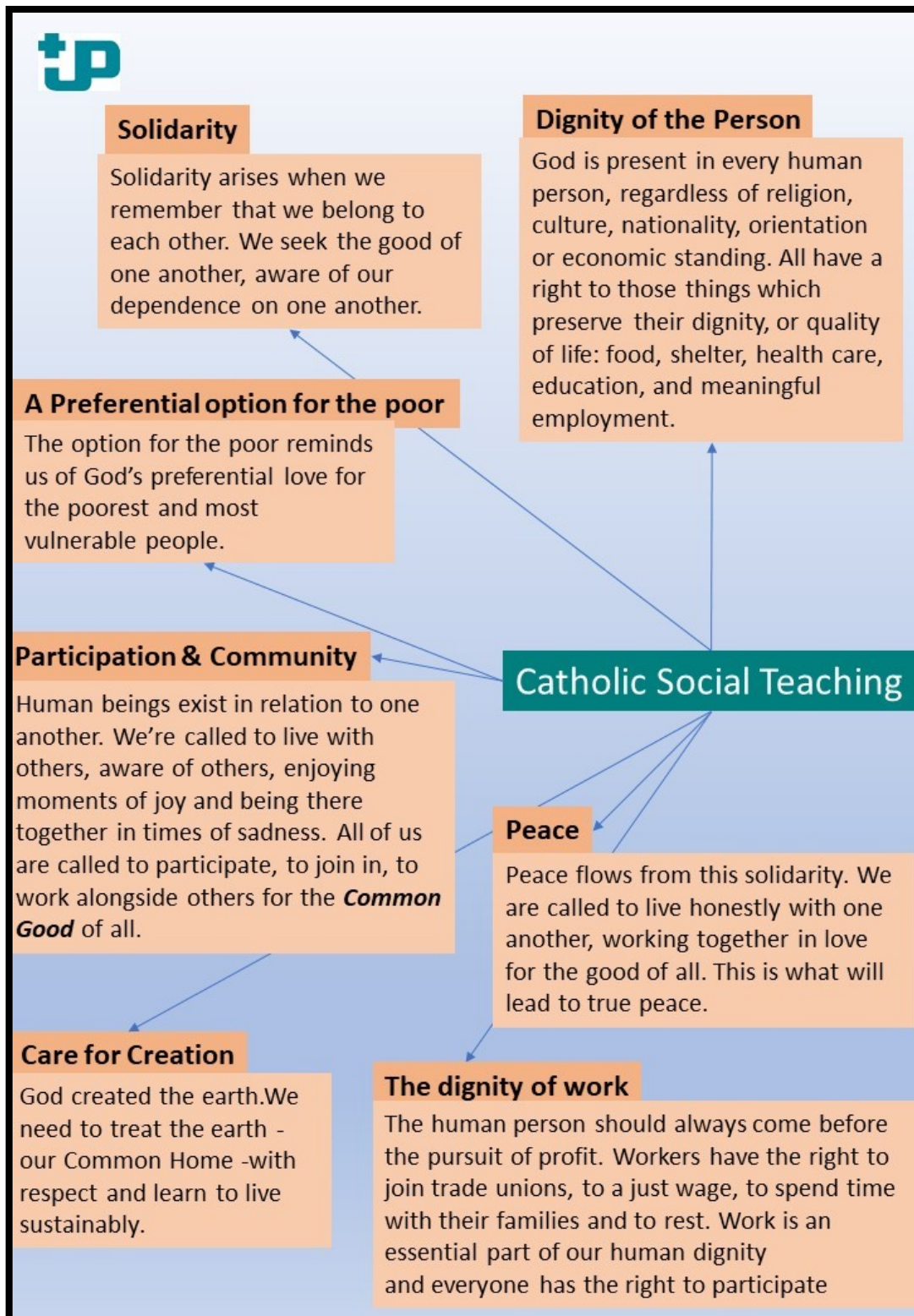




BEFORE YOU GO OUT TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION.....

Catholic Social Teaching is where faith meets politics. Before going out to vote just take a look at the key principles below and match them to your candidate and party choices.



SETTLE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE

Paul Kelly, parishioner at **SS Mary & Michael Settle**, and project lead for the Refugee ReSETTLEMENT Community Sponsorship Group, sends this update.

