



Westminster Justice and Peace Commission

A message from Fr. Joe Ryan

I have been invited to take up the role carried out by Father Pat Davies. I have no idea why Cardinal Cormac has asked me to carry out the task of Co-ordinator of Justice and Peace in the Westminster Diocese. Maybe one of the reasons is that I know little on the subject, so therefore he hoped I would ask someone who does!

This seems to be as good a starting point as any. I have taken advice from Fr. Pat and have been already planning a way forward with the J&P part-time secretary, Liz Steward. In the midst of a busy period at St. John Vianney Parish, West Green, N15, I have been looking at past reports and future plans already in place.

As yet I haven't been able to catch up with existing J&P groups in the different parts of the diocese, but that will be the aim as soon as possible. I will need a lot of help and guidance please.

Many thanks to Fr. Pat for his work over the years in helping establish the Commission for Justice and Peace in the diocese. I am also very grateful for Fr. Pat's help in the handing-over process.

The first task for the Justice and Peace Commission is to put forward a full proposal for a Field Worker in the diocese. Many other dioceses have such a person working full or part-time in promoting J&P initiatives in all aspects of diocesan life. This is task No. 1 to be sorted by the Commission and diocesan authorities.

Please be patient with me and gentle with your advice. I look forward to being more actively involved in the Gospel message of Justice and Peace in our world.

Every blessing for the New Year.

Fr. Joe Ryan

Valedictory Note

Back in 2001, you will recall that in response to a lay initiative and as part of the pastoral reorganisation of the Archdiocese, the Cardinal asked Bishop O'Brien to accept responsibility for Justice and Peace as part of his departmental duties. A think-tank was convened to consider how best to promote Justice and Peace issues within the diocese. Its recommendations resulted in yours truly being appointed as Justice and Peace Co-ordinator and at the same time operating as Parish Priest of Warwick Street, effective from September 2002 and also the establishment of a Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission effective from April 2003, with Liz Steward joining me as part-time Support Worker.

Our main objective was that J&P should be an integral part of the activity of every parish in the diocese and in that I think we have made considerable progress with most of the parishes now engaged in some form of J&P activity, whether through CAFOD (with those Regional Office we have very close links) or through Fair Trade or through some form of campaigning or fundraising activity.

In the last few months we have been involved with preparation of material for Series V of the 'At Your Word, Lord' programme and particularly with the 'Action Pack' which it is hoped will help promote J&P activity in the future.

The last year has also involved a considerable amount of activity in relation to the Make Poverty History programme.

It was always recognised that my appointment as J&P Co-ordinator would be a short-term one, and now seems a good time to hand over. I have in fact had some kind of involvement with Justice and Peace ever since 1979 when I joined the Executive of CIIR, and of course my involvement includes 5 years as Assistant General Secretary of the Bishops Conference working full-time on International Affairs. I am sure that that involvement will continue, as my passion regarding Justice and Peace issues remains undiminished.

Meanwhile, I wish Fr. Joe Ryan well in his new role and promise my every support.

Fr. Pat Davies

Peace Matters

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Commission's annual event on 12th November.

We would especially like to thank Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi, our keynote speaker, for taking the time to help plan the programme and for her challenging and inspirational remarks on the day.

Pat called for the creation of a 'culture of Christian citizenship', based on peace and non-violence. Drawing attention to the contrast between worldwide military expenditure, currently around \$975 billion a year, and the UN Millennium Development Goals of \$50 billion, she said that this disparity of expenditure was one of the main obstacles to creating a peaceful world.

We were challenged to "expose the link between issues of security, poverty and injustice and to reject models of security that rest on coercion, pre-emptive violence, the strength of arms, the demonisation and exclusion of the other." Pat also posed the question: "How seriously

do we take our Christian Citizenship? In a society where the voice of Christ is so often stifled and where the state seeks to 'normalise what is really abnormal and unacceptable in human terms'."

