



## CAFOD'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This year marks CAFOD's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an official charity.

The very first Family Fast Day in 1958 was organised by 4 friends (Jacquie Stuyt, Evelyn White, Nora Warmington and Elspeth Orchard), raised over £6000 for the Dominica Mother and Baby Clinic. Just four years later, in 1962, CAFOD became an official charity.

For the past 60 years CAFOD has continued to raise money and support for overseas development. From responses to natural disasters (like the famine in Ethiopia in 1984 and the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004), to health and justice campaigns (such as the worldwide campaign on HIV/AIDS in the 1980s, and the Cancel the Debt campaign in more recent years), CAFOD's role has always been varied and relevant.

We reached out to CAFOD volunteers around the Diocese to find out how they think CAFOD has sustained support from volunteers and donors throughout the years. We'll be hearing about:

- ✿ **Anne Forbes**, CAFOD Board Member & Chair, Asia Committee 1993-2001
- ✿ **Helen Humphries**, CAFOD volunteer for 20 years & recently awarded with an El Salvador Cross to mark this
- ✿ **Chukwuemeka Innocent Nwachukwu** CAFOD volunteer for 10 months
- ✿ **Rev Gerard Kearney**, St Jeanne Jugan Parish who has supported CAFOD throughout his ministry
- ✿ **Madeline Woods**, Lay Chaplain at St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College, Bradford, and previously a CAFOD Step Into the Gap volunteer

## CAFOD REMEMBERED

*By Anne Forbes*



In the mid-1960s I worked for the DAC (Development Assistance Committee) at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. Well paid as we were for this work which focused on the co-ordination of overseas aid from the rich countries to the developing world, towards the end of each month we received a visit in our offices from Mlle Borghese, a colleague who had set up an OECD-based Oxfam support group, and to whom we gave our monthly donations. It was an early introduction to personal giving as well as political action.

When I returned to the UK, and to my home city of Leeds, in the early 1970s, the message of the Vatican II (1962-65) was spreading, thanks to the enthusiasm of the then Bishop of Leeds, Rt Rev Gordon Wheeler, who had been present at the Council in Rome for most of its duration. Documents such as *The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)* urged us as Christians to become aware of the 'joys and hopes, pains and sorrows' of the world around us, including those in the developing world. Not everyone was as supportive as Bishop Wheeler; indeed, some Christians were anxious about the 'political' nature of the subsequent discussions and actions.

In due course I became the first lay Co-ordinator of the Leeds Diocesan Justice and peace Commission, a role in which I soon realised that to be called a communist on regular basis was a sign that the practical implications of the gospel imperative for social justice were getting through.



However, most parishioners were very sympathetic to appeals for a reformed world order which would ensure that famines were past memories, and that good educational opportunities, adequate medical care, and fair-trading arrangements were assured. Very sadly, progress was very limited, and crises such as the Ethiopian famine of 1984 showed how far the world was (and is) from a new, fairer, economic and social order.

Meanwhile, CAFOD was very supportive of the newly established Leeds Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, including in financial terms. (I remember going on the night sleeper from Leeds to London once to see Noel Charles, the then Director of CAFOD, for an 8 am meeting in his flat, when we discussed possible assistance whilst he fried the breakfast...). In its turn, J & P encouraged the newly formed parish J & P groups to support CAFOD's campaigns, family fast days etc, and to invite to parishes some of the many well-known overseas partners who came to give talks in London and elsewhere (who remembers the talk given in Dewsbury by Fr Jon Sobrino SJ from El Salvador, or that of Alex Mbatha from South Africa in Bradford?).

In time this support for overseas projects had a very beneficial but somewhat unexpected effect. People started to ask why were Christians not showing equal enthusiasm for poverty concerns in the UK. Why were there not similar campaigns about child poverty here at home? Lobbying skills and organising methods were developed. (I first heard about Saul Alinski and his community organising techniques, which later led on to organising groups in London, Leeds and elsewhere in the UK, during a J & P visit to the Philippines). CAFOD offered training in methods of working for change which were taken up by groups such as J&P,

and were already known to the Young Christian Students, National Board of Catholic Women and many committed Christians.

As already mentioned, another of CAFOD's key contributions was the number of visitors from the developing world who came to the UK to talk about their situation at home – and who sometimes made significant comments about the justice situation in the UK. Such comments and work for justice overseas led people to look more clearly at injustices here in the UK, and subsequently ecumenical groups such as Church Action on Poverty and Housing Justice were formed. Later, in the 1990s, the Catholic church in England and Wales established CASC (Catholic Agency for Social Concern), now known as CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network), with support from key CAFOD staff, especially CEOs Julian Filochowski, Chris Bain, and Christine Allen. More recently a number of RC dioceses have set up Caritas organisations concerned with a wide range of UK social issues such as criminal justice, housing, domestic abuse

It can be said that many of these social justice activities are to a considerable extent the fruits of the original vision of the women founders of CAFOD: Jacqueline Stuyt, and her colleagues Evelyn White, Nora Warmington, and Elspeth Orchard. Our debt to them is enormous. May they always be remembered, and their legacy maintained.