Twenty months since a parish meeting agreed to start the community-wide project to welcome and provide for a family displaced by the Syrian conflict, 5 months since the Home Office approved our intensive preparations, application and accommodation, and now over three months since our journey to the airport that marked the real beginning. Looking back, I don't know who was more nervous by the time the plane touched down one Tuesday afternoon in late August. Then we see each other for the first time with big kisses between the women and more formal handshakes between the men, all accompanied by beaming smiles. After a slow journey through rush hour traffic we finally arrived at their new home, a big change from their recent past. Two of the volunteers had prepared a Syrian meal and Grandma in the family invites all the volunteers to stay and share their meal.



At the end of the day everyone is exhausted but relieved and throughout it all the family toddler is running around playing ball as if she has lived in Settle all her life! Since then the many volunteers, with the assistance of some enthusiastic interpreters have been helping the family with paperwork, appointments, applications for bank accounts and benefits and getting to know their

new environment. And of course the all-important English classes.

It is appropriate only to share general information but I am delighted to say that more and more the family are meeting with people in the community of Settle and district and are already taking part in activities outside the core volunteer and English teaching group. They are experiencing many friendly greetings out and about. And the house is proving great too thanks to all involved in its preparation.

Once they arrived we had no immediate plans to do extra fundraising but two recent events were wonderfully arranged entirely independently of the group: a concert in St Alkelda's, Giggleswick, the musicians offering their skills for free, and a week later the annual Quiz Night hosted by the staff of HSBC Bank. It was great fun, the rugby club was packed out, and it topped £1000 on the night, which the bank will match £ for £. An amazing effort that helps ensure we can continue



high quality support for Settle's new family.

In another surprise this autumn we made the nominations for New Community Sponsorship

Group of the year at an award ceremony in Canada House. We didn't win but Cath Mackenzie (ESOL lead on far right) and I (third from left) had a great chance to network with other groups, and get a photo with one of the presenters – spot Dr Who (Peter Capaldi) at the back of the picture!

It is strongly reassuring to know we have such support, and any dissent in the town community has been pleasingly little. Welcoming the family just wouldn't be possible without the backing of many people in and around Settle.

The ReSETTLEmet team continue to be supported by Catholic Care who act as the lead sponsor and



are responsible for the sponsorship arrangements with the Home Office.

VOICES ACROSS THE DIVIDE

The Commission has shown films about Palestine in the past but in a new venture we recently joined forces with the Leeds Pax Christi Group to show a film as part of the **Fifth Leeds Palestinian Film Festival**.



The film was called 'Voices Across the Divide' and we showed it at Wheeler Hall at the back of St Anne's Cathedral. Despite a little confusion about the starting time (which was advertised a bit differently in different places!) we ended up with about 60 people staying to watch the film. Fortunately, there were some interesting stalls with Fairly traded goods from Palestine and refreshments were also available for those who came a little early for the film itself. The film only lasted about an hour. It had been made by an

an American Jewish filmmaker called Alice Rothschild. She wove together interviews with Palestinians in the USA and Canada with historical photos and footage to help create an intimate portrait of what is undoubtedly one of the most complex conflicts of recent times. However, hearing the stories of individuals and their families is a way of making the conflict and its impacts much more real. People were clearly moved by what they saw and heard and there was a good discussion afterwards with comments and questions from the floor. Several people there had been to Palestine Israel within the last 5 years and were able to talk from their own experience as well – which also enhanced the experience.



Palestinian Pottery stall



Tricia Griffin, a member of the Film Festival Organising Committee commented:

We show films that are not readily available to general audiences in and around Leeds; films that shine a light on Palestine - it's people, history, culture and society, that are thought provoking and challenge the stereotypes that are prevalent about the West Bank and Gaza. Where possible we arrange discussions and Q+As after the film and from time to time we organise a film and food event to provide opportunity for people to meet and talk in more depth. The films that I think are the most powerful and the most enjoyable are:

Wajib (2018) - Comedy/drama set in Nazareth, focused on the relationship of a father and son. Wonderful sense of place and character.

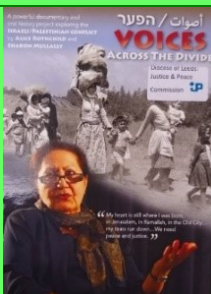
Gaza (2019) - Beautifully shot new film that captures how ordinary people find meaning behind the conflict

Occupation of the American Mind (2017) - the film explores how the Israeli government, the U.S. government, and the pro-Israel lobby have joined forces, to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favour. *"One of the most compelling and important documentaries in recent years"* John Pilger

The Wanted 18 (2014) - Excellent animated documentary about the efforts of Palestinians in Beit Sahour to start a small local dairy industry during the First Intifada. Very interesting for its historical perspective on non-violent protest.

The J&P Commission has a number of films on DVD that cover aspects of the Israel Palestine conflict in different ways. These are all available for loan from the J&P centre at Hinsley. Just email us for more information or to borrow a specific DVD.

