



CLIMATE CATASTROPHE MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

**CLIMATE CATASTROPHE**  
**MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

**THE TIME IS**  
**NOW**

Join CAFOD and over 100 other organisations who are members of the Climate Coalition. Take time out to go to London to emphasise to your local MP just how concerned you are about Climate Change.

CAFOD have organised a coach to go down to London. If you are interested in travelling on this coach, then please get in touch with CAFOD. Simply google (or use your own favourite search engine) 'CAFOD the time is now tickets' and you will find that there will be an Eventbrite page among the top entries. Click on this. You will have to look for the Leeds Diocese entry as the page covers transport for all Dioceses.

*You can also use this Eventbrite page 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.*

**Not everyone can spend a mid-week day in London – What else can you do?**

The key thing would be to write to your local MP telling them of your concern about Climate Change – and that if you were able you would be there on 26 June.

Specifically, ask them to support a new legally binding target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and to put that into action **NOW**.

## **TWO LIVE SIMPLY AWARDS IN THE LEEDS DIOCESE IN ONE MONTH!**

A second parish in the Diocese has obtained the CAFOD Live Simply award. On top of this one of our schools has also achieved the award. Here are the details:

### **OUR LADY OF KIRKSTALL PARISH LEEDS**



The Leeds parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall, encompassing the church communities at St Mary's Horsforth, Holy Name in Cookridge and the Assumption church in West Park have been working towards this award for over two years. The idea came from the CAFOD group in the parish but was readily taken up by the parish council and the core principles of Live Simply (illustrated in the photo above taken at Holy Name church) were even built into the guidelines that the parish council uses.

Earlier this month two Live Simply assessors visited the parish to examine what the parish had done. Maggie McSherry, leading the assessment, said *"This large parish has achieved so much in less than 2 years. I could highlight the inspirational monthly LiveSimply newsletter, the gardening club, the Lampedusa Cross pilgrimage, the Lenten prayer stations in the park, the new compost bins and recycling. The list goes on, but the overall effect on the parish has been so much more than the individual parts. It has*

*touched so many people's hearts, and that is what is most important. Fr Pat has enabled the parish to work together and reflect on the concerns of today"*

Paul Kelly, co-assessor, added *"For me what was so effective was the way this very large parish, that had been created from three separate and quite distinctive churches, has from the outset seen LiveSimply as a strategic development which has united the parish and forged a new experience of community. Living simply has simply become a part of what they do, and this means it will continue into the future as part of their Christian mission to live out the Gospel."*

Pauls' comments were echoed by parish priest, Fr Pat Smythe, "The Parish Council agreed that the programme had real value in its own right but also felt it would be a significant agent in furthering the desirable integration of the three churches (former parishes) which now comprised the new pastoral entity of the Parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall. This has proved to be the case in practice. The LS programme has brought parishioners closer together through their participation in a range of activities - which were more than simply social and had positive benefits within the family of the church and for the wider community."

One of the first activities they undertook as part of their journey towards this award was to do a survey within the parish to find out what people were already doing and what they already knew about climate change. Over 400 parishioners



Members of the Live Simply Group in Our Lady of Kirkstall Parish

responded and earlier this year the Live Simply Group repeated the exercise to find out if anything had changed (and, again, over 400 parishioners responded). Michael Emly, one of the members of the parish Live Simply Group, commented that “Over 40% of people responding agreed that the Live Simply programme had had an impact on their lifestyle with over 70% saying that they

*regularly read the Live Simply bulletin monthly insert. This, for me, was a fantastic endorsement of the work that so many people in the parish have been doing over the last two, and more, years. We are delighted to have received this award and are looking forward to celebrating this in different ways in June & July”.*

**ST JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL WETHERBY**



The school community started on their journey towards the award in 2018. In the school newsletter issued at the end of April, the headteacher, Louise Milimojevic, commented “Over the last year we have been working towards living more simply at St Joseph’s. Our Planet Protectors have worked hard to encourage us all to be less wasteful: reduce, reuse and recycle. They lead by example in school and have shared some excellent initiatives. In addition, our Mini Vinnies have led many fund raisers including the collection on old and unused coats, hats and scarves for refugee children and food, Christmas Hampers and Back Packs for families both locally and further afield who have very little.”

