



# Justice & Peace in the Year of Faith

The existence of a Justice and Peace Commission in virtually every diocese in the world is one of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council. The Year of Faith provides us with an excellent opportunity to pause and reflect on what difference it has made to highlight these two great Christian ideals in the last forty-five years.

The Year of Faith will focus on two significant anniversaries, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council, and the 20<sup>th</sup> of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

“Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity,” says the Catechism (2304). It reminds us that justice is the foundation of charity: “Charity is the greatest social commandment; it respects others and their rights. It requires the practice of justice and it alone makes us capable of it.” (1889) Justice, in other words, informs charity. There is an important link between charity and justice. Humanity, through personal and structural sin, tramples on the rights of others. Justice restores the balance between persons and pays restitution for wrongs. The Catechism quotes the teaching of St John Chrysostom who said, “Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours but theirs”... When we attend to the wants of those in need we give them what is theirs not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice. (2246)

On 10<sup>th</sup> October Brian Davies, a former Education Officer at CAFOD, started us off with an overview of the principal texts: *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (on the Liturgy), *Lumen Gentium* (on the Church), *Dei Verbum* (on Revelation) and in particular *Gaudium et Spes* (on the Church in the World of Today). And while not themselves Conciliar documents he also brought in the encyclicals *Pacem in Terris* (John XXIII 1963) and *Populorum Progressio* (Paul VI 1967) which link the issues of human rights, under-development and disarmament.



‘Let me see your face, O Lord’

There will be ample opportunities to reflect on the Council’s teaching during the Year through various talks and study programmes. Westminster Justice & Peace will seek to supplement these with a number of occasional talks drawing out the Social Justice implications of the documents.

Our next talk will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November when Colette Joyce of our *100 Days of Peace* team will explore some of the themes of Justice & Peace in the Catechism (see events diary for details). “The joys & hopes, the sorrows & anxieties of people today, especially of the poor and afflicted, are also the joys & hopes, sorrows & anxieties of the disciples of Christ” (*Gaudium et Spes*). May the Year of Faith renew us in our commitment to these values.

## Fr Joe Writes

We are still in the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics as we prepare to hand over this same spirit to the people of Brazil at a special Mass at St George’s cathedral on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October. But hopefully we will retain something of the same spirit!

In September, I made a trip to Brussels to be part of a delegation for the launch of the International campaign for the release of Abdullah Ocalan. He is a key Kurdish leader who has been in prison some 13 years in Turkey. His writings from prison have shown a way forward in a peaceful way to a solution in the Turkish/Kurdish conflict. The conflict in Syria will have serious consequences for so many countries – the Kurdish people can play a key role.

Barbara and I have been invited to do a presentation at a conference – One World – Many Cultures

in Bydgoszcz, Poland on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> October. We will speak about the work of the Justice and Peace Commission, our involvement with other groups and the attempts at further involvements.



Barbara and I did a joint presentation on *Gaudium et Spes*, the Vatican II document, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October at St Joseph’s, Bunhill Row. A most refreshing day with the Carmel in the City group who have a year long programme to celebrate *The Year of Faith*.

Again thanks for all your continued work. God bless, Joe Ryan



## 100 Days of Peace

Day 100 of our Olympic Truce period falls on October 28<sup>th</sup> and the days have rushed past. Our Vigil at St Martin in the Fields was a great success, with beautiful services at beginning and end, accompanied by St Martin's choirs. One of the highlights for me was the Buddhist monks hour at 4 am, during which we had a silent 'mindful' walk inside the church. After so many words of prayer, song and sermon, the silence was wonderful. But of course everyone loved the children's singing from Maria Fidelis and St Mary's, Crewe, and the Sikh musicians, and the Pentecostal drumming and dancing, and the prayers of CAFOD and Christian Aid, and ... and ... and ...



