

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019**REFUGEE RESPONSE: HOW TO HELP ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES IN 2019**

By Lucy Irven, Coordinator of the Leeds Diocesan Refugee Support Group

On Tuesday 12 February the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes & St William's (Parish of St. Blaise), Ingleby Road, Bradford, hosted another very successful meeting for the Diocesan Refugee Support Group. The spacious parish hall was packed with nearly 100 people and at least 15



organisations that support refugees and asylum seekers in and around Bradford were represented. The opening presentation on Community Sponsorship for Refugees was followed by a series of shorter presentations, introduced by John Battle, Chair of the J & P Commission, to give a flavour of the volunteering possibilities after which there was time for refreshments and plenty of conversation. As Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, said, "There was such a buzz around the room and people simply did not want to go home." Matt Henderson from CHAS@St Vincent's later emailed to say, "We really enjoyed and benefited from taking part yesterday. It was great to see such a good turn out."

As at last year's meeting, Sean Ryan, the Caritas National Coordinator for Community Sponsorship, gave a presentation on the Government's Community Sponsorship scheme for the resettlement of Syrian refugee families, showing a very encouraging film made by existing sponsoring communities. Sean then introduced Paul Kelly from Settle, who is the lead for the Refugee ReSETTLEMENT group which is in the process of applying to the Home Office to welcome a refugee family. This was fully reported in our January newsletter.

Will Sutcliffe from Bradford City of Sanctuary gave an introduction to the situation for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and a brief overview of the work being done in Bradford.



After this we heard from CHAS @ St Vincent's, Abigail Housing, BEACON, BIASAN, The Good Shepherd Centre all of which provide direct support for refugees and asylum seekers, especially those that are destitute and in need of greater assistance. Each presenter outlined the work they do and the volunteer roles that are needed to provide their services such as teaching.



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

English, supporting weekly drop-ins, administration, arranging events and fundraising. Finally, we heard from Mary Brandon of Asylum Matters, a project of the City of Sanctuary movement.



She spoke about the importance of campaigning in order to change the difficult situations that are experienced by these vulnerable people in our communities, such as homelessness, lack of employment and poor access to healthcare. Those attending were then invited to visit the stalls around the hall to enquire about the volunteering opportunities that most interested them. Catholic Care's Gianna project which works with many refugee and asylum seeker women was also present with an information stall.

As well as introducing Parishioners to the work being done to support refugees and asylum seekers across the Diocese and helping them to discover new ways to get involved, we provided an opportunity for the organisations to network and appreciate the wealth of talent and enthusiasm in the Catholic Community.

DAY OF REFLECTION: CARING FOR THE EARTH – OUR COMMON HOME

The theme of creation and our place in it is the subject of our next Day of Reflection. More and urgent action is needed about Climate Change – and we need to root this in our understanding of God's creation and the meaning of Incarnation.



Saturday 30 March 2019

SS John Fisher & Thomas More

Bradford Road, Burley in Wharfedale LS29 7PX

10:00am – 4:00pm

Still time to sign up and come along

There will be prayer, some short inputs, discussion and time for personal reflection about our place in God's creation and our responsibilities towards looking after our common home. The day will start with the normal community mass at 10:00 and finish by 4pm at the latest.

Please email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk to book a place. Attendance is free (there will be a collection to defray expenses). **EVERYONE is welcome – but please book a place.**

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ALL GENERATIONS

Prof Andy Challinor of the University of Leeds talking about the urgency of taking action on Climate Change

Over 50 students from St Mary's Menston High School, Menston, took part in an event organised by the Leeds Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission on Thursday 7th March. It was an 'Inter-generational conversation about Climate Change'. Facilitated by the Commission Chair, John Battle, the panel consisted of two students from the school (Hannah Jenkins from Year 9 and Tom Allan from year 12) along with Kay Pierce from the Good Shepherd church community in Mytholmroyd and Andy Challinor (Professor of Climate Change Impacts at the University of Leeds) who attends Our Lady of Kirkstall parish in Leeds

John Battle commented "Climate Change issues are often presented in the media as older generations vs younger generations. We wanted to explore whether this was the case and whether having a panel of people made up of

different generations is a useful way of exploring this key issue".

The first question to the panel was to ask them whether they thought action by individuals was more important than taking political action. They were all in agreement that individual action was important – no matter how small an action it might seem – but that Climate Change needed political action as well. In relation to guidance from the Church about Climate Change, members of the panel felt that whilst Pope Francis has spoken out clearly, Climate Change was not something that came up in local churches very often. When John asked the audience how many had heard of "Laudato Si" only about half raised their hands.

As the discussion progressed it moved more and more from the panel itself to student audience members offering their own views about topics.



