

Justice & Peace

News from the National Justice & Peace Network

Spring 2005

National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

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The National Justice & Peace Network coordinates and encourages work for justice and peace within the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales.

This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.

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NEXT ISSUE DATE

MAY 2005

COPY DATE

2 APRIL 2005

YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

"In 2005 there is an unprecedented opportunity to end the extreme poverty and suffering of millions of members of our human family.

Twenty years after Live Aid prompted huge compassion in response to thousands of people starving in Africa, the Catholic community has the chance to do something about the causes of such immense suffering.

Events in 2005 mean there is finally the chance to win debt cancellation, trade justice and a doubling of overseas aid - essential steps that could lift 800 million people out of extreme poverty."

Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor

In 2005 in the UK we have a great opportunity to take action to end poverty. Britain will be holding the Presidency of the EU and in July the leaders of the G8 countries will be meeting in Scotland. It is a fantastic chance for all of us to stand up and demand action to end poverty. We require vision, committed leadership from our government. It has the chance to make history—we have the mission to raise our voices to change the world.



Srs Pat Robb & Patricia Mulhall,
Cheri Blair & Dawn French

The last time the UK hosted the G8 was in Birmingham in 1998 when 70,000 people formed a human chain around the centre of the city campaigning for the cancellation of the unpayable debt owed by the poorest countries. This public pressure forced poverty onto the G8 agenda and bought significant debt relief for poor countries.

There will be many opportunities to

take action with CAFOD and other agencies throughout 2005.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

"The time has come to stop talking and start taking some action." Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"2005 is our chance to go down in history for what we did do, rather than what we didn't do. This campaign is critical . . . coming to a stadium and a pulpit near you." U2's Bono

"2005 isn't just any year. If we say enough is enough we can change the future of millions of people." Actress Dawn French

In order to make the most of this opportunity a huge coalition of aid agencies will be launching the *Make Poverty History* campaign. This brings together the strands of a number of previous campaigns, acknowledging that it is not one single factor or issue that causes global poverty. What does poverty mean? It means regularly not having enough to eat, inadequate shelter, little or no health care, unemployment and lack of access to education. It means limited choices and opportunities.

Poverty is not something that happens as an accident of circumstance. Poverty is created by human decisions. For the poor in the Third World these decisions can be made thousands of miles away by people who have no interest in the human consequences, but seek only profit for themselves.

Dates for action:

January	Launch of CAFOD MPH card
18 Feb	Lent Fast Day - MPH
1-3 Mar	Fair Trade Fortnight
10-16 Apr	Global Week of Action
15/16 Apr	Overnight vigil for Trade Justice
16 May	World Debt Day
1 July	Global white band day
1-9 July	G8 vigils, nationwide
2 July	G8 mobilization, Edinburgh
6-8 July	G8 leaders meet, Gleneagles.



CAFOD'S card to Tony Blair

For more information visit:
www.cafod.org.uk/
makepovertyhistory or
call: 0207 326 5692
or
www.makepovertyhistory.org

Text taken from CAFOD
Make Poverty History
resources.

BISHOP SPEAKS OUT IN SUPPORT OF MPH

In his Peace Sunday statement, Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue of Lancaster in talking about the need for solidarity and support for the people and countries affected by the Tsunami, quoted from Pope John Paul's Peace Day message: "As a member of the human family, each person becomes as it were a citizen of the world, with consequent duties and rights, since all human beings are united by a common origin and the same supreme destiny . . ."

Bishop Patrick continues: I pay tribute to the enormous spiritual and material generosity of the British people. Such positive attitudes confirm for me that they understand the correct response to the biblical question "who is my neighbour?" There is so much that peace-loving

people here and worldwide would love to see done differently. This month the UK assumed the presidency of the G8 and in July 2005 will assume presidency of the EU. This unique political conjuncture gives the government a chance to use its influence to tackle the root causes of poverty and conflicts around the world.

