

### *The Justice & Peace Commission of the Leeds Diocese*

The Leeds Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission (The Commission) has been in existence for over 40 years. Its focus is the promotion of Catholic Social Teaching (and action on social justice issues that arises from this) within the Diocese of Leeds. For further general details about the Commission see our website [www.leedsjp.org.uk](http://www.leedsjp.org.uk) .

Over the course of the last 5 years the Commission has become only too aware of the 'demographic cliff' within the Catholic Church. Feedback from events organised by the Commission shows that the majority of attendees and supporters are aged 60+. Our events have generally been well-received by those who attend – but we are clearly appealing to people in the Leeds Diocese who are in older age groups.

Our evaluation is that this situation arises from two different causes: -

1. We lack recent experience of engaging younger age groups – we do not have the networks or skills to consistently engage successfully with them
2. People in this age group are just as concerned about issues of Social Justice as previous generations. However, their concern translates into action outside of the institutional church. Our anecdotal evidence is that Social Justice issues are not commonly explored in church-based groups or in liturgies. There is a heavy emphasis on compassion and only passing references, in quite general terms, to Social Justice. Consequently, people in this