### **CAFOD IN THE NEW MILLENIUM**

*By Helen Humphries*

Over the years I have really enjoyed volunteering for CAFOD, it carries out such wonderful work across the world and it has been a great way for me to give something back to my parish.



I am involved in fundraising, supporting campaigns and encouraging prayer and learning activities in our Children's Liturgy group.

It has been great to work with Bronagh at the Leeds office, she has provided fantastic support.

### **CAFOD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

*By Chukwuemeka Innocent Nwachukwu*

I joined CAFOD immediately after the National Justice and Peace conference in 2021. Having seen CAFOD's stall at the



conference, I drew closer to have a word with Maria Elena, who briefed me about the charity. I went back to my room that night inspired. I made my research that night and googled about CAFOD's work. I was so

captivated by the life of St Oscar Romero and from that point I joined CAFOD, rang my Diocesan Lead and expressed my interest. I joined CAFOD to put my faith in action, to also see that I can echo the voices of people who aren't heard. The humanitarian service rendered by CAFOD to communities deserving of it is laudable. CAFOD's 60 years journey is walk for humanity and I am proud to have a step in it. My favourite experience so far is going to schools as a volunteer and teaching the students the Catholic social teaching and inspiring the next generation.

### **CAFOD IN THE PARISH**

*By Rev Gerard Kearney*

CAFOD has had a very significant influence on my ministry. From fund raising to educating to formation of young people. I have been very privileged to be involved with the Live



Simply award and



currently am delighted to celebrate 20 years of fund raising and sharing CAFODs work with Helen Humphries in our parish. She has worked hard to share all CAFODs campaigns and dedicated herself to making CAFOD alive and accessible to all members of the parish community.

Happy 60<sup>th</sup>!

### **CAFOD IN THE SCHOOL**

*By Madeline Woods*

The impact of CAFOD in St Bede's and St Joseph's Catholic College is massive. Between our Advent charity fortnight being dedicated to CAFOD, the focus in RE lessons relating to the virtue of service, and our weekly CAFOD Club, you would be hard pressed to find a student who couldn't tell you anything about CAFOD (even if it's just that the Lay Chaplain was a CAFOD Gapper!). My personal experience with CAFOD, as a volunteer going into schools and parishes and the overseas visit to Uganda, has shaped much of the way Chaplaincy looks at St Bede's and St Joseph's. As an individual and as a College, I am proud to support CAFOD and the incredible work done all over the world.

### **CAFOD AND J&P**

This year the National Justice & Peace Network's (NJPN) Annual Conference's theme is 'Hope is a Verb with its Sleeves



Rolled Up'. (More details can be found on the events list).

When we are constantly surrounded by news of war, climate catastrophe and injustices both at home and abroad, it can be difficult to find hope.

But as we enter spring, and approach Easter, it's important to remind ourselves of the incredible efforts people are making to work towards a peaceful and just world.

In our Diocese, the work of CAFOD and the J&P Commission have been deeply intertwined from the beginning. Since Anne Forbes sat in a Soho flat with Noel Charles, the two charities have worked together to push for change.

Over the years, the Commission has run various campaigns on areas of where it has found a need to fight for justice. This work has been done in collaboration with many other Diocesan charities and civil society organisations. (See box below).

The work of the Commission, and of CAFOD stretch back over the decades and, as we have seen, the volunteers and supporters who make such work possible, often stay for years to continue fighting for a fairer world.

But the call to work towards a brighter future is still being heard by new generations. Last year, the Commission's SPARK project sponsored a group of young people from the Leeds Diocese to attend the NJPN annual conference. And, at the end of last year, CAFOD sponsored a youth delegation to attend COP26. This intergenerational approach to peace and justice is the only way we can ensure we succeed in bringing about the world we are striving for. As both CAFOD and the Commission in Leeds continue to draw in new supporters from all generations and walks of life, we can find hope for the future.

So, while we celebrate CAFOD's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and all that it has achieved over the years, we remember too how here in Leeds it has helped to support the Commission's work.