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

This was especially the case when there was a question about the student strikes for Climate Change. Interestingly, there was a definite split between those students who thought they were necessary and those who thought it was not the right thing to do. The older members of the panel all thought they were a good idea!

After thanking Darren Beardsley, headteacher, and Julia Findlay, Lay Chaplain, John commented

that “It was fantastic to have such engagement from so many of you today. Climate Change is an issue that affects all of us now. Andy Challinor reminded us that we have a short period of time to take more action globally before the consequences become much more serious. For that to happen we will need all generations to work together to ensure our politicians are held accountable for the actions that we must take at a national and international level.”

FILM SHOWING: ‘THE CLAIM’

Julian Filochowski from the Romero Trust came and showed this film at Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral, last November. Unfortunately, the date clashed with another student event. So, Fr Peter Kravos has arranged for Julian to come again and show the film at the University of Leeds in the Ecumenical Chaplaincy centre – just by the main entrance to the university

Don't miss this second chance to see this film – it's good!

Tue 19 March 2019 @ 6pm (*Refreshments - Film starts at 6:30pm*)
- **Emmanuel Centre, University of Leeds**

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
ALL WELCOME.**

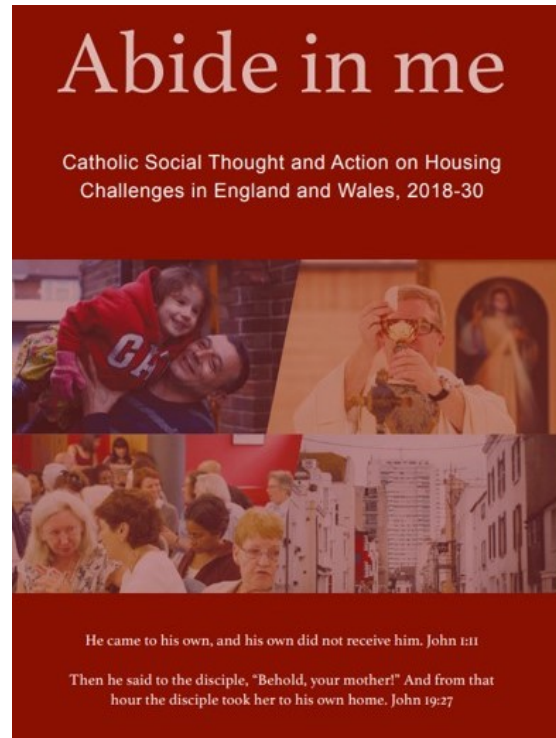
Just turn up on the night. **ALL WELCOME**

CATHOLICS AND THE HOUSING CRISIS - A review of a new(ish) report *By Joe Burns*

It may have slipped your attention, I know it did mine, but CSAN published a report about the current UK housing crisis at the end of November 2018. It is called “*Abide in me*”, *Catholic Social Thought and Action on Housing Challenges in England and Wales, 2018-30*.

After exploring the idea that there is a ‘distinctive Catholic voice’ about housing the report is split into 4 mini-essays. These explore the basis for a concern about housing through Catholic Social Thought, then there is a brief examination of what the Church has done in former times in the housing field. Then some examination of the facts of today’s housing crisis and finally the authors provide a framework for action up to 2030. If you want to explore why Catholics should be concerned about housing then this report is a good place to start. Canon Angus Ritchie of the Centre for Theology and Community, London, walks through the idea that ‘the distinctive contribution of the Church on issues of housing flows from her sacramental understanding of the material order’. It is not particularly a light read(!) but it offers an insight that ties closely to Pope Francis’ reflections in both *Laudato Si* and in *Evangelii Gaudium*. He points out that ‘the Church teaches that the State’s powers should be organised so as to ensure “the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation, basic healthcare,

the freedom of communication and expression and the



protection of religious freedom.”

Another segment of the report examines the roots of the current crisis in housing in the UK both in terms of previous policy failures, the changing demographics of our country and regional disparities.

The biggest imperative for action is framed as follows: ‘delivering a more participative approach to the land, planning and housing is the most crucial challenge for Catholic social action in England and Wales’. This is linked to Pope Francis’ vision of a ‘a poor church, for the poor’: “The processes in which dioceses...generate their own plans and operating policies form a public sign of our commitment to human ecology, affecting how our credibility will be judged as ‘a poor Church, for the poor’.



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

J&P PARISH WORKSHOPS: FAMILY POVERTY A DIOCESE ACTS

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. Naniwa 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. If 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-hour 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 13 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 as homeless, we get lots of people from Harehills and we also get people from further away, in LS15, LS12, LS36 and LS37.

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

Family Poverty Section 2: extra resources



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?

A set of 5 structured workshops to explore Family Poverty and our response to it.

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.

email the office for more information.

The Commission will help with facilitation and organisation of the workshops.

CLIMATE CHANGE MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT 2019 – BOOK NOW!