One of the assessors for this school was Trish Sandbach, who is also a member of the Commission. She commented, “One of the things that they have done which I particularly liked, was to develop a group of ‘Planet Protectors.’ Planet Protectors are elected by each class, 2 from each. They are responsible for turning off lights when leaving rooms, turning off the



computers at the end of the day, making sure that used paper is put in the right recycling bins, taps are not dripping and so on. We should have 'Planet Protectors' in all our parishes and schools!"

Whilst Planet Protectors have clear specific responsibilities it is understood that everyone in the school is also responsible for the environment, local and wider. The Planet Protectors are seen as the "experts" if there is a problem. The Y6 class teacher supports them. The headteacher comments that "We still have lots of very exciting things planned as we continue to Live More Simply."

Many congratulations to both these communities on their awards and the Commission hopes that it will be an encouragement to those other communities in the diocese who have already embarked on this journey (St John Mary Vianney parish in Leeds and the church community at Good Shepherd in Mytholmroyd) and also an encouragement for others to take up the challenge.

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## **CANCELLING DEBTS** by John Battle

When it comes to economics, managing money and especially big numbers most of us feel it is a separate language game in an unreal field. And though debts build up they can reach a point when it seems best to ignore them and just hope they go away. Yet debts can crush both the individual person and indeed crush the economic life out of a poor country immiserating its people even further. In other words, debt causes real poverty.

The late twentieth century economic shift has been from producing and making things to sell to a financial system in which basically "money makes money". The new masters of investment are the "hedge fund" managers who bet on the best time to buy and sell businesses. The philosopher Antonio Negri points out that "today capitalism maintains itself by rents". The problem is that turning everything into rents leads to the build-up of debts. There is a worrying build-up of personal indebtedness in Britain but recently the OECD pointed out that the global economy faces escalating risks from corporate debts with as much as £3.1 trillion needed to be repaid or refinanced over the next three years. This corporate debt is now more than double what it was before the 2008 banking crash. Low interest

rates have led to borrowing but now that central banks worldwide are beginning to raise them, companies and whole countries are at risk of running into real difficulties. As the OECD warns "central bankers have become increasingly worried by the rapid growth in recent months of US leveraged loans, lending to already highly indebted countries" for which we should read "particularly the poorest countries".

Some years ago, a public campaign by CAFOD and other aid agencies in Britain successfully lobbied for a "Jubilee Year" arrangement to get our Government and others in the rich G20 club to cancel the debts of poor countries or at least reschedule them to prevent drastically increasing poverty. At that time the Vatican issued moral guidelines on attitudes to managing debts for both financial institutions and individuals and warned of the dangers of "financialisation". Pope Benedict Emeritus and Pope Francis both have reinforced the warning challenging a system which not only generates but actually thrives on debt. As fearful rumours of another crash and recession begin to emerge, now is the time to look again at that theology of the "Jubilee Year" which wiped slates clean but also work on developing more sustainable and just economic systems.



NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

**CREATION MASSES IN THE LEEDS DIOCESE** by Bronagh Daly

The parishioners of St Aelred’s church in Harrogate, with the support of their CAFOD group members, celebrated creation at their ‘Creation Celebration’ mass on Sunday 12th May.



The church was decorated with images of flowers, butterflies, birds and insects and prayers and drawings adorned every pew in the building. It was a sight to see so much wonderful artwork on display from the children in the local primary school of the parish.

Bernadette Brodrick, on behalf of the CAFOD group invited me to their church originally to speak to the congregation about the new parish initiative ‘Hands On: Colombia’, and it was wonderful to hear that my visit was to be combined with a Creation Celebration mass.

I was also invited to visit the children’s liturgy group where the children used the prayers from the Creation Celebration mass and discussed ways we could all become Zero Heroes in our own homes and communities.