<b>SVP</b>	<b>Racial Justice</b>
<b>St Monica's Housing</b>	<b>Abigail Housing</b>
<b>UK Poverty</b>	<b>Leeds Church Institute</b>
<b>Support for Refugees &amp; Asylum Seekers</b>	
<b>Knights of St Columba</b>	<b>Caritas Leeds</b>
	<b>Climate Justice</b>
	<b>Pax Christi</b>
<b>Arms Divestment</b>	<b>Catholic Care</b>
<b>Diocesan Youth Service</b>	<b>Church Action on Poverty</b>
	<b>Union of Catholic Mothers</b>
	<b>Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network</b>	<b>LeedsPalestine</b>
<b>Film festival</b>	<b>Peace &amp; Nonviolence</b>
	<b>Leeds Citizens</b>



## TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Matthew Maslen – Bradford/Glasgow Uni

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January last year, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force. The treaty is a comprehensive prohibition on the development, production, stockpiling and use - or threat of use - of nuclear weapons. In other words, it is a legally binding agreement that bans nuclear weapons.

The TPNW has 86 signatories and has been ratified by 60 states. The United Nations website explains that in cases where States have signed but not ratified the treaty, it *“is a means of authentication and expresses the willingness of the signatory state to continue the treaty-making process. The signature qualifies the signatory state to proceed to ratification, acceptance or approval. It also creates an obligation to refrain, in good faith, from acts that would defeat the object and the purpose of the treaty.”* Whereas ratification is a State demonstrating *“its consent to be bound to a treaty”*. I’m sure that it’s not news to you to hear that the UK has still done neither.

In June this year, the first MSP (Meeting of State Parties) is happening in Vienna. This is an international conference where those who have ratified the treaty will meet to discuss *how* to keep to the obligations the treaty commits them to.

I’ve been given a space on the Youth Delegation through the organisation Youth for TPNW. Along with 130 other young people from five continents I will be visiting Vienna to be part of the civil society presence and to ensure that the voice of young people is not drowned out.

In the months leading up to the conference Youth for TPNW has been working hard to ensure that myself and the other youth delegates are prepared.



We have been lucky enough to receive zoom lectures from experts from around the world. Our pre-MSP events began in March. So far, we have had four fascinating and informative meetings, as well as some networking ones to help us get to know each other.

By the time of the conference in June, we will have had discussions on:

- What disarmament really means
- The importance and impact of advocacy and where we fit into it
- The history of Africa and nuclear weapons
- The impact of nuclear weapons on the Pacific region
- NATO
- Gender and nuclear weapons
- The intersections between nuclear weapons and the climate crisis
- The humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons.

These discussions begin with presentations from experts in the field and are followed by Q&A sessions. There is also a session planned where we will be given to the chance to talk to UN diplomats.

I feel delighted to have been given the opportunity to attend the conference.



Already the zoom meetings we've had have broadened my knowledge on the topic immensely.

In the first meeting we had we were split into break-out rooms on zoom so that we could discuss in smaller groups what exactly we were hoping to gain from the experience and specifically what we hope to have gained between now and the conference.

It was interesting that so many of us mentioned that our understanding of nuclear weapons was limited to our experience of them in our own countries. For myself, my knowledge has always been based around Trident and the history that Britain has with nuclear weapons. So, for a lot of the delegates, myself included, we shared a desire to learn more about the international experience.

As with many other important issues, such as the climate crisis, the conversation around nuclear weapons is dominated by a very small circle of countries. Take, for example, the Iraq War where the US and the UK tried to legitimise their own nuclear weapons while delegitimising the idea of other states developing them. These states who dominate the arena are not the states who pay the highest humanitarian or environmental costs.

In the run-up to the conference our youth delegation is taking an active role in educating ourselves on the impacts of nuclear weapons beyond the limited scope of the Global North. We believe it is important to make sure the voices of those who are disproportionately affected must be put at the forefront of the conversation. As the TPNW itself highlights, nuclear weapons have: "*disproportionate impact on women and girls*", and "*disproportionate impact of nuclear-weapon activities on indigenous peoples*". It is crucial that this is at the centre of conversations had.

Only one month into the events that Youth for TPNW have arranged I already feel much more prepared for the conference in summer.

The aims of our youth delegation are to:

- Mobilise, educate & engage young people all over the world around nuclear disarmament, teaching valuable skills in policy, campaigning, diplomacy, advocacy, & insight into UN procedures
- Create a strong youth presence at the conference
- Explore the interconnections between nuclear weapons and the climate crisis, racism, inequality, & injustice

I'm excited to continue learning over the coming months and I'm hopeful that the MSP in Vienna will lead to a useful starting point for the return to a world free of nuclear weapons. I believe that young people, and other marginalised groups, have a crucial role to play in this and I'm honoured to be a part of it.

**FOR UPDATES ON THE TPNW:**

You can find the text of the treaty here:

<https://treaties.unoda.org/t/tpnw>

Check out the Youth for TPNW website:

<http://youthfortpnw.net/>

Or follow them on Twitter: @Youth4TPNW

Check out the ICAN website:

[https://www.icanw.org/signature\\_and\\_ratification\\_status](https://www.icanw.org/signature_and_ratification_status)



## COMMEMORATING THE ASSASSINATION OF ST OSCAR ROMERO

*By Joe Burns, Commission Member*

Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated by paramilitaries on 24 March 1980 whilst in the middle of saying mass in the chapel at a hospital for cancer patients.