As I see it, it is time to act and that is why I support the **Make Poverty History—Coalition's** demand for policies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. I believe the UK is a major player in all these matters, not simply a spectator.

The full text of Bishop O'Donoghue's statement is available on :
www.indcatholicnews.com

ACTION

If you live in the UK please write to your MP in support of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Today Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for a total of 9 years, 2 months and 26 days. There is currently no prospect of her being released. She is allowed no visitors, and we believe her life could be in danger.

The regime has ignored repeated calls by the British government and United Nations for her release. One of the things the regime fears most is that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will apply pressure on them. Britain is a permanent member of the UNSC, but so far has refused to put Burma on the UNSC agenda.

Help is needed to persuade the British government to take action. An Early Day Motion has been put down by MPs in support of United Nations action. If enough MPs support this Early Day Motion it will increase pressure on the government to act.

A suggested letter to your MP at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Dear

I am writing to you about the situation in Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's democracy movement remains under house arrest. She is denied any visitors, her phone line has been cut, and even though she has not been charged or convicted of any offence, there is no prospect of her ever being released.

The regime has ignored repeated calls by the British government and United Nations for her release. I believe it is time the international community stood up for the oppressed people of Burma. Early Day Motion 273 calls on the British government to place Burma on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. I would like to ask that you support Aung San Suu Kyi's struggle and add your name to this Early Day Motion. Yours sincerely

FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF ECCLESIAL ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

The First World Congress of Ecclesial Organisations working for Justice and Peace was held in Rome from 27 – 30 October. The theme: 'Announcing the Gospel of Justice and Peace'. Five of us attended from England, Maureen Matthews of the National Justice and Peace Network. David Ryall of our Bishops' Conference, Susy Brouard and Tony Singleton from CAFOD, and myself.



Bishop John Rawsthorne & Dr David Ryall

Ninety countries were represented. It was a wonderful gathering from all around the world of people deeply involved with Justice and Peace.

As with all Roman Congresses, it was a packed programme with innumerable speakers, most of whom were very good indeed. Overviews were given of the present situation of the Church's pastoral commitment on all five continents. Among the Papers, Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga who gave the CAFOD Paul VI Lecture a couple of years ago spoke on 'The Social Doctrine of the Churches as an Instrument of Evangelisation' and Marie-Madeleine Kalala, Minister of Human Rights of the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, gave a fascinating Paper on the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights.

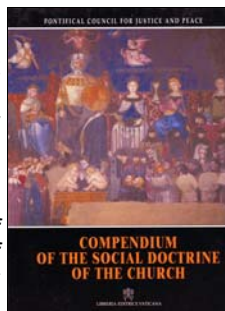
But what will remain with me will be the memory of the conversations at mealtimes, coffee breaks and between lectures with people of such dedication living their daily lives with violations of both justice and peace in so many parts of our world.

For working groups, we broke into Italian, Spanish and English. The group I was in had representatives of twenty five different countries and one of the key themes of the discussion was the difficulties faced almost everywhere in keeping justice and peace central to the life of the Church.

One of the special moments of the Congress was the presentation of the 'Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church' newly published by the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace. It is a very fine piece of work, described by Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council, as giving 'a concise and complete overview of the Church's Social Teaching'. Blessed with 175 pages of index, it should be an invaluable tool for all of us.

+ John Rawsthorne

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church is available at Pauline Books & Media for £19.99. 0207 733 9591 www.stpauls.org.uk



GOING TO MASS IN NABLUS



Rosemary Read was working as an Ecumenical Accompanier from Sept. to Dec 2004. For more information look at : www.eappi.org. Rosemary and others are available to give presentations on the issues involved.

Worshipping in Nablus was certainly different!

For one thing all the services were in Arabic. I had my missal with me so could follow it easily but not join in the singing or understand the homily! Saturday evening Mass was popular because many people work on Sundays as in this largely Muslim area the weekend is Friday and Saturday.