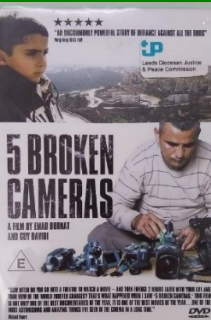
(we also have a few other DVD's available as well – not to mention a whole library of books!). Parish groups, Churches Together groups or individuals are all very welcome to borrow any of these items.



VOICES ACROSS THE DIVIDE

© 2013 Running time 57 mins

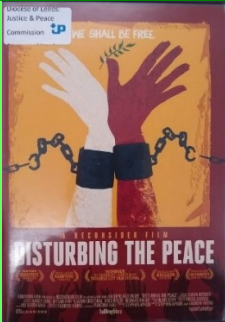
Interviews with Palestinians who have immigrated to the US and Canada enabling them to tell their story and for this to be fitted into the wider story of the region since the 1940's.



5 BROKEN CAMERAS

©2011 Running time 90 mins

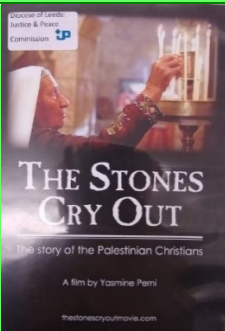
Emad Burnat is a Palestinian video journalist who lives in the West Bank Palestinian village of Bil'in. Over the course of several years his cameras are damaged or shot but Emad and Israeli film-maker Guy Davidi have shaped hundreds of hours of film into a compelling documentary



DISTURBING THE PEACE

©2016 Running Time 86 mins

This film follows the stories of former enemy combatants – Israeli soldiers from elite units and Palestinian fighters. It reveals their transformational journey from soldiers committed to armed battle to nonviolent peace activists leading to the creation of Combatants for Peace.



THE STONES CRY OUT

©2013

For more than 60 years the Palestinians, Christians and Muslims have suffered displacement and expulsion, wars occupation and oppression. The voices of Palestinian Christians have often been drowned out – this is their story.

GREAT PROGRESS AT ST MONICA’S HOUSING

St. Monica’s Housing was founded in 2010 by a member of the Justice and Peace Commission and a member of the SVP. Since then many women who are made deliberately destitute when their first asylum claim is refused have been helped while they gather evidence for an appeal.

Getting evidence, and a solicitor, can be a lengthy process and during this time they are not allowed to work, are not housed and have no source of income.

St. Monica’s provides good quality temporary accommodation and provides each woman £25 a week to help with living costs. The women usually stay with us for six months giving them a period of stability, a postal address and time to progress their asylum claim free from housing worries.

This year we opened a second house in Harehills, Leeds, which together with our existing house in Beeston, Leeds, gives a total of ten places. Our houses are provided by the Diocese and by Catholic Care with running costs met by various

fundors including The Grail Society, Cross and Passion Sisters and the Mary Strand Trust Fund. Women are recommended to us from Pafras (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers).



The Harehills property managed by St Monica's



During the year April 2018 to March 2019 we provided approximately 2000 days (and nights!) of accommodation.



The kitchen of the Harehills house

The women come from many different countries. Some of the more recent ones are: Eritrea, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Pakistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Mali.

Recently, St. Monica's has been contacted for advice by two groups both intending to use the 'St. Monica Model' to run projects for men in Leeds and Wakefield.

In spite of our efforts there are many destitute men and women seeking asylum in our Diocese and as Pope Francis has reminded us we must practise charity for those who have been thrown away and restore their humanity and ours.

If you would like help and advice on setting up a similar project or wish to help with our running costs please contact us on Email: jmclj2@hotmail.com Mobile 07954105391.

PAID WORK OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE J&P COMMISSION



For people who work on a self-employed basis, we have some opportunities for undertaking paid work for the Commission.

If this isn't you then perhaps you might know someone who might be interested – please pass the information on

We need one or two people to :-

- Service the meetings of the Commission & Executive- producing agendas, meeting papers, attending the meetings and writing up key points and action
- Edit our E-newsletter – sourcing & editing articles as well as writing some of them
- Keep our website updated with news, events and the latest information
- Posting regularly on the Commission's Facebook page
- Maintaining our website to appropriate security and software standards
- Managing our smaller projects – such as Days of reflection. This involves writing up Project Steering Group meetings, developing promotional materials, taking responsibility for marketing events, organising venues, managing attendees and taking an active part in helping all events to run smoothly

Still Time to apply or pass on!