During the afternoon we watched a 10-minute video "Where is Love" made by a Docklands Youth Group. Their school is next to the site of the Excel Annual Arms Fair and the young people interviewed one of the Excel executives. They wouldn't be fobbed off and made him answer some awkward questions! It is a video that should be shown in school and at home and is available from CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade) - tel: 020 7281 0287, 222.caat.org.uk.

It was also interesting to hear from Rev. William Campbell Taylor, of the Diocese of London, about the work at St. Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, particularly the inter-faith activities there.

Many of you said you enjoyed the group discussion sessions with the opportunity to meet others and share



ideas and perspectives. We will be sure to include these sessions in future events.

Lastly, but certainly not least, thank you to those who helped with the technical set-up and to Network members who helped on the day.

Look forward to meeting many of you again in 2006.

Liz Steward

CAFOD update

CAFOD
just one world

I am very pleased to introduce myself as the new CAFOD Diocesan Manager for Westminster. I am delighted to have the opportunity to represent CAFOD in such a key diocese. I am looking forward to meeting you all and working with you.

As many of you will already know I have been a CAFOD supporter and Justice and Peace activist for many years being a member of a very active group in Enfield. In my previous professional work I was employed in a senior management role in the City at JPMorgan.

It will be a privilege to work for an organisation which is really committed to the work of the Gospel.

I am obviously aware of the key role the Justice and Peace network plays in support of CAFOD's work in the Westminster diocese. Your efforts have contributed to the considerable achievements of 2005.



I would like to acknowledge the major contribution of my predecessor Dermott has made over the years to the work of CAFOD in the Westminster Diocese and beyond.

I will also be based in the office in Cockfosters.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and working with you on the following:

- Promoting Lenten Fast Day 10th March, which this year focuses

on Peru and asking you to perhaps consider speaking in a Parish at Mass?

- Promoting Fair Trade Fortnight, 6th-19th March.
- Promoting fundraising initiatives such as direct debits, legacies and the CAFOD credit card.
- "Theological Foundations of Economic Justice" by David McIloughlin, Saturday 11th March, 11-3 in Brixton.
- Promoting the launch of the new 2006 Economic Justice Campaign.

Thank you all for your continued support for CAFOD.

All the best for 2006.

Tony Sheen
Westminster Diocesan Manager
0208-449-6970

Around the Networks

West London J&P Network

As we move from one year to the next, it is right that we look back as well as forward. When one thinks of 2005, it is hard to remember a year so full of promise and of achievement, even though the achievements may not have been altogether what we had expected or even planned for.

It was a year - we had been forewarned - of unparalleled influence for Britain as for 6 months it held the chair of both the European Union and the G8 group of countries. It was also a year in which Britain had a government (re-elected during the year) that wore its heart on its sleeve and advocated with unprecedented vigour policies intended to improve the economic position of developing countries, and particularly the highly indebted poor countries in Africa. Much of the motivation supplied by those political Policies was supplied by a new phenomenon, the coming together of a national coalition of agencies, including CAFOD, Progressio and Christian Aid, environmental organisations, trade unions and other groups, under the banner of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY**, which devised an intelligent three point campaign that targeted the government and linked dropping the debts of poor countries, increasing and improving the administration of aid and eliminating unfair practices and conditions in international trade in order to create a fairer international trading structure, and which also harnessed IT and PR to get its message across very effectively. Will we ever forget the horrendous

statistic of 30,000 deaths per day – a death every three seconds – around the world from preventable causes?

Unsurprisingly, not all the political objectives of the **MAKEPOVERTY-HISTORY** Campaign or of the UK government could be attained, but there were impressive and unexpected achievements of 2005, among them:

- it was the year when justice and peace was taken to another level in terms of publicity and became 'credible' in political terms, J&P groups became recognised as 'opinion-formers' and public awareness and understanding around the country of justice and peace issues increased phenomenally;
- with the publicity of the Campaign and the government's stated objectives, came a 'drip down effect', a flowering of justice and peace activity and a lot of hard work in parishes all over the country, which clearly contributed to the impact of the Campaign all over the country, and
- visible links were forged between Christian social concern groups and other faith based groups, and between them and non-faith based ones.