*Maria Fidelis choir at St.Martin in the Fields*

Many others held vigils and concerts: Hounslow, for instance, and Bethnal Green. The Icon meanwhile continues to travel around 17 parishes in Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood. Going to many schools as well as churches, including Brentwood Cathedral, it spent some of August at Aylesford. It is such a powerful reminder of the many facets of reconciliation needed for peace. We will pass on a copy of the Icon to the Brazilian community at our closing Mass. Another prayer feature has been the popular prayer booklet of 100 Days of Peace pub-

lished by the Redemptorists. I found it really helpful in sustaining an ongoing concern for peace, based as it was on the Mass readings of the day.

Rainbow coloured wristbands stamped with the words **100 Days of Peace, London 2012** were extremely popular with schools and youth groups., distributed along with the Icon prayer leaflet which had a special Olympics prayer on the reverse. Our volunteer, Amy Ashdown, dealt with these, and with our Facebook and Twitter accounts (all a bit dated since she left these in the care of the IT dinosaurs in the office!).



*Tai Chi at the Finsbury Park Fun Day*

Many schools and some parishes organised mini-Olympics, and we organised a fun sports day in Finsbury Park nearby. We were pleased that the Finsbury Park Mosque leaders came, and put on a Tai Chi display. The leader of Islington Council turned up, and declared that this sort of event should happen every year, involving people from all backgrounds and ages, so Father Joe wrote to the leaders of the three boroughs, Islington, Haringey and Hackney, to suggest that they jointly put on such an event. Naturally we would want to be involved, but do not have the resources or the role to do this every year! Our task will be to hold the councils to their word!

Our final event will be the Legacy Mass in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, with the music provided by the Brazilian Chaplaincies, at 3pm on Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup>. Naturally all are welcome, both to the Mass and to the reception afterwards in the Amigo Hall. Colette Joyce continues to work on the Peace Legacy until December 2012, after which we are on our own! She will, happily, still remain on the Commission.

Barbara Kentish

## Tax Justice

Tax dodging is big business in the UK according to Church Action on Poverty (CAP). Government figures show that £35 billion is lost every year to tax dodging - more than the amount the Government is cutting from public services. Furthermore Christian Aid estimates corporate tax dodging costs developing nations at least \$160 billion annually, that's one and a half times the global aid budget.

Every pound avoided in tax is a pound less to spend on childcare, social care, health or education. Thanks to loopholes in the global financial system, money that could provide these vital services is being pocketed by unscrupulous companies. Financial secrecy is at the heart of these problems – especially the secrecy offered by tax havens.

This autumn, the two organisations have joined forces to mount a Campaign for Tax Justice.

The prime minister, David Cameron, has called for a fairer, better-governed world economy. The Campaign calls on him to use his global leadership to end financial secrecy so that tax dodgers have nowhere to hide. In particular it seeks measures that require:

- companies to report on the profits they make and taxes they pay in every country in which they operate;
- tax havens to automatically share information about the money flowing through them with all other countries.

Christian Aid and CAP are asking people to sign a postcard or online petition (see [www.church-poverty.org.uk/taxbus](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/taxbus)) calling on David Cameron to use his global leadership to end financial secrecy so tax dodgers have nowhere to hide.

### 100 Days of Peace Legacy Mass

**Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm**

**St George's Cathedral**

**Lambeth Rd. Southwark**

with

Archbp. Vincent Nichols (Westminster),

Archbp. Peter Smith (Southwark)

Mgr. John Armitage (Brentwood)

and the Brazilian Chaplaincy

## Hungry for Change?

As we celebrate the Harvest time and the wonderful fruits of the Earth which God has given to us, CAFOD is focusing on the gift of food.

It's shocking to think that although there is enough food to feed everyone in the world, this evening one in seven—equivalent to the total population of the USA, Canada and the EU—will go to bed hungry.

CAFOD is inviting you to support our new Hungry for Change campaign. The campaign looks at our global food system, and asks: "if we are producing enough food for everyone, why do a billion people still lack enough to eat?" We believe that some of the answers can be found in challenging the power imbalances that exist with the way food is grown, sold and shared around the world.