Everyone who attended the mass was encouraged to come along to the refreshments and short talk, climate quiz afterwards and sign the petition to ask the Prime Minister to do more to lower harmful carbon emissions by 2045. Parishioners used the grace dice as they enjoyed their food and discussed ideas about Climate Change, a younger members of the parish helped with the dice and petition signing.

The children and families at St Aelred’s were keen to make sure, as a parish they get behind the Zero Hero initiative with the children, and also have pledged to do more to tackle Climate Change.

A member of the parish brought along fresh flowers from her garden to decorate the hall and also teach the children to make button holes and posies, a wonderful idea to reduce air miles of cut flowers bought from the supermarket.



**Could you host a creation mass in your church community?**



CAFOD have plenty of advice and resources on their website.

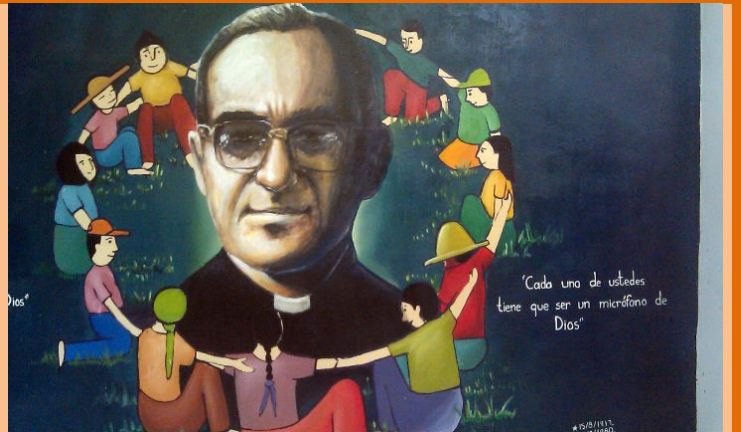
Why not get in touch with Bronagh in the CAFOD volunteer centre for the Leeds Diocese and she can help you to sort out the details.

Email [leeds@cafod.org.uk](mailto:leeds@cafod.org.uk) or ring 0113 275 9302

**REFLECTION:**

Romero paid the ultimate price for living out his faith. His sanctity and life of prayer resonate with so many of the saints from the past. However, his legacy speaks to our time in a special way. His realisation of the reality of structural sin inspired a profound discipleship dedicated to human liberation.

The weakest in society were the guide to his ministry. He did not forge a “middle way” between an oppressive military on one hand and Marxist guerrillas on the other. He committed himself and his Church uncompromisingly to the liberation of the poor, and in that commitment revealed what true faith looks like in the world today.



*concluding paragraphs of an article “From inquisitor to saint” by Michael E. Lee, published in The Tablet, 13 October 2018, p. 8*

**COME AND MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF PAX CHRISTI UK**

Our next full Commission meeting has, as a guest speaker, Theresa Alessandro, the new Director of Pax Christi UK. The Pax Christi Catholic peace movement operates in over 50 countries and has representation at both the UN and the EU. In the last 3 years there has been a great revival of interest in exploring nonviolence – kicked off at a Vatican-led conference 3 years ago. This is now a major strand in the work of the UK part of the movement. Alongside this it continues to deliver educational materials and deliver workshops in schools as well as develop highly praised prayer and liturgy resources.

Whilst there will be some other agenda items, we will be giving most of the meeting time explore informally with Theresa the current priorities of Pax Christi and for Theresa to find out about the peace issues that concern us most in the Leeds Diocese.

**EVERYONE** is welcome to come along to this meeting.

**Monday 10 June 7pm – 9pm**  
**John Wesley Room, Hinsley Hall**  
**Leeds LS6 2BX**



## SPARK SOCIAL JUSTICE – OUR LATEST PROJECT

# SPARK

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



**BE A CHANGE-MAKER!**  
**Are you aged between 16-30yrs?**  
**Would you like to make a positive**  
**difference to the world we all call Home?**

For a while now we have been only too aware of the lack of younger people (with some exceptions) coming along to events organised by the Justice & Peace Commission.