The challenge for justice and peace groups in 2006 must be to build on the successes of 2005, and to sustain the pressure for the changes so imaginatively advocated by the **MAKEPOVERTY-HISTORY** Campaign and the government, but which could not be achieved during that year. Because public and political

attention may become distracted, it is likely the burden of that challenge will fall more upon local organisations such as church groups – a challenge that we should embrace because we are guided and sustained by the 'still small voice' of Faith, the teachings of the Gospels and the encouragement of the Church.

The start of a new year is the time therefore for creative reflection - individually, in our parish justice and peace groups, and in our Networks – on:

- Ø which of our efforts went well in 2005 and how we could most effectively take them on a stage in 2006?
- Ø whether we can adapt the experience of other justice and peace groups to motivate the involvement of others and to improve the effectiveness of our long term projects?
- Ø what new concerns have come to our attention, locally or more widely, that might lend themselves to group action in our parishes?
- Ø what ideas about activities or structural organisation could we share more widely with our Networks to make them more responsive to our needs and thereby increase the effectiveness of our efforts at a parish or Network level – or, (why not!?) at diocesan level?
- Ø what areas exist where ecumenical or joint action could be initiated or developed with local groups outside our parishes whose focus is also centred on the ideal of a world that is just and at peace?

Hugh Caldin

Beyond Borders

For the courage to go beyond the borders of our experiences...
For the trust to go beyond the borders of our imaginations...
For the charity to help those beyond the borders of our family and friends...
For the forgiveness to go beyond the borders of misunderstanding...
For the hope to go beyond the borders of our fears...
For the desire to go beyond the borders of our beliefs...
For the confidence to challenge the borders of our limitations...
For the patience to accept those beyond the borders of the familiar...
For the understanding of those beyond the borders of our nation...
For the wisdom to see beyond the borders of our vision...

From Pax Christi's material for Peace Sunday 15th January 2006—'In Truth is Peace'

Herts J&P Network

The end of the year was busy, until Christmas put a stop to most J&P activities, though not to reflection and forward planning.

In St Albans, One World Week in October was inspiring, and it demonstrated how much the Churches have grown together in a spirit of solidarity, which embraces everyone as a neighbour, in our own community and beyond, regardless of religious, social, political or cultural divisions. It was a privilege for us from J&P to be involved in most of the events and activities. The exhibition in the Abbey highlighted connections of St Albans Churches, organisations and individuals with those less fortunate than us, particularly in developing countries. It attracted many visitors and many thoughtful comments. There were excellent talks every day, all well informed and stimulating. Particularly impressive were the talk by a Baha'i speaker who had been the UN development representative in Afghanistan between 1995 and 2004, and also the talk by local Rabbi Jonathan Gorski. Jonathan Gorski stepped in for a speaker who did not turn up, and spoke most

eloquently and lucidly about the problems of sub-Saharan Africa, and possible ways of improving matters. The yearly silent vigil was well attended, too, including our present and former MP and our mayor. The week-long Fairtrade stall in the Clock Tower, manned by members of 12 St Albans Churches, had many visitors, most of whom showed a surprisingly good understanding of Fairtrade – very encouraging. The message is clearly getting through.

As part of the MPH campaign a number of us in Hertfordshire lobbied our MPs in parliament on November 2nd, and many CAFOD cards were signed in support of MPH goals. The Wheathampstead J&P group continued their efforts for (rejected) asylum seekers and members were allowed to visit detainees in Yarlswood Detention Centre. Their work will continue.

