



Justice and Peace around the Diocese

Pray and Fast for the Climate

Justice and Peace has been praying and fasting for the Climate for several months now, and Welwyn Garden City hosted the July 1st event, only a few days after Pope Francis's encyclical (*Laudato Si*) was published. Over 60 people, from various Hertfordshire parishes, gathered at Our Lady Queen of Apostles church.

We began with Anne Stapleton's ice-breaker Quiz in the lovely Peace Garden. Father Norbert Fernandes, Parish priest, then asked parishioners from the various continents to explain to us how Climate Change affects their particular country, and to start the evening, Cyril Apelo (the son of a Filipino parishioner) sang for us. Then, we were given the following presentations: Cesar Marmolejo Morales showed us how his home town in the mountains and state of Michoacán (Mexico), the 'world centre for avocados', was in some ways a victim of its own success, in that forest had been cut down to plant this sought-after crop, rainwater was not retained, then, by the forest and temperatures were hotter.



Cyril Apelo

North America, explained by Ann Chappell, while at one point contributing most to the production of Greenhouse gases, had at least made the biggest efforts to cut down, and now was outstripped by China as the biggest culprit. Canada, too, was making efforts in this area. Europe – again a big contributor to the problem, was described by the WGC Focolare group – pointed out that 25% of toxic gases came from home emissions and 23% from transport. We need to address these on all levels: personal, national and international. New Zealand and Australia, explained by New Zealand-born Mike Cade, who surprised everyone by saying that many in that part of the world deny responsibility for climate change. How can their small populations affect things?

But Mike reminded us that methane gas is more toxic and powerful (by a factor of 28) than CO2 and the amount of livestock in both of these countries is huge, thus significantly contributing to global warming. Africa was represented by Ama Owusu-Afriyeh, Head girl at nearby Loreto College. She took us through the problems of warming and lack of rainfall in the Sahel (a semi-arid area, to the south of the Sahara, and stretching across ten countries, from Senegal to Eritrea), and the devastating effects on all the countries in that region. Philippines and the problems suffered in that region were elaborated on by Rizza Apelo.



Ama Owusu-Afriyeh,

The parishioners displayed and produced a wealth of knowledge, all from their own research and resources. The event finished with a Pope Francis's inspiring encyclical prayer for creation and for all those already suffering from the terrible effects of global warming. We enjoyed food from around the world, followed by a musical reflection from Sister Gill of The Daughters of the Cross of Liege, from Much Hadham (Herts). A great evening for Justice & Peace: all are invited to take up and host their own events on the first of the month, to pray for the best possible outcome of the Paris Climate talks (in December), and of course for the survival of our planet.

(Photographs by John Fogarty)

Barbara Kentish

Fr Joe Writes...

Dear Friends,

a number of events have taken place since our last meeting. The publication of **Pope Francis' Encyclical –Laudato Si** has been a most welcome document. It is most encouraging to hear the Pope say the same as we had been saying for a good number of years. It is significant that there is a message for all of humanity. It is profound, simple, and challenging at the same time. While it has many complex ideas it also has very practical suggestions as to how all of us can do little things that will make a difference in our care of our common home. Here we have a challenge both immediately and in the years ahead. In this light we are continuing the planning to cycle to Paris and that in two phases.

(See — http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

CAFOD – **Pedal Against Poverty**. I was glad to be able to join the 100 or so cyclists on 7th June in the cycle ride in Lea Valley. This was the eighth such annual event. Catarina and I were representing the Justice and Peace Commission. We managed to distribute some leaflets on the Paris cycle.

17th June a mega busy day: the clergy of the Diocese had a **Retreat Day** at Holy Apostles, Pimlico, which I attended. At that same time, there as the **Ecumenical Services** engaging on the Climate Change. In the afternoon there was the **Lobby of MPs**. About 15 of us met our local MP, David Lammy and reminded him of the importance of the Parish Gathering in December; also some local issues were raised by member of the Green Party. It was a valuable meeting in that at least we were able to put our point of view and ask for his commitment to the whole issue of Climate Change. Then there was the **Rally** - a good number of speakers and celebrities presented their concerns and support for the care of creation in so many different ways.

