



Witnessing to Our Care for Creation

'Witnessing to the Integrity of Creation' is the Justice and Peace Commission's initiative to encourage the diocese to make a greater commitment to environmental concerns. It took a big step forward in February when parishes in Haringey held the first deanery-wide meeting at St Francis de Sales Church, Tottenham, to explore what could be done by each church.

Speakers included Fr Joe Ryan, Chair of the Commission, who spoke on the Church's mission and Climate Change. He linked the care for creation with the Eucharist: 'Blessed are you, Lord, God of all Creation ...' as the priest offers the bread and wine at Mass. We need to work together as community and church to care for creation and pass on a sustainable world to the next generation. He quoted Pope Benedict's 2010 World Day of Peace message, 'If you want to cultivate peace, protect

Workshops on the spirituality of caring for creation, on practical challenges for our lifestyle, and campaigning all gave ideas on where parishioners could start working.

Pressing on - what we are doing

The Commission hopes this kind of meeting will take place across the diocese, and is preparing a brief film of the event for the diocesan website, to encourage others to hold their own meetings (available, we hope, by Easter). As fieldworker I have spoken at 10 of the 22 deaneries across the diocese, to ask if they will hold similar meetings. We are linking up with CAFOD and Progressio to reach more people. We have prepared an energy audit for parishes so that they can check how much carbon is actually being used – you can't shrink the footprint if you don't know how big it is! We have talked to the diocesan finance committee,



Campaigners at Copenhagen—December 2009

creation'. Fr Emmanuel Odoemene, a priest and doctoral research student from Nigeria, gave a presentation on the effects of oil production in the Niger Delta. He intends going home to encourage the church to be a voice in protecting the environment and its people. Lucy Hurn, from CAFOD's campaigns team gave a presentation on the events at the Copenhagen Summit in December. She emphasised the importance there of civil society, and the 100,000 ordinary people who marched the streets and gave witness to concern for climate change.

who are considering how best to advise finance secretaries on carbon reduction.

What you can do

Form a 'Green Champions' group in the parish. Hold a talk, a film (see our events page for one in Stamford Hill). If you want to organise a meeting on Care for Creation in your own parish and need help, please get in touch with the office. Just start somewhere!

Barbara Kentish

There is a list of relevant resources on the back page

Viva Palestina

It was encouraging to see the support for the people of Gaza in the two events highlighting the convoys taking relief to the stricken population of Gaza. George Galloway M.P has helped, with others to make the relief convoys possible. On Tuesday 23rd February at Conway Hall, Holborn and on 24th February at St John Vianney Parish Hall, celebrations and discussions on the Israeli/Palestinian situation took place.

At present there are serious discussions about the building of Jewish settlements on Palestinian land. The Obama administration, in the persons of George Mitchell and Hillary Clinton, has been struggling to make any headway in negotiations. Hopefully progress will be made in the not-too-distant-future. Whatever one's political views, there seems to be unreasonable aggression from the Israeli side – the devastation of Gaza has summed it up. We hope and pray for a peaceful solution in this conflict.

Fr. Joe Ryan

Fairtrade Films: Trade Justice campaign continues

The Fairtrade Film Event at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith on Saturday 27th February, and aimed at young people, was a great occasion. There was a double bill of 'The Great African Scandal' and 'Blood, Sweat and T-Shirts'. Dr. Robert Beckford, black theologian and TV presenter, not only featured in the African Scandal documentary, but was there in person to denounce the exploitation of rice farmers and cocoa produce. We need to insist on Fairtrade chocolate, for example, and be aware of what we can do by selecting Fairtrade goods.

Stacey Dooley likewise both appeared in the documentary, 'Blood, Sweat and T-



Stacey Dooley (centre) and friends

Shirts' and attended the event. A perfume saleswoman from Luton, her interest in fashion took her and five other young Brits to see where some of our clothes are made. The film traced the making of the High Street fashion garments – much produced by virtual slave labour in India and elsewhere. 'We don't need to stop being fashionable', she told the predominantly young audience of Confirmation candidates and youth groups. 'We just need to be selective in the clothes we buy'.

Stephen Lord, Commercial Director of the Fairtrade Foundation was also present, and reminded us that over 50% of the London Boroughs are signed up to Fairtrade, which means that London is now the largest Fairtrade city in the world – hopefully as a diocese, we can soon catch up!

Is Your Parish Signed Up?

The Westminster Justice and Peace Commission are still working towards this goal: making Westminster a Fairtrade diocese. Over 50% of parishes need to be designated Fairtrade parishes and have a cer-



Fr Joe meets Dr Robert Beckford

tificate to support this. It is not a major task – serving Fairtrade tea and coffee at parish social events; displaying the Fairtrade sign and hold some sort of promotion event during Fairtrade fortnight. Then parishes should register with the Fairtrade Foundation (or with CAFOD) and let the Commission know.