The re-formed North Transept J&P Group at the Abbey is functioning now, with a co-chair from its sister group at St Bart's. Their next major project is a Fairtrade exhibition in the Abbey during Fairtrade Fortnight, to celebrate St Albans achieving Fairtrade City status. It is also very pleasing to report that a

new ecumenical J&P Group has started meeting in Boxmoor (Hemel Hempstead).

This month many of us are marking Peace Sunday and also Homelessness Sunday with prayers and actions. Peace, and the lack of it, has probably been preoccupying most of us during the last few months. Peace will also be at the centre of our annual Hert's J&P Network Event at St Edmund's in Ware on 18th February, 1-5pm. We are delighted that Bishop James O'Brien will join us, and we are looking forward to hearing our two excellent speakers, Fr Tim Edgar and Dr Valerie Flessati. If you would like to join us on February 18th, you will be most welcome.

2006 will bring many changes for the Commission and we are looking forward to working with Fr Joe. We are deeply indebted to Fr Pat for his guidance and support in the last three years. Without his untiring efforts the Commission would not have got off the ground. Thank you, Father Pat, and every good wish for a happy and less stressful year.

Adelheid Smith

Justice and Peace Herts. Network 2006

Seek Peace and Pursue It

Speakers

Dr. Valerie Flessati

Vice President, Pax Christi

Fr. Tim Edgar STD, STL, MA, BD, AKC

Former Dean of Studies, Missionary Institute

Welcome by Rt. Rev. Bishop James O'Brien

**Saturday 18th February
St. Edmund's College, Ware Herts**

12.30 for 1.00 pm

(space to eat a packed lunch available beforehand)

Cost: £5 (payable on the day including tea/coffee)

For further info, including registration: www.hertsjandp.org.uk or e-mail info@hertsjandp.org.uk
or phone Vincent turner 07703 443110

North London J&P Network

Two weeks into the New Year and here in North London we feel full of hope for the development of Justice and Peace in our part of the diocese.

Of course we are sorry to say Goodbye to Father Pat, a long time friend and supporter of the Network and are very grateful for his continued presence and action on the Justice and Peace scene. As co-ordinator of the Diocesan Commission, he has worked hard to make Justice and Peace more prominent in Diocesan affairs and has diplomatically paved the way for deeper involvement all round.

At our first meeting of the New Year we were pleased to welcome Father Joe Ryan, the very busy Parish Priest of West Green parish, who has taken over the role of co-ordinator from Father Pat, so along with the other networks we look

forward to greater things!

We have just celebrated the third birthday of the group in St. Philip's, Finchley Central. They chose an apt day - the Vigil of Peace Sunday for their celebration which began with a Mass for Justice and Peace. Parishioners held lighted candles as they made vows to spread gospel values particularly in the area of peace and social justice. A great party followed with wonderful food, drink and a beautiful birthday cake. Speeches of congratulation were made which illustrated just how active this group has been in covering a large range of issues in campaigning and fundraising. It was obvious how important the support and encouragement of the Parish priest was to them as well as the very good response from their parishioners.

We are happy to report that North London was well represented at the Diocesan Day and we met parishioners who had just restarted their group, some who were about to get going

again after a lull and others who are keen to start. For those who made contact with us, we want to assure you that we haven't forgotten you and shall get in touch in the near future.

We're almost sad to see the Make Poverty History campaign coming to a close as so many parishes took part in it and really came alive. We were well represented at the last lobby of parliament on 2nd November and we want this momentum to continue. Much remains to be done in the field of economic justice and the new CAFOD campaign will be launched in May to harness and focus on our efforts to combat poverty in our world.

Lastly we hope as a result of parish involvement in the AYWL programme, we shall soon be welcoming new members at our network meetings and 2006 will see all our batteries re-charged.

Sheila Gallagher

Your News



The Theme of Season V of the AYWL programme was 'Recreate the face of the earth—build the Kingdom of God'. A final Season to enthuse and inspire us to work for the coming of God's Kingdom. Help and suggestions were offered in the 'Action Pack' - a book full of ideas, based on the Social Teaching of the Church—the Common Good—with practical ways to help, either individually, or as a parish or in the wider community.