You may have seen the pictures from a couple of weeks ago of Parliament. It was the first time in two years that Climate Change had been debated and there were barely 20 MP's in the chamber. Collective action is needed urgently to bring this issue back to the fore.

Wednesday 26th June 2019.



Photo courtesy of CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby>

The Climate Coalition, which includes CAFOD as a prominent member, are organising another mass lobby of Parliament this year.

The Leeds CAFOD Volunteer Centre will be organising a coach to go down to London. If you are interested in travelling on this coach then please get in touch with CAFOD using this link:

The Link takes you to an Eventbrite page where you can book a coach place.

You will have to look for the Leeds Diocese entry as the page is for all Dioceses.

You can also use Eventbrite to say that you are going & will organise transport yourself. It is helpful for CAFOD and the organisers to know approximately how many people will be going.



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

'LOOKING BACK' LENT LUNCH

**FRIDAY 05 April between 11:30 and 2pm – Drop In
Leeds CAFOD Volunteer Centre and the Justice & Peace Office @ Hinsley Hall**

*Were you involved in CAFOD or Did you go along to J&P events during the 70/80/90's??
What do you remember?*

We have been having a big tidy up in the J&P Office and Bronagh in the CAFOD Volunteer Centre has been doing the same.

Come along any time between 11:30 and 2pm on the 5th April to share a memory or two. We will have quite a few things on display about work undertaken over the last 40 years

A simple lunch will be provided

Everyone is very welcome to bring along their own photographs and other memorabilia.

Please email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or Leeds@cafod.org.uk to let us know you are coming so that we can cater properly for this event.

REFLECTION: Give us this day our daily bread

'Consider [Williams is discussing Gregory of Nyssa's commentary on the Lord's Prayer] the line: "Give us this day our daily bread". Well (says Gregory), is that about *my* getting what I Need? Actually, no. Because the bread of God that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world (in the words of St John's Gospel) is *everybody's* bread. I am asking for bread for everyone. And I can only say that I have properly received my daily bread (he says) "if no one goes hungry or distressed because you are satisfied".

I receive my daily bread when no one is made poor because I am rich. So the







resolve to work for justice along with reconciliation is essentially part of living out the Lord's Prayer.'

Rowan Williams, *Being a Christian*, London, SPCK, 2014, p 72



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

EVENTS

 Fri 15 Mar	<p>CAFOD LENT APPEAL FAMILY FAST DAY - National As usual, CAFOD have some great resources on their website to help parishes take part in their Lenten appeal. Please think about what you could do in your parish.</p>
 Tue 19 Mar	<p>FILM SHOWING: THE CLAIM – about the life of St Oscar Romero <i>Emmanuel Chaplaincy Centre, University of Leeds (Nr the Parkinson Clock Tower) 6pm</i> Students missed out when we showed this film in November and Fr Peter Kravos has arranged for Julian Filochowski from the Romero Trust to come and give another presentation of it. All are welcome to go along and see it - it's good!</p>
 Sun 17 Mar Sun 24 Mar	<p>FLY KITES NOT DRONES WEEK OF ACTION <i>National week of action to highlight the dangers to civilians from the use of drone warfare</i> Chris Cole of Drone Wars UK recently spoke in York about this insidious way of waging war – where there are significant civilian casualties – to the extent that the US military have announced that they are no longer going to measure or estimate such 'collateral damage'. More information from http://www.flykitesnotdrones.org/</p>
 Sat 30 Mar	<p>J&P Day of Reflection: Caring for our Common Home <i>SS John Fisher & Thomas More, Bradford Road, Burley in Wharfedale LS29 7PX 10:00-4pm</i> A day of prayer, some short inputs, discussion and time for personal reflection about our place in God's creation and our responsibilities towards looking after our common home. Please email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk to book a place.</p>
 Fri 05 Apr	<p>'LOOKING BACK' LENT LUNCH <i>J&P Office / CAFOD Volunteer Centre 11:30 to 14:00 – drop in</i> Come and spend some time to have a simple lunch and bring back memories of CAFOD and J&P events and people - everyone welcome and especially welcome to bring along your own photos and other memorabilia.</p>
 Sun 14 Apr	<p>JESUS WEEPS FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL <i>Bradford Cathedral, 1 Stott Hill Bradford BD1 4EH 18:00 – 20:00</i> Inspirational stories of lives changed and communities transformed in one of the most deeply conflicted parts of our World. Book tickets at bradfordcathedral.eventbrite.com</p>
 Fri 26 Jul – Sun 28 Jul	<p>NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FORGOTTEN PEOPLE, FORGOTTEN PLACES <i>The Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick, Derbyshire</i> A weekend of keynote speakers, workshops and a Justice 'Fair' to help us reflect on how to become a 'Church of the Poor'. See 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