While it is not a major task, it DOES need our commitment to trade justice, and an understanding that each little choice we make on the High Street has an effect on producers. There is a spiritual aspect to choosing your brand of tea and coffee!

Father Joe Ryan

Fr. Pat Davies RIP

Fr. Pat Davies, first Chair of Westminster Justice & Peace Commission, died on 16th February after some years of poor health.

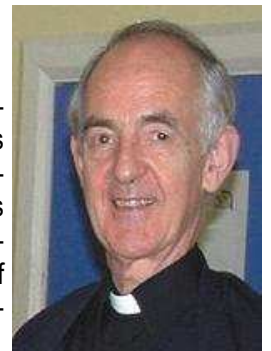
Fr. Pat's commitment to social justice had an influence on many. Following a career with Burmah Oil which took him to Latin America and Asia, he was ordained to the priesthood in Westminster Diocese in 1977. His work included foreign affairs advisor to the Bishops' Conference, and at one point he spent a year working in South Africa, which had a profound effect on him.

When the Justice and Peace Commission was being set up Fr. Pat was very prominent and supportive, along with Bishop Jim O'Brien. The Commission came into being in 2002, with Fr. Pat as its Chair, and together with the founding members his dedication helped to set it on a firm footing. The Commission owes him a great debt of gratitude.

Fr. Pat has a wonderful way of getting others involved in issues that he felt strongly about. He always had the ability to challenge institutions or individuals without intimidating or alienating—yet forcefully getting to the heart of the issue which concerned him.

The Area Networks and individual Justice and Peace groups also appreciated his encouragement and unfailing readiness to support

their initiatives. Members recall his conviction and dedication to his task as well as his unassuming manner, his always practical observations, his pleasure at goals achieved by parish groups. His quiet presence at public events and rallies, slight of build, but never daunted, was an inspiration and a source of strength to many.



Fr. Pat was always interested in what the Commission was doing and even in his illness showed concern for the issues we are involved in. He followed closely the national conferences, when he could no longer attend, as well as the annual area days, and good wishes were conveyed to him from these events.

Fr. Pat's Requiem, which he had prepared himself, was held in Westminster Cathedral on 26th February, and he is buried near his family home at Beaconsfield. Those attending went on to a reception in the Cathedral Hall - with strict instructions to mingle and talk to someone they had not met before!

We remember Fr. Pat with gratitude and extend our sympathies from all the Commission members to his family and friends at this time.

Around the Diocese

English Classes Round-Up

Jan Janoszka, our pioneering English Classes coordinator continues to travel around the diocese, setting up or supporting English classes for migrants and refugees. He writes:

'The main Saturday group in St Ignatius continues to have well over 25 people every single week. I can say now that the new Friday group has been firmly established. It consists of 4 people only, all from Asia, but they have been coming for our classes each week, so Fr Jim Conway offered to book a larger room, if needed.

In Neasden last week I re-introduced Joe Cooke, our Irish volunteer, to St Patrick's Church and with an increase of students thanks to leafleting, we are making progress.

In addition to Elisabete Fortes (from Portugal) I recruited another volunteer last Friday: John Maddres, an English accountant who is more than happy to help us on Saturdays. Since January, then, I have been very lucky to recruit Mariola, Peter, Sr Mary, Joe, Elisabete and John. Plus, glad to see that the website has been a helpful tool in informing our potential volunteers'.



(For more details of Jan's innovative work, go to link: <http://www.wix.com/JanWJPC/FreeEnglish>)

North London Network

We meet every four months and at our March meeting took the opportunity of a new year to discuss the future of our North London Network. We decided that its future lies in the friendship it offers and the intimacy of a small group to exchange news, views, ideas and information. Patricia Mulchrone hands over as co-ordinator to Lauri Clarke, and is now our treasurer.

Several parishes have regular Fairtrade stalls and there were extra activities during Fairtrade Fortnight including distribution of the Little Book of Swap, a stall outside Barnet Waitrose and Confirmation candidates

in Muswell Hill active in the Fairtrade tea campaign. Tony Sheen has a copy of the film "The Great African Scandal" (about rice, cocoa and gold). It will be seen at Stamford Hill in April and has already been shown in Enfield.

Network groups are involved in a wide variety of other activities including help with the Winter Shelter in Barnet, organising Stations of the Cross during Lent, climate justice groups, collections for Homeless in Barnet and a quiz evening in Finchley where those present will choose one out of three projects for their annual overseas charity.

2012 Olympics - More Than Gold

More than Gold is an ecumenical organisation which aims to provide a Christian presence at the 2012 Olympic Games. Its Social Justice group held a workshop at Westminster Central Hall on March 12th which sought to ensure a strong Christian social justice component in the Games.

Stephen Timms, MP for Newham, said "Churches are the key to the well-being of our community: social action is rooted in faith". The Commission helped to plan and publicise this successful event.