The campaign is calling on Prime Minister David Cameron to act now for a fairer food system. The food system is failing the poorest people: the balance of power is tipped towards global companies – rather than families trying to put food on the table.

We are asking the Government to put power back into people's hands by:

- empowering aid for small-scale farmers, especially women, to help them access markets and increase their income, bargaining power and voice in decisions;
- introducing checks on the power of global food companies, requiring them to report on the lobbying they do and their impacts on human rights – and to ensure that workers in supply chains get a fair deal;
- Focus on the choices of what we eat and buy. To change the food system, we need to recognise our part in it and act out our desire for change.

Please can you order some Hungry for Change campaign cards for a card signing campaign in your parish one weekend? Email [campaigns@cafod.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk) or call 020 7095 5692 to order a printed copy of the guide (CAF2482) as well as Hungry for change action cards (CAF2385).



CAFOD Volunteers Hungry for change

You can also download resources including a short talk from [www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Get-clued-up/Food](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Get-clued-up/Food)

## Campaign Launch Conference

CAFOD will celebrate the launch of the campaign, at a conference in London on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November at Westminster Cathedral Hall. The day will feature inspiring guest speakers and the creation of an enormous shared feast (feel free to bring food to help contribute).

The conference runs from 11am to 5pm (tea and coffee being served from 10:30am) at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Ave SW1P 1QW (alongside Westminster Cathedral).

To reserve a place, telephone 020 7095 5684 or email [marana@cafod.org.uk](mailto:marana@cafod.org.uk)

We'd also like to invite you to take part in a few other CAFOD events too:

**CAFOD's 50th Anniversary Pope Paul VI Lecture on the evening of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November** - see the panel below for details.

## Family-friendly Nativity Run Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December

Join us at Clapham Common at 11am for a family-friendly 5K run and walk. Get in the festive spirit by dressing up as your favourite nativity character, and join us for mince pies and mulled wine afterwards!

Please email [cafodchallenge@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cafodchallenge@cafod.org.uk) for more information. Why not visit [www.cafod.org.uk/sponsoredevents](http://www.cafod.org.uk/sponsoredevents) to see a full list of other events we have in store?

## Understanding CAFOD Day Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> January

A day for anyone who is interested in getting to know CAFOD, or anyone who would like an update on CAFOD's work. Join us to hear more about CAFOD's origins, our structure here in the UK and our work overseas, the values which drive and inspire us, and all of the ways in which you can volunteer and play a part in making a difference for those who live with poverty and injustice.

The day will include guest speakers and will be held from 9.30am - 4pm at Amigo Hall, next to St Georges Cathedral Lambeth Rd Southwark, SE1 (Nearest Tube: Lambeth North). Please contact the Westminster office to book a place: 020 8449 6970 or [Westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Westminster@cafod.org.uk).

Thanks for your support  
Tony Sheen

## CAFOD's 50th Anniversary Pope Paul VI Lecture

What challenges do we all face today in bringing about the 'truly universal human society' that Pope Paul VI spoke about?

The Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture brings together three leading panellists to offer insights from each of their areas of expertise – politics, media, development, and the church.

### Rt Hon John Battle

*Former Minister and Labour MP*

### Fr Joe Komakoma

*Deputy General Secretary of SECAM (Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar)*

### Rosamund Urwin

*Columnist*

### Chair: Catherine Pepinster

*Editor of The Tablet*

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November**

**7:15pm start (doors open 6:45pm)**

**The Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW**

Tickets: £6 per person in advance  
*includes a complimentary glass of wine*  
Please contact 020 7095 5684 to book  
See [www.cafod.org.uk/lecture](http://www.cafod.org.uk/lecture)

## Detention of Torture Victims

We are still basking in memories of the summer's Olympic Games. Among the athletes whose achievements we celebrated was Mo Farah, who came to this country at the age of eight, one of a family of asylum seekers from Somalia. However thousands of other desperate asylum seekers have little to celebrate.

