



After Paris – what next?

We did it, we made it to Paris, all 20 of us, by bike and support vehicle, and you can read all about it in our 'Paris Diaries'. But as Fr Joe Ryan says, the work is only beginning. The global organisation, Global Catholic Climate Movement, which gathered 800,000 of the nearly 2million signatures presented to Christiana Figueres, secretary for the UN Climate Convention, is calling for more education and awareness raising at the local level. So we came back from Paris and immediately pulled together a booklet of vegetarian recipes for Lent, as a low-cost way of lowering our energy consumption. 'Preventing catastrophic warming is dependent on tackling meat and dairy consumption, but the world is doing very little' said Rob Bailey, lead author of the think tank Chatham House report at the end of 2014. 'Appetite for meat is rocketing as the global population swells and becomes more able to afford meat'. So as well as using our cars less, and turning our heating down, we can eat more vegetarian food. It's all part of our Live Simply drive!



Actions: You can read about our Climate ride in The Paris Diaries, and get our Lent Fast, Vegetarian Feast cookbook, for a little practical action during Lent.



On the wider scale, the Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation team who were alongside us in Paris have given several substantial ideas for action on climate change in the Spring issue of Vocation for Justice. Ellen Teague lists three areas in particular: Disinvestment in fossil fuels, investing in renewable energy, and leaving fossil fuels in the ground, and gives the following links:

- <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/fossil-fuel-divestment-at-catholic-institutions/>
- <http://www.eiris.org>

<http://leave-it-in-the-ground.org/links-and-resources/>

At Justice and Peace over the coming year we shall be pursuing these issues and seeking to make September a 'Creation Season' as we seek the ecological conversion described so eloquently by Pope Francis in Laudato Si' (<http://www.thepopevideo.org>).

GCSE and Justice and Peace

The Justice and Peace Commission was invited for the second year running to Our Lady's Convent in Hackney to run workshops for Year 10 students as part of their GCSE RE course. Leaders from CAFOD, Pax Christi, the Catholic Worker, the SVP, Progressio, as well as Justice and Peace, led interactive sessions to give young people an idea of what is involved in practical justice and peace. The witness of those putting Catholic Social Teaching into practice was a moving experience for many of the students, making their faith a deeper reality. (Barbara Kentish)



Annual Open Evening and Justice and Peace Review



Our Annual Open Evening was attended by an encouraging 70 people last month, and we welcomed Bishop Nicholas Hudson along with Dany Curtin, who were carrying out a review of Justice and Peace in the diocese, after Fr Joe and myself have been working with the Commission for 10 years. Bishop Nicholas commented on the commitment and enthusiasm in the room, and spoke of the



importance of speaking out for the vulnerable. If this had been done during the 1930s, for Jewish people, he reflected, how different might German events have been?

Visit to Turkey

Fr Joe Ryan addressed the future of Justice and Peace in the diocese, stressing the importance of tackling unjust structures, as well as providing service to the needy. He also explained his own responses to some of the communities in his North London parish. He has responded to requests from the Kurdish community to support human rights for their imprisoned compatriots in Turkey. Here is part of his statement.

“Responding to Justice and Peace even in my own parish has taken me on some astonishing journeys. For example on February 14th, in over two weeks’ time I will go to Istanbul, Turkey. I have been invited to be part of an International Delegation to Imrali. This is the island prison where Abdullah Ocalan had been in solitary confinement since 1999, over 16 years. In the minds of many Kurdish people, he is their “Nelson Mandela”. Arrested in Nairobi, Kenya, on his way to South Africa to meet up with Nelson Mandela, he was arrested and has been in prison since. He is one of the founding member of PKK, Kurdistan Workers Party; a resistance movement seeking to resolve the denial of human rights of the Kurdish people, by the Turkish state. The guns had been silent for many years, but some months ago conflict has broken out again. Abdullah Ocalan has been writing from prison, asking his followers to cease violence and setting out a Peace Plan in the form of three books published on his behalf.

From Tottenham to Diyarbakir, to Brussels, to Strasbourg and beyond

My involvement was instigated by the fact that there is a Kurdish Centre in St John Vianney Parish. Being Chair of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission I was invited over five years ago to join an International Delegation to attend court trials of 150 Kurdish prisoners in Diyarbakir, Eastern Turkey and the give a report at the House of Commons. Following that, some three years ago a group of four of us signed an International Campaign in Brussels for the release of Abdullah Ocalan from prison. Two and a half years later, we presented to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, 10.3 million signatures demanding his release. So in two weeks’ time, a further delegation will be seeking permission from the Turkish Government that we visit Mr Ocalan in his prison in Imrali Island. It is doubtful if we will succeed, but we have to keep trying. Maybe one day his freedom will be achieved. Nelson Mandela was in prison for 28 years. I have also attended some of the Turkish elections as an International observer.”