(See April Westminster Record for more).

CAFOD Update

Fishing Rod or a Fish?

There is a CAFOD saying: "Give a man or woman a fish and you feed them for a day, but give them a fishing rod and teach them to fish and they will be able to feed their family for the whole year." This is often used to describe CAFOD's long term development work.

Recently I have added an extra verse to this saying. "Suddenly all the fish in the river are dying. On investigating the causes the fishermen see that the new international mining company is releasing its toxic waste straight into the river." This is where CAFOD's advocacy and campaign work is vital to lobby companies and governments to protect the environment and the rights of local communities.

With the General Election looming, CAFOD is asking voters to ask all prospective candidates important development questions. If every Catholic were to ask

the following questions when someone knocks on the door, this could influence candidates across the country. Could you promote this in your Parishes and with Justice and Peace networks in your area?

We urge all prospective candidates to support three specific things:

1) Climate Justice: Working towards a fair and binding global climate deal as an immediate priority. This deal should:

- be legally binding
- include emissions cuts from developed countries of more than 40 per cent on 1990 levels by 2020
- include \$195 billion each year by 2020 on top of existing aid pledges to help poor countries cope with climate change

2) Aid: Turning the UK's commitment to give 0.7 per cent of gross national income as aid into law

3) Making business work for the poor: Supporting measures to ensure that international companies act responsibly, and do not contribute to tax evasion or corruption overseas

See CAFOD's web page for further details: www.cafod.org.uk/election

Thank you to all across the Diocese of Westminster who have generously donated to the CAFOD Haiti Emergency Appeal and more recently to Lent Fast Day, which funds CAFOD's long term development work.

CAFOD's work is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and the Gospel. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in the developing world and that we may be instruments in responding to Jesus' invitation to bring life to the full for all.

Tony Sheen
CAFOD Westminster

CAFOD
just one world

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In the Diocese of Westminster**

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Hertfordshire	Adelheid Smith	tel: 01727 855931



More needed! Please contact us if you would like
to join the Commission / be a parish representative

Justice and Peace Commission Open Meeting

Wednesday April 28th 6 for 6.30pm

Note earlier time to allow for refreshments beforehand.

at St John Vianney Parish Centre, West Green Road, N15 3QH

Why not come to our next meeting and give your views on Justice and Peace in the diocese – the diocesan environmental initiative, election issues, our response to the child abuse scandals, the relevance of Fairtrade, and more ?

Your Diocese needs you! We need more Commission members!

Please consider whether you could contribute your time and ideas, at four meetings a year, to help shape the Diocesan approach to issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

**You are invited to a day of reflection on our commitment to Fairtrade.
April 24th, 10am-3pm at The Well Spirituality Centre, 90 Suffolk Road, London N15 5RH.**

Tea, Coffee and Parish Spirituality

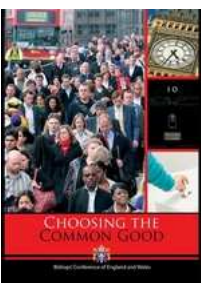
Choosing an ethical brand of tea, coffee or T-shirts might be easy, but ongoing solidarity with Ethiopian coffee farmers or Indian clothing workers is much more costly. How can we sustain our links with those who put the goods into our shopping baskets? Do we pray, sing about, or celebrate Fairtrade? Review what we have done? Summon the energy to do more?

Dr James Sweeney of Heythrop College/Action Research for Church and Society, and Father Michael Boy of the Agency for Evangelisation will facilitate the day. Participants will be invited to bring one Fairtrade item and to share how this has influenced their faith. Attendance is free, but only 20 places, so book quickly! Tea and Coffee (Fairtrade!) provided but bring lunch to share.

General Election 2010

Choosing the Common Good

The Bishops of England and Wales have published this document in time for the forthcoming General Election. In it they present some of the key themes of Catholic Social Teaching in the light of some of its recent developments and of the changed conditions in contemporary Britain. The document is available as a PDF download from www.justice-and-peace.org.uk



Faith in Politics - by Churches Together, PDF from www.churcheselection.org.uk

Briefing Page enclosed with this Newsletter - extract from NJPN Newsletter

CAFOD Election Briefing available from www.cafod.org.uk/election

NCPO Election Briefing by Network of Christian Peace Organisations, available from www.paxchristi.org.uk (News & Reports)

www.whybother2010.org - by LiveSimply Youth Network, aimed at young voters

Witnessing to the Integrity of Creation Useful Resources

Witnessing to the Integrity of Creation - hard copy from Commission, PDF on website.

For Creed and Creation, practical tips for churches PDF version on website. (hard copy out of print)

The Age of Stupid Pete Postlethwaite film on the consequences of inaction, available from Commission

An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore film on the figures and science climate change, available from Commission

Parish Carbon Audit - hard copy from Commission, PDF on website *Cutting the Diocesan Carbon—WJP March 2010*