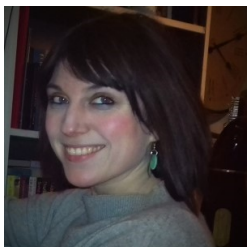
With financial support from the Porticus Trust we have just started up a project that will run to the end of 2020. It is specifically designed to engage people aged between 16 and 30 on issues of Social Justice and help them think about what more they can do to make a difference.

Our aim is that by the end of this project there will be some groups of people in this age group who meet on a regular basis to reflect on issues of social justice in the light of their faith and then take action in the light of that reflection.

We will reach out to people in this age group through holding workshops in high schools, parishes and colleges. With a limited budget we will not be able to cover all the schools or parishes in the Diocese but at this stage we would welcome interest from any parish who would like to take part in this project.

Rather than re-invent the wheel, our approach will be to review existing materials from other organisations (such as Church Action on Poverty, CAFOD, Columbans UK, Global Justice Now, War on Want etc.) that already have a good track record of working with people under 30 about issues of social justice.

Leading the work on this project will be Ms Aoibheann Kelly.



Aoibheann comes from a background of working in drama and has extensive experience of working with small groups of people of all ages. Chair of the Commission, John Battle, comments "As a Commission we are delighted to welcome Aoibheann to carry out the activities on this important project for us. From my own encounters with young people I know they have a great passion for Climate Change, homelessness, poverty and a range of other issues. This project will give them an opportunity to reflect on what they can do in the context of their faith. I know of Aoibheann through my involvement with some other local projects and I know that we are very lucky to have obtained her services."








If you are looking for ways of involving young people in social justice issues then email the office and we will put you in touch with Aoibheann to explore if this project might be helpful.





**NEWSLETTER MAY 2019**

**EVENTS**

 <b>Sun 02 Jun</b>	<p><b>NONVIOLENCE ACTION TRAINING</b>  <i>Friends Meeting House, Church Street Paddock Huddersfield HD1 4TR 10:00 – 16:00</i>  This event will cover: What is an affinity group and what are the roles within the group? Roleplays and exercises in consensus decision making and quick decision making, Know your rights and more! Lead facilitator will be Andrew Metheven who works for War Resisters International and Yorkshire CND. Whilst it is geared towards preparation for protests at the DSEI Arms Fair in September (see event below) this training is of more generic relevance to direct action on social justice and peace issues</p>
 <b>Sat 08 Jun</b>	<p><b>CRAFTIVISM AND THE ARMS FAIR</b>  <i>Quaker Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9Dx 10:00 – 16:00</i>  This event has been organised by Campaign Against the Arms Trade. It is about what action can be taken to protest about nuclear weapons at the Annul Defence Sales Export Initiative Arms Fair on 4 September. It is also an opportunity to make creative pieces to use at the protests ALL welcome.</p>
 <b>Mon 10 Jun</b>	<p><b>J&amp;P COMMISSION MEETING</b>  <i>John Wesley Room, Hinsley Hall, Headingley Lane, Leeds LS6 2BX 19:00 – 21:00</i>  Anyone in the Leeds Diocese is welcome to come along to a Commission meeting. Most of the agenda will be given to our guest speaker, Theresa Alessandro, new Director of Pax Christi UK. ALL WELCOME</p>
 <b>Sun 16 Jun</b>	<p><b>CARITAS LEEDS: MASS WITH THOSE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES</b>  <i>Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Harrogate Road, Leeds LS17 6LE 15:00 – 17:00</i>  Leeds Caritas have organised this mass for all those living with disabilities, their carers and families. Anyone going is welcome to bring some food to share afterwards in the hall, where light refreshments will be served.</p>
 <b>Wed 26 Jun</b>	<p><b>CLIMATE CATASTROPHE: MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT</b>  <i>Houses of Parliament, London 12:00 – 16:00</i>  Join CAFOD and over 100 other member organisations of the Climate Coalition to pressure MP's to take more action about our changing climate. CAFOD have a coach travelling from central Leeds and Meadowhall in Sheffield.</p>
 <b>Fri 26 Jul – Sun 28 Jul</b>	<p><b>NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FORGOTTEN PEOPLE, FORGOTTEN PLACES</b>  <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 <a href="https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/">https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</a></p>
 Find us on <b>Facebook</b>	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**