And that was the second difference. We are used in England to be part of a minority by going to church at all, but in Nablus a city of 150,000, there are only about 700 Christians. However nearly everyone goes to church or mosque. (Over 40 mosques are attended several times a day by thousands of men and some women.)

Although so few in numbers the Christians are divided into 4 denominations. There is the Latin Church which we would call Roman Catholic, the Melkite Church which is an Eastern Rite Church in communion with Rome, the Greek Orthodox and the Church of England which dates from the time of the British mandate in Palestine. The four cooperate in most things such as children's liturgy preparation, bible study and youth activities but they do feel very isolated.

That's not because their Muslim neighbours treat them badly – there is mutual respect for each others faith. What isolates them is the situation in the West Bank and in Nablus in particular.

Nablus (Shechem or Sychar to give it its Biblical names) is a city besieged. It is officially ruled by the Palestinian Authority but every road into it has roadblocks or checkpoints erected by the Israelis. I could write a very long article just about these barriers but suffice it to say to go to Jerusalem, some 40 miles away usually took at least two and a half hours and sometimes as much as five hours because of these delays. Some of the young people I met had not been allowed through at all in

the past 4 years. They are effectively in a giant prison. Three of the Christian ministers I met had only been able to get to Jerusalem to meet their fellow ministers once in the last 12 months. No wonder they feel isolated!

And a third difference was that walking back from Mass to our flat we were very aware that we were likely to see jeeps and armoured vehicles, hear shooting near where we lived and be told later that another young person had been shot. The Israeli soldiers invaded Nablus several times a week and more than one young person lost their life each week I was there.

This city is where Abraham or Father Ibrahim as our Muslim friends referred to him, found a spring, and dug a well now called Jacob's well. This is where Jesus met the Samaritan woman. It is a city sacred to all three of the great faiths who have their roots in the region. It used to be a place of pilgrimage for thousands. Now virtually no pilgrims come – it is too difficult to get in and seems too dangerous.

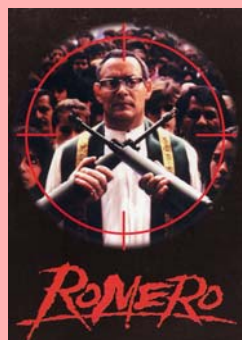
Of course Israel has every right to defend itself against suicide bombers and terrorists but what I saw them doing was oppressing a people who want peace with people of all faiths.



Rosemary and other Accompaniers on the Wall Pilgrimage Walk in Jerusalem.

Photo: EAPPI - Jeremy Routledge, S. Africa

25th ROMERO ANNIVERSARY



24th March marks the 25th Anniversary of the assassination of Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador.

Oscar Romero was for three years the Archbishop of San Salvador, in the Central American republic of El Salvador. He was recognised throughout the world for his service to the poor and oppressed. In circumstances of economic and political injustice, Oscar Romero spoke out on behalf of those who were victims of violence and oppression. His Pastoral Letters and homilies provide a major resource for reflection on how the Catholic Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person can be put in to practice. On 24th March 1980 he was assassinated as he celebrated Mass.

Guiding Light: A Way of the Cross with Oscar Romero is a new publication created by Anthony Singleton for CAFOD. Using bible texts and extracts from Romero's own writings this Way of the Cross will be a powerful and moving experience for parishes, groups and individuals. Available from CAFOD at £2.50. (0207 733 7900)

Romero - the powerful video is available from Pauline Books & Media at £13.99 (0207 937 9591) 101 mins .

Oscar Romero - Memories in Mosaic by Maria Lopez Vigil. A vivid and moving account of an archbishop whose courage cost him his life, told through the words of those who worked with him, lived with him, and prayed with him. £9.99 from CAFOD.

