



Justice & Peace

News from the National Justice & Peace Network

Autumn 2002

National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

39 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1BX
Tel: 020 7901 4864
Fax: 020 7901 4821
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

The National Justice & Peace Network co-ordinates 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.

Editorial Team:
Maureen Matthews
Phil Kerton

Contents

Conference Report ...	2
Conference 2003 ...	2
C.A.P. ...	3
NJPN Formation ...	3
Diary ...	4
News ...	4

**NEXT ISSUE DATE
FEBRUARY 2003**

**COPY DATE
5 JANUARY**

Call to Prayer for Peace in Iraq and Middle East



Iraq Mother and Child at a hospital in Mosul where sanctions have caused lack of appropriate medication

CAFOD

Three Catholic organisations, the National Justice and Peace Network, Pax Christi and CAFOD have come together to urge parishes, religious communities and schools around the country to set aside time every Friday to pray for peace in Iraq and the Middle East. We believe in the need for strong Christian solidarity and prayer at this very fragile time and will distribute special prayer cards which invite people to pray for an hour, a day or even to organise 24-hour prayer vigils every Friday during the coming months.

Rosa Shea, Chair of the National Justice and Peace Network said: "We are conscious that the lives of many people in Iraq and the Middle East are already blighted by violence and suffering. They now face an even greater threat of violence which would create an intolerable burden. It would be wonderful to think of our Cathedrals, convents, parish

communities and schools becoming beacons of prayer and hope for peaceful alternatives. This would be a great witness within our own country and an act of solidarity with those who are suffering."

We come to you, God Creator.
You are the source of life and beauty and power.
Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.
Your Spirit is the fire of love, the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.
You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes,
Witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.
You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war,
weigh heavily on the peoples of Iraq and the Middle East.
Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence.
We renew our acceptance of your call.
We promise to work:
To bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,
To bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,
To bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely, the disadvantaged, the marginalized,
And to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.
Amen.

For more information contact:
Maureen Matthews, National Justice & Peace Network
0161 449 8907
Pat Gaffney, Pax Christi 020 8203 4884

The 1st UN Global Ceasefire Day

NJPN members attended the Peace One Day concert at the Brixton Academy after the last quarterly meeting on 21 September. Many NJPN members had met the founder, Jeremy Gilley, in July 2001 when he attended part of the NJPN Annual Conference to interview Mairead Corrigan Maguire.

This day of global ceasefire and nonviolence is now fixed in the UN calendar as 21 September.

Although a top down process, the vision of a peaceful world was roundly cheered by several thousand young people attending the concert. Particularly memorable was singer Annie Lennox reading out a message from the Dalai Lama about the importance of nonviolent conflict resolution.

The day was marked in at least 62 countries around the world.



NJPN members launch peace messages and balloons

Report any action to mark this day to: info@peaceoneday.org

Working for the Common Good with Other Faiths

“Who is my neighbour?” The 24th Annual Conference of the Justice and Peace network sought an answer to this question that recognised the enormous potential for the common good when people of faith work together. More than 350 activists from all 22 of the dioceses of England and Wales, from Catholic agencies, religious orders and missionary congregations, as well as Bishops’ Conference committees, met with people of different faiths. There was an active presence of members of the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and Ba’hai faiths. This ground-breaking conference was organised by the Leeds Justice and Peace Commission, drawing on the considerable experience of interfaith dialogue within the diocese. Their bishop, David Konstant, sent a special message urging that “differences be valued and not perceived as threat”.



Interfaith speakers at “Who is my Neighbour” Conference, July 2002

The theme was introduced by David Jackson, Interfaith Co-ordinator for the Leeds Diocese, who highlighted the challenge from the secular world for religions to act in harmony. People of faith needed to come out of their boxes, live the common ground, and work together for the common good. This conference was in line with Pope John Paul’s call for the Church to build relationships of openness and dialogue with followers of other faiths. Among many examples of interfaith activity, David referred to the Mosque which had offered the use of its computer facilities to deprived children in the surrounding area. He wondered how many Catholic parishes or schools were working for the common good in a similar way.