Night in Gaza. Later that evening, 17th June, I attended the presentation made by Doctor Mads Gilbert. He spoke of his experience as a doctor in al-Shifa hospital during the 51 days bombardment of Gaza in the summer of 2014. It was a most moving testimony of what it was like to work in that hospital; children, women and men – all civilians, many with dreadful injuries with shrapnel ... having to do amputations without anaesthetic ... His book **NIGHT IN GAZA** tells the story.



Visit to Geneva - VIVAT INTERNATIONAL. I have been invited many times by a priest friend, Edward Flynn, to visit him in Geneva so that he could explain and share the work he has been involved in for the past six years. He was the first to head up VIVAT International in Geneva in 2009. There has been a New York office since 2002. VIVAT was formed as a coalition of twelve Catholic Religious Congregations, female and male. They are principally missionary, Spiritans, Comboni (sisters and priests), Oblates etc. They are working in up to 120 different countries, with a membership of 22,000.

VIVAT was set up with the aim to lobby for Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva, New York, Vienna and regional offices. To Geneva can be brought the concerns of people in remote regions and countries; concerns like, clean water, rural schools, HIV and AIDS, domestic violence, extreme poverty, indigenous people's rights etc. These matters can be brought to the attention of the Human Rights Bodies in Geneva. One needs to understand the language of Human Rights in order to engage in worthwhile conversations. It is essential to know the mechanisms or the instruments to be effective in a presentation. The work of Human Rights and the United Nations procedures are intricate, as is any major organisation and so need to be studied. Fr. Edward shared his insights and wisdom with me over four days in the corridors of power in Geneva. I tried to grasp in just four days what others would give four months studying! At least I got a flavour of what happens and how to go about things if necessary. One can look at websites to keep in touch with issues of Human Rights and the workings of the United Nations Council for Human Rights.

Webs: vivatinternational.org

“Everyone should be able to draw from work the means of providing for his life, and that of his family and of serving the human community”

(Para 2428 The Catechism of the Catholic Church)

In the face of increasingly globalised trading arrangements set up by transnational corporations, the challenge of ensuring that working people can earn a just wage which is sufficient to sustain themselves and their families has become increasingly difficult. At Westminster Diocese Justice and Peace Commission we believe that in buying Fairtrade products we begin to redress some of the injustices which keep the poorest of our world poor, and support an initiative which offers a just wage for farmers organised into Fairtrade collectives, providing a safety net to protect them against hazards of the market and/or climate. Additionally, the Fairtrade Premium offers these communities a sum of money for them to decide on social projects to enhance the lives of their communities.

With the possible introduction of a new trade agreement between the EU and the USA, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), concerns about working people more generally have begun to raise alarm bells. TTIP, being negotiated behind closed doors, has been marketed as the answer to the recession in the USA and EU, but in fact its primary focus is to enhance the profitability of businesses, particularly transnational corporations. TTIP is fundamentally undemocratic since the trade deal thus far has been negotiated without public transparency or consent, and it is estimated that TTIP will cost at least 1 million jobs. In addition TTIP will undermine our most treasured public services by opening them to the private sector and making this a process which is irreversible. Most alarming, TTIP will allow US companies to sue European governments in special courts, not subject to Governmental rule of law should they make policies which damage their business interests and profits!



Photo at www.globaljustice.org.uk

TTIP also has implications for our planet's future. At this crucial time just before the Paris talks in December 2015 when governments are to meet in Paris to agree a how to keep CO2 emissions low, the European Commission has openly acknowledged that TTIP will add an extra 11 million metric tons of CO2 to the atmosphere, challenging the EU's own emission reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. TTIP will Impact on other areas of world trade - Negotiators involved in TTIP say that it will set the standard for ALL future trade and investment rules across the world. **This means that TTIP will enshrine the rights of transnational corporations over and above the needs of our peoples and our planet—FOREVER!**

Fortunately, campaigning against TTIP by concerned Europeans has had a significant impact. The European Parliament was asked to pass a pro-TTIP resolution on 10 June that would have given the EU trade commissioner Cecilia Malmström a new boost in her efforts to complete the deal. But MEPs had been bombarded by emails from their constituents urging them to say no to TTIP. In the event, the vote did not happen. Martin Schulz of Germany's social democratic party, had taken the decision to stop the vote from going ahead. The official reason (that the number of amendments made it too complex) was dismissed by all sides as an obvious smokescreen, as the parliamentary procedures were perfectly capable of dealing with the vote. In fact the divisions among MEPs themselves over TTIP (and especially the inclusion of an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism that would allow US corporations to sue EU member states for loss of profits resulting from public policy measures that might affect their bottom line) meant to go ahead with the vote might throw TTIP out altogether. Relentless public pressure has made the difference in forcing MEPs to take a strong stance on TTIP and the inclusion of ISDS. Without that pressure, the pro-TTIP resolution could well have gone through. **WE CANNOT ALLOW TTIP TO GO AHEAD!**

