasis upon the need for unity alongside the nation's ethnic and religious diversity. See their website for more details and resources https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer</p> |
|  Sun 20 Jan | <p>PEACE SUNDAY 2019: GOOD POLITICS SERVES PEACE <i>National.</i> "Political commitment – which is one of the highest expressions of charity – brings concern for the future of life and the planet, of the youngest and the weakest, in their thirst for fulfilment." – Vatican statement about Peace Sunday. See the usual set of wonderful resources from pax Christi http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/</p> |
|  Sat 26 Jan | <p>YORKSHIRE CND AGM: HOPE IN THE AGE OF TRUMP <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB 14:30 – 17:00</i> All are welcome to come along and hear their speakers: Prof. Paul Rogers – Overview of Global Challenges, Janet Fenton – Progress of the UN treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Fabian Hamilton – The Peace Doctrine – restructuring UK foreign policy.</p> |
|  Sun 03 Mar | <p>CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY <i>National</i> An opportunity to reflect on poverty in our liturgies and to take action. See the CAP website for resources and ideas about what to do http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday</p> |
|  Sat 16 Mar | <p>UNDERSTANDING MODERN SLAVERY <i>Leeds Church Institute 20 New Market Street, Leeds, LS1 6DG 10:00 – 16:00</i> Join the Learning Network, the Salvation Army, All We Can and JPIT for a day exploring modern slavery: Save the Date</p> |
|  Fri 19 Jul Sun 21 Jul | <p>FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: FORGOTTEN PLACES <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire</i> This conference will be exploring one of the Leeds Commission's priorities: UK poverty. The major partner to the conference is Church Action on Poverty. Our Chair, John Battle, will chair the conference. For more details see the NJPN website https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</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