DIARY

Prayer

Information

Reflection

Action

2005

Feb	6	Poverty Action Sunday “Prosperity with a Purpose”	CAP 0161 236 9231
Feb	12	Praying the Way of the Cross led by Peter Richardson	Katherine House, Manchester 0161 832 1363
Feb	18	CAFOD Lent Fast Day MAKE POVERTY HISTORY	CAFOD 0207 733 7900
Feb	19	Climate Justice 10.30-1.30	Christian Education Centre, Crawley 01273 421021
Feb	22	Spirituality of Solidarity A day for Religious with Pete Henriot SJ	11.00-4.00 at M.I.L. 0208 959 4807
Feb	25	Spirituality of Solidarity A day for Religious with Pete Henriot SJ	11.00-4.00 at Heythrop 0208 959 4807
Feb	28	What is this place? Bible studies around violence against women	Cross Street Chapel, Manchester 0161 249 2515
Mar	1-13	Fairtrade Fortnight Action!	Fairtrade Foundation 0207 405 5942
Mar	4	Women’s World Day of Prayer “Let Our Light Shine”	Prepared by the women of Poland 01892 541411 www.wwdp-natcom.org
Mar	12	Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Conference “Bearing Witness to the Truth”	Crewe 01270 620584
Mar	16	25th Anniversary Romero Mass	Celebrant Archbishop Patrick Kelly 7.30pm Liverpool Cathedral
Mar	20	Romero Stations of the Cross	St George’s Cathedral, Southwark with Archbishop Kevin. Swk CAFOD 01322 294924 followed by a MakePovertyHistory card signing in Amigo Hall
Mar	20	Romero Video	St Mary’s Parish Hall, Marple Bridge, Stockport 7.30pm 0161 449 8907
Mar	24	25th Anniversary of Oscar Romero Assasination	Resources: CAFOD 0207 733 7900
Apr	9	Northern Conference on Trade Justice	New Century House, Corporation St. Manchester 0161 2492515
Apr	10-16	Global Week of Action for Trade Justice	www.april2005.org
Apr	15-16	Trade Justice Movement Vigil	Procession to No 10.
Apr	28	Churches Criminal Justice Forum Network meeting	12.00-4.00 Birmingham 0207 467 3783
May	15-21	Christian Aid Week	0207 620 4444
June	5	World Environment Day (UN)	www.unmeditation.org/
June	20-26	Refugee Week	Refugee Council Refugee Week info line: 0207 820 3055
July	1	White Band Day	CAFOD 0207 733 7900
July	2	MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY march & mass rally before G8 Summit	Edinburgh
July	8-10	National Justice and Peace Conference “We are the Stewards of Creation”	0207 901 4864

SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

As Viktor Yushenko said at his inauguration as President of the Ukraine, “This is a victory of freedom over tyranny.”

Having sent a message of solidarity to the Justice & Peace Commission in Ukraine at the time of the first election the NJPN was delighted to receive the following reply after the Boxing Day vote.

“In the festive season of Christmas (between Western and Eastern tradition), on the New Year Eve my thoughts are turning to you.

“The days we are living are special to us, they are special for Ukraine, and they are special for Europe, because the beautiful orange sun of changes is rising up and the victory of the peaceful and just democracy are coming. I hope this is the beginning of a wonderful New Year for all of us!

I want to say thank you for your support we have been feeling and for your warmth and understanding.”

*Lesia Kovalenko
Gen. Sec. of Ukraine J&P Commission*

NEW DIRECTOR IN BRUSSELS

For the many J&P people who have known Fr Frank Turner SJ for many years, recently as Assistant General Secretary and head of International Affairs at the Catholic Bishops’ Conference, there is news of his next appointment.

Following his sabbatical, Frank will spend a few months in London before taking up the position of Director of the ‘Office Catholique d’Information et d’Initiative pour Europe’ (OCIEPE), in Brussels. It is a social centre staffed by Jesuits and layperson, which works on issues of EU policy.

The post officially starts on 1st September but Frank expects to move to Brussels in June to prepare for this new challenge.

We wish him well.