The struggle against TTIP is not finally over yet however. It is our duty to protect the democratic and just rights of all peoples in the Global North and South against these exploitative practices which guarantee profits for the rich and powerful at the expense of further poverty and injustice for the rest of us. Millions of people in Europe have challenged TTIP by signing the European Citizens' Initiative and lobbying their MPs and MEPs. <https://stop-ttip.org/sign/>.

As Catholics, we must join with all those who seek justice and peace by opposing this unjust trading initiative!

(Anne Lemont)

Justice & Peace Diary

JULY:

Fri 17th -19th

'The Things that Make for Peace'

Annual Justice & Peace Conference
Exploring the real threats to human security
and how we can work together to build a more
peaceful world *** NOW BOOKING ***
Booking forms from NJPN, 39 Eccleston
Square, London SW1V 1BX
020 7901 4864
admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk
Or download from our website
*** Book a stall at the Just Fair
contact details as above ***

Tue 21st

Christ in All Things: A Call for Eco-Justice

6.30pm – 8.30pm
Free lecture by Professor Celia Deane-
Drummond with wine & refreshments on arrival
At Milleret House, Kensington Square, London
W8 5HH
A 2 minute walk from High St Kensington
station on district and circle lines
Enter via 23 Kensington Square (Heythrop
College reception)
Limited places available ~ please phone/email
to reserve your place for these events
Email: enquiries@assumptionreligious.org
Phone: 020 7361 4756

Wed 22nd

Brother Sun, Sister Earth, Our Mother: Encountering Francis Today – a Day Retreat

led by Professor Celia Deane-Drummond
10.00am – 4.00pm at Milleret House
(see details of venue above). Simple lunch
provided ~ suggested donation £20 (waged)/
£5 (unwaged)

Sun 26th

The Diocese of Westminster & LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council

welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
Catholics, parents, families and friends to the
Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception
(Farm Street), 114 Mount Street, Mayfair,
London, W1K 3AH. As part of the Catholic
Diocese of Westminster's pastoral provision for
LGBT Catholics, we are invited to gather for
the 18.15 Masses at the Jesuit Church, on 2nd
& 4th Sundays.

Mon 29th

London Churches Refugee Network - Indefinite Detention At the Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House, Chapel Court off Borough High Street, 6pm to 8pm (5.30 for refreshments). People are imprisoned for long periods of time on an indefinite basis.

AUGUST:

Thu 6th

Hiroshima Remembrance Service, Aylesford Priory. For the past 30 years the Kent Justice & Peace Group have organised a commemoration service in the Choir Chapel at Aylesford Priory to mark the anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bombs in 1945. Starting at 8.20pm with a simple service of prayers and readings, followed by a short walk to the river where flower petals are strewn, and then return to The Priory for refreshments. All most welcome.

Thu 6th and
Sun 9th

To mark the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Pax Christi will have a stall/prayer time outside Westminster Cathedral. Prayer times at 11.30am and 3.30 pm

Sat 8th

Join a Peace Trail Walk this summer and discover some of the people and places in London associated with international peace making. Guided walk along the Central London Peace Trail with Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati of the Movement for the Abolition of War. Meet by Gandhi's statue in Tavistock Square WC1 at 10.30am.

Sun 9th

Commemoration Service for Blessed Franz Jagerstatter 6.30pm at Sacred Heart Chapel, Horseferry Road, SW1P 2EF. Followed by the interfaith peace walk to the Battersea Park peace pagoda. All welcome.

Sat. 29th—31st

Diocese of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission Cycle ride for Climate Change Have you got your bike out yet?! Still some places on Phase 1 of the London Paris cycling pilgrimage: London-Newhaven download the application form from our website or write to us justice@rcdow.org.uk Some subsidies available for students. <https://westminsterjp.wordpress.com/2015/05/13/cycle-to-paris-sign-up-now>

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