You can read the full report on our website. Ed



The Renewal of Trident

Every year we attend, with a growing number, the Pax Christi Ash Wednesday service of repentance at the Ministry of Defence, and other efforts to oppose nuclear weapons, such as hosting Bruce Kent, for instance, in his Stop Trident tour, 2 years ago. Now is the time to state clearly what our stand is, here at Justice and Peace on this crucial issue, and to affirm that we do not believe that our national security lies in keeping, much less renewing, multimillion pound weapons of mass destruction in our midst.

The ground breaking research by Richard Wilkinson in his 2009 book, The Spirit Level, shows that equal societies are more harmonious societies, and are not, in general, the nuclear powers. It shows that threats to internal security come from social and economic inequality, and not from the possession of weapons. For instance, homicide rates are higher in unequal rich countries than economically and socially equal ones. Rates of imprisonment are higher, and children experience more conflict in unequal countries. While this study seemed to include only the US, the UK and France amongst the 9 nuclear weapons holders, these 3 are up there with the worst in health and social problems. Less nuclear weapons and more money for an equal society seems the obvious conclusion.. See our statement on our website. <https://westminsterjp.wordpress.com> Barbara Kentish



Malcolm Rifkind (ex-defence secretary) and Bruce Kent in Stop Trident discussions

← March for the Alternative



Pax Christi Prayer Vigil at Downing Street for Global Day Against Military Spending

Justice & Peace Diary

FEBRUARY:

Fri 1st

Get Ready for Lent with our new Resource, 'Lent Fast, Vegetarian Feats – Go Veggie for Lent Cookbook.' Available from our Office at £3 for one or £5.00 for two. Compiled by members and fellow-cyclists to Paris, it highlights the need for us all to eat less meat to protect our planet. Read up on our Paris Pilgrimage also with Fr Joe Ryan's call to action on the next stage of our Climate Campaign with **The Paris Diaries**, also available from us at £3 each or two for £5 (or same prices for combinations of both books)

Wed 17th

No wealth but life: Money - What else is there? 6:30 PM

Join us for this practical, participatory and fun event exploring how alternative economic models can impact peace building and create systemic change.

More details and registration Phone: 07973446846 or Email:

angharad@stethelburgas.org

Thu 18th

Living faith: Peace 7:00 PM A new Christian group of 18-35s aiming to build a sense of community in London, by eating together, praying creatively and exploring what it means to live out our faith. More details and registration Phone: 07973446846 or Email:

angharad@stethelburgas.org

Fri 19th

CAFOD Lent Fast Day For more information about how to get involved in organising a fast day fundraiser in your parish, or how you can spread the word about CAFOD by speaking at mass, please get in touch with your local CAFOD office.

Tue 23rd

Serving Refugees at Home and Abroad.

Come and hear more about how Jesuit Refugee Service is supporting refugees in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon as well as here in the UK and find out what you can do to help. Speakers: Fr Michael Zammit SJ, Regional Director of JRS Middle East and Sarah Teather, New Director of JRS UK. At 6.45pm, Farm Street Jesuit Church Hall, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH

Wed 24th

No wealth but life: Is shared ownership the answer? 6:30 PM

Practical, fun and participatory event exploring how alternative economic models can impact peace building and create systemic change.

Fri 26th

More details and registration Phone: 07973446846 or Email:

angharad@stethelburgas.org

Lighting the darkness: The collective and personal shadow and its role in systemic change at 10:00 am. This workshop for leaders, peace-makers and change agents will be a reflective and sometimes light-hearted exploration of how we can integrate lost parts of ourselves. More details and registration Phone: 07973446846 or Email:

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Sat 27th

March to Stop Trident. Pax Christi is supporting a major national demonstration called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) to Stop Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system. We are organising a gathering for interfaith prayer at 11.00 am at Hinde Street Methodist Church, Hinde Street, London. We will then join the march under the banner 'No Faith in Trident'... but do bring your own peace/Church/community banner!

29 February,

Oh what a lovely war-resistance. Two musical evenings of historic opposition to war.

@ 7.00pm, St Augustine's Mattison Road, London N4 1BG

@ 7.00pm, Hinde Street Methodist Church, London W1U 2QJ

1 March,

MARCH:

Wed 2nd

Fellowship of St Ethelburga: faith as reconciler or divider? At 1pm

A group for Christians of all denominations who are interested in the work of St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. Third talk by The Rev'd Angus Ritchie. More details and registration Phone: 07973446846 or Email:

angharad@stethelburgas.org

Sat 5th

Westminster J and P Hands-On Workshop on Fairtrade for Confirmation Groups and Key Stage 3 and 4 students at St John Vianney Church Hall, West Green Road, N15 3QH from 2.30 – 4pm. Contact Barbara Kentish if you want to bring a group for this event.

Email: justice@rcdow.org.uk

Sat 19th

The Violence of Peacemaking – Archbishop Romero and the Search for Peace.

An Ecumenical Service to mark the 36th Anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero at 11 am St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ Contact: romerotrust@gmail.com

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