For more details please email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and we will send you some more detailed Terms of Reference for the activities we need doing. The closing date for submissions to undertake this work is 18 December 2019

REFLECTION

The poet Herman Hesse talks of how trees speak a precious, deeper wisdom to us:

"A tree says: A kernel is hidden in me, a spark, a thought, I am life from eternal life. The attempt and the risk that the eternal mother took with me is unique, unique the form and veins of my skin, unique the smallest play of leaves in my branches and the smallest scar on my bark. I was made to form and reveal the eternal in my smallest special detail.

A tree says: My strength is trust. I know nothing about my fathers, I know nothing about the thousand children that every year spring out of me. I live out the secret of my seed to the very end, and I care for nothing else. I trust that God is in me. I trust that my labor is holy. Out of this trust I live.

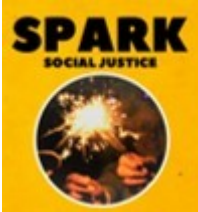
When we are stricken and cannot bear our lives any longer, then a tree has something to say to us: Be still! Be still! Look at me!



Life is not easy, life is not difficult. Those are childish thoughts. Let God speak within you, and your thoughts will grow silent. You are anxious because your path leads away from mother and home. But every step and every day lead you back again to the mother. Home is neither here nor there. Home is within you, or home is nowhere at all.

Herman Hesse, Bäume. Betrachtungen und Gedichte

SPARK SOCIAL JUSTICE CATCHES FIRE!



Our project working with people aged 16-30 is starting to take off. Earlier this week over 100 students at St Mary's High School in Menston took part in workshops exploring UK poverty

through drama. Aoibheann Kelly, the talented theatre professional who is leading this work commented *"Drama can help young people to make sense of the world they live in and explore ways in which to make a difference. It can also bring people closer together and offer opportunities to have challenging conversations, problem-solve, find out what they have in common and develop a deeper understanding of someone else's lived experience or point of view. Theatre of the oppressed, in particular, has its roots in exploring issues of injustice and can act*

as a catalyst to discuss ways people can change or improve a situation for the greater good. I led sessions with 5 different groups of students. Some young people even came back again to take part in other sessions which was a good sign. Some wanted to start a new social justice action group straight away!"









Workshops have also taken place at Leeds Trinity University and in the New Year they are planned in for Notre Dame College in Leeds and St John Fisher High School in Harrogate.

If you are interested, there may still be the opportunity to join in with this project. For more details please email

<mailto:info@sparksocialjustice.org.uk>



EVENTS

 Thu 12 Dec	<p>GENERAL ELECTION</p> <p>Make sure you go out and vote!</p>
 Tue 17 Dec	<p>WOMEN IN BLACK VIGIL <i>Dortmund Square Leeds 13:00 – 14:00</i></p> <p>All women are welcome to join in this vigil for justice for Palestine. Please come dressed in black.</p>
 Tue 17 Dec	<p>J&P COMMISSION MEETING <i>12:00 -14:00</i></p> <p>Anyone can come along to one of our regular quarterly Commission meetings. Just email the office and we will send you the details</p>
 Sun 19 Jan	<p>PEACE SUNDAY <i>National</i></p> <p>Look out for the resources available from Pax Christi UK to help mark this day in your church community. Could you have a collection for Pax Christi?</p>
 Wed 19 Feb	<p>INVESTING FOR PEACE – MORALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds 18:00 – 20:00</i></p> <p>This is a Sabeel Yorkshire meeting. Refreshments will be served at 6.00 p.m. with the presentation due to start at 6.30 p.m. The speaker will be a member of War on Want from London.</p>
 Sun 23 Feb	<p>CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY <i>National</i></p> <p>This Church Action on Poverty Sunday, through your gifts and prayers, CAP can give people living in poverty the opportunity to speak truth to power. Hold a soup lunch, Take a collection, Use their worship resources to reflect and pray for change. See https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/</p>
 Sat 04 Apr 2020	<p>LITTLE VOICES: BIG DIFFERENCE – JESUS JUSTICE AND JOY <i>Leeds Trinity University, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth 10:15 – 16:30</i></p> <p>A day with the well-known broadcaster and liturgist John Bell, of the Iona Community. A real inter-generational day to explore issues of social justice through stories and singing. Free to attend but please book a ticket through our Eventbrite page for this event – you can find the link on our website.</p>
 Fri 17 Jul – Sun 20 Jul	<p>2020 VISION – ACTION FOR LIFE ON EARTH-NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire</i></p> <p>The National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN) weekend conference in 2020 is about our care of God’s creation. Booking opens in February.</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