*The Chapel at the Divine Providence Hospital*

On 25<sup>th</sup> March, the Commission held a presentation of a film about his assassination and the subsequent journey to him becoming a saint. The film is called 'Righting the Wrong'. The title refers to the sometimes tortuous process by which he was eventually canonised. The film is a very powerful evocation of his life and death told through the voices of people who knew him well and who worked with him.

We were delighted to be able to show the film at St Winefride's Church Hall in Mary Mother of God parish in Bradford. A little over 20 people came to watch the film from a variety of parishes surrounding the Bradford area – but some from farther away as well. It felt good to be physically present with others for this event.

After the film our Chair, John Battle, facilitated a discussion to capture people's thoughts.

The strong theme that came through in the film was how, after the assassination of his good friend Fr Rutilio Grande SJ, St Romero spoke up more and more strongly for the poorest and most disadvantaged in El Salvador. There is great disparity of wealth in El Salvador – with around 70 families controlling most of the wealth of the country. I suppose we would call them oligarchs today – as they did, effectively, rule the country. Romero's weekly homilies were broadcast on the radio and his exhortations for justice for the poor and those who were 'disappeared' by paramilitaries brought him into increasing conflict with the ruling elite and eventually led to his assassination.

The discussion quite quickly turned to a consideration of the situation in our own country. Here, also, there are increasing disparities between the rich and the poor. The spiralling use of foodbanks is just one indicator among many.

The film left people with much food for thought.

### **RIGHTING THE WRONG**







***Could you get a few people together to view this film in your own parish?***

We can bring the film, projector & sound system and people who have been to El Salvador and can provide first-hand experience of some of the locations used in the film. You just need to provide a venue and some people! (And we can help with promotion of the event too).

Romero is a prophet for our times and this film is a moving way to explore that. Just email [jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk) if this is a possibility.



EVENTS

 <b>Wed 11 May</b>	<p><b>It's Time to Act for True Security: The Environmental Costs of Militarisation</b>  <i>Online: 12pm-1:30pm</i></p> <p>This event explores the impacts of the military on the environment and climate change, and the urgent need to re-think security. It is a chance to hear first-hand about the effects of nuclear colonialism on people in the global south.</p> <p>To book, or get more information visit:  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/time-to-act-for-true-security-the-environmental-costs-of-militarisation-tickets-292090529637">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/time-to-act-for-true-security-the-environmental-costs-of-militarisation-tickets-292090529637</a></p>
 <b>Sun 15 May</b>	<p><b>International Conscientious Objectors Day</b></p> <p>People around the globe will speak out in solidarity with conscientious objectors in prison today and in grateful memory of conscientious objectors of the past.</p> <p>Find out more by following this link <a href="https://www.ppu.org.uk/international-conscientious-objectors-day-may-15th">https://www.ppu.org.uk/international-conscientious-objectors-day-may-15th</a></p>
 <b>Sat 21 May</b>	<p><b>Day of Action against Corporate Courts</b></p> <p>Day of action organised by Global Justice Now to bring attention to <b>Five fossil fuel firms who are suing governments for over \$18 billion for taking climate action.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/event/day-of-action-against-corporate-courts/">https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/event/day-of-action-against-corporate-courts/</a></p>
 <b>Tues 7 June</b>	<p>Quarterly Commission Meeting  <i>Online: 7pm-8:30pm</i></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk">jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk</a> and we will send you a link near the time (and any papers that might be discussed at the meeting).</p>
 <b>Fri 17 June</b>	<p><b>What can I do about Palestine? – <i>Save the Date</i></b>  <i>Wheeler Hall: 6pm-8pm</i></p> <p>What, practically, can people in the UK do to help those suffering unjustly in Palestine? We are currently working with Pax Christi in the Leeds Diocese and the Leeds Palestinian Film Festival to organise a panel speaker event with film clips.</p>
 <b>Fri 22 Jul</b>	<p><b>NJPN Conference – Hope is a Verb with its Sleeves Rolled Up</b>  <i>Hayes Conference Centre, Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 6pm – Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2pm</i></p> <p>This is the 44th National Justice &amp; Peace Network Annual Conference – which is held in the lovely surroundings of the Hayes Christian Conference Centre at Swanwick in Derbyshire. Join 300 or so other social justice activists for a memorable weekend.</p> <p>Booking Form:  <a href="https://www.leedsjp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NJPN-Conference-Booking-Form-2022.pdf">https://www.leedsjp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NJPN-Conference-Booking-Form-2022.pdf</a></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.**