We would love to hear from you with news of J&P activities you or your parish may be involved in, either as a result of the AYWL programme, or ongoing projects already underway.

Do drop us a line and we will publicise your work here in the Newsletter. It may help and encourage others.

If you are thinking of starting a J&P group, contact the Commission or your local Network co-ordinator and we will be pleased to help you get started. There is a simple guide to starting a J&P group on the diocesan website, www.rcdow.org.uk, under the Justice and Peace link.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Steward

Change of Address

The office of the J&P Commission has moved to West Green parish—please see our new contact details at the top of page 6.

Fair Trade Fortnight March 6th-19th 2006

What have you planned for Fair Trade Fortnight?

Do you have FT at your parish?

The Commission has produced a Resource for parishes and groups with information and simple steps to starting Fair Trade in our parish.

Please let us know if you would like a copy.

Useful addresses:

Fairtrade Foundation, Room 204, 16 Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ, tel: 020 7405 5942.

E-mail: mail@fairtrade.org.uk

Website: www.fairtrade.org.uk

Traidcraft, Kingsway, Gateshead, NE11 0NE

Tel: 0191 491 0591

E-mail: comms@traidcraft.co.uk

Website: www.traidcraft.co.uk

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**Working for Justice and Peace
In the Diocese of Westminster**

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East London (Tower Hamlets)	Sr. Christine Frost	tel: 020 7987 0257
East London (other)	Commission	tel: 020 7437 1525

Diary of J&P Events



Jan

29th	Homeless Sunday. Theme: "Build happiness, stop homelessness". Resources available from Housing Justice. www.homelessness-Sunday.org.uk E-mail: e.byrne@housingjustice.org.uk	020 7723 7273
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Feb

18th	Annual Hertfordshire J&P Network event: St. Edmund's College, Ware. (see page 4 of newsletter).	
25th	Meeting of the West London J&P Network. Guest Speaker: Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy: "The Jesus of Mark's Gospel: the enigma, the paradox and the challenge". All welcome.	Hugh Caldin Hugh@caldin.fsnet.co.uk
26th	Poverty Action Sunday—Stories that need to be heard. Resource packs for poverty action Sunday available from CAP Church Action on Poverty, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ or can be downloaded from www.church-poverty.org.uk	

Mar

6th-9th	Fair Trade Fortnight—Got The Fairtrade Habit Pass It On. Resources available from The Fairtrade Foundation	See page 5
10th	Lent Fast Day—this year is concentrating on Peru and achieving clean water supplies.	020 8449 6970 CAFOD Westminster
11th	CAFOD's Campaign team invite you to a day's meeting about the Economic Justice campaign. Theological debate with David McLoughlin. No charge but please book a place. Info@marana@cafod.org.uk	020 7733 7900 Maria Elena Arana

Pax Christi launch EU-wide contest for young people

Pax Christi sections in the UK, Germany, France and Flanders launched a contest yesterday inviting young people in school between the ages of 15 and 18 to produce a short power-point presentation.

The theme they are asked to illustrate is based on a speech of Martin Luther King: "We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools". Yesterday was Martin Luther King Day, marking the birth and life of the civil rights leader and peace campaigner.

Students are invited to work in teams of four to produce a two-minute powerpoint presentation in CD format. This presentation is to be seen as the launch material for a campaign to raise public awareness of the theme. The deadline by which these must reach Pax Christi is 31 March 2006. The best teams from each country will meet together in Brussels in May for a short encounter visit which will include meeting some Euro MPs and a visit to the European Commission.

Full details of the contest, including registration forms, can be downloaded from the Pax Christi website at: <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk> under Young Peacemakers.

Alternatively, those who are interested can contact the office for further information at St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY Tel 020 8203 4884