Last year 27,000 immigrants were held in detention pending removal/deportation, among them thousands of asylum seekers. The fate of torture victims is often particularly tragic. They arrive in this country traumatised by persecution in their home countries, hoping for refuge in the UK. Frequently though, they are held in immigration detention, sometimes for months or years, against internationally binding laws and the Home Office's own rules.

Not all detainees are deported. Last year about one third were released and quite a few will eventually be given permission to remain in Britain. But for torture victims their detention, especially lengthy detention, is experienced as a 'second torture'.

An **Early Day Motion (EDM 95)** has been submitted in Parliament, calling for the proper implementation of Detention Centre Rule 35, which forbids detention of torture victims. It has so far been signed by 42 MPs, they are listed on website [www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/95](http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/95).

If your MP has not signed you could write to them drawing their attention to the issue (note that MPs holding ministerial positions are not permitted to sign EDMs).

## Diary of Events for November

- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> **Living our Vocation for Peace and Justice in the Year of Faith** Christopher Jamison OSB is keynote speaker at Southwark J&P Autumn Assembly 10.30am to 4.00pm in Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, SE1. See [www.southwarkjandp.co.uk](http://www.southwarkjandp.co.uk) for details. Contact 020 7928 9742 or [office@southwarkjandp.co.uk](mailto:office@southwarkjandp.co.uk)
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> **The 2nd Vatican Council & Ecumenism** by Lord Leslie Griffiths, of Wesley's Chapel. One of a monthly series on Vatican II by Carmel-in-the-City Community, 11.30am St. Joseph's Church, Lamb's Passage, Bunhill Row, EC1Y 8LE. All welcome. Contact: Sylvia Lucas 07889 436165 or [carmelinthecity@laycarmel.org](mailto:carmelinthecity@laycarmel.org) or [www.stjosephsbunhillrow.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsbunhillrow.co.uk)
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> **Moving in the Direction of Nonviolence** a day looking at violence in our world, developing nonviolent skills and approaches, with Valerie Flessati and Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi. 11:00 am -4:00pm at Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH Tel: 020 7495 1673, [www.msjc.org.uk](http://www.msjc.org.uk) (events)
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> **Annual Enfield Fairtrade Fayre** from 10.15 to 1.30 after the 09.15, 10.30 and 12.00 Masses at Our Lady & St. George, London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS
- Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> **A Night Under the Stars** A Concert of English Classical music in support of the **Passage Day Centre**. 7.30pm at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank. Tickets £12 - £60 from 020 7592 1856 or [tickets@passage.org.uk](mailto:tickets@passage.org.uk) For more information visit [www.anightunderthestars.co.uk](http://www.anightunderthestars.co.uk)
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> **CAFOD Paul VI Memorial Lecture**.—see panel on page 3
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> **Hungry for Change** CAFOD Campaign Launch—see CAFOD on page 3
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> **Remembrance Sunday** see [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) or [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk)
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> **Prisoners Sunday** see [www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org), or [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk)
- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> **Overcoming fossil fuel addiction - the next moral revolution?** Operation Noah Annual Lecture by Andy Atkins, Chief Executive Officer for Friends of the Earth. 7.00pm in the Small Lecture Theatre at Friends House, Euston Rd. NW1 2BJ (opp Euston Station). Entry free but donations invited, refreshments available afterwards.
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> **Justice & Peace in the Catechism** a talk in our series on Justice & Peace for the Year of Faith, by Colette Joyce of the *100 Days of Peace* team. 7.00-9.00pm at St John Vianney Parish Centre, West Green Rd. N15 Contact the J&P Office (see below) for further information
- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> **Option for the Poor – what options now?** National J&P Open Networking Day. 10.30am – 4.00pm at CAFOD, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7JB. The day is free, but please bring your own lunch.

Westminster Justice & Peace Commission, 4 Vincent Road, London, N15 3QH

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Chair :Fr. Joe Ryan ~ Fieldworker: Barbara Kentish ~ Administrator: Ed Tierney

Area Network Contacts:

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