Mgr Billy Steele, Ecumenical Officer

for Leeds Diocese and a member of the Bishops’ Committee for Other faiths, reflected on the implications of interfaith dialogue. Such dialogue involves listening and a willingness to learn; then we are opened to change and ultimately to conversion. “In faith-sharing, rather than aiming at the conversion of the other person to our faith, we are all opening ourselves to conversion to God.” Evangelisation is concerned with Jesus’ mission of the Kingdom. ‘Thy kingdom come’ is the good news, and a Church concerned with maintenance rather than mission is denying its purpose of bearing witness to the Kingdom. “When I listen to other faiths, I am open to the Spirit in a new way. Then, indeed, I am converted.” Though largely unknown to earlier generations, interfaith dialogue should now be seen as a Gospel imperative. For God speaks to us through the signs of the times and the Church in the West has never been confronted in this way by other faiths. Interfaith encounters foster a more mature Christian faith. What is taking place is “no less than a Copernican revolution in the Church’s understanding of God”.

A number of speakers of different faiths, especially in the workshops and forum, referred to the response, not of the head, but of the heart. We are moved, not so much by intellectual understanding, but by the sheer goodness and holiness of others, to recognise God’s Spirit at work in them.

“Dialogue takes place only when we recognise the other as a necessary source of our truth and salvation.” Elizabeth Harris, Interfaith Officer of the Methodist Church, explained that she had been led to this deeper engagement with other faiths through her study and experience of Buddhism. As a result she felt it was possible to see our faith in a new light. She drew on the ideas of Aloy Pieris SJ regarding human spiritual communities “comprising people of various faiths, where there is a common commitment to the poor and marginalized and an opposition to mammon (or greed) in our world”. We have lost time and energy in justice and peace work because we have not seen people of different faiths as allies and not realised that the world has diverse religious resources to draw on. Theological reflection on the weekend

was provided by Michael Barnes SJ, Director of the Centre for Christianity in Dialogue in Southall. “Traditional faith can energise communities but it can also be destructive when going back to our roots is an escape out of fear of the other.” “We need a spirituality of dialogue appropriate for our time,” he said. He referred in particular to the dialogue of common life and action with its political dimension. Out of such dialogue in India had come Christian involvement in the cause of Dalits (or ‘untouchables’ as they are often called) who are so oppressed. It is encouraging that our government



Young people relaxing at Conference

sees religion as a positive force in society. Discernment can only be in the encounter with other faiths: the truth I hear in the other is also the work of the Spirit. Dialogue begins with our common humanity and we need to remember that God has no favourites. There is no limit to the extent of God’s grace – except that imposed by us.

Brian Davies

25th J&P CONFERENCE **11-13 JULY 2003**

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE
A theology of protest in a globalized world”

During the weekend we will explore both the positive and negative aspects of ‘globalization’ and its impact on communities in the UK and worldwide. Using the dynamic of the pastoral cycle, the conference will reflect on the nature and theology of protest especially in the light of Seattle and Genoa.

Speakers will include:
Julian Filochowski (CAFOD),
Tom Cullinan OSB.
Ed Cox & Anne Stewart (CAP)
Facilitator will be Chris Allen (CIIR)

Booking Forms available in January

C.A.P.

CHURCH ACTION on POVERTY
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester M1 1JT
0161 236 9321
www.church-poverty.org.uk

The National Justice & Peace Network works to share and support action, education and campaigning on issues concerning peace and justice—locally nationally and globally. In the next few editions of this newsletter we highlight some of the agencies and organisations whose work we promote and support.

Life in all its fullness?

"We had a month of living on £25 per week (Child Benefit) because we didn't get paid until the end of the month and it took 2 weeks for the Working Families Tax Credit to be sorted out. By the time things were sorted out we already owed money."

Penny, mother of two, from the North East

Living Wage Church?

While company directors compete to award themselves the biggest pay rise, the poor struggle to scrape together enough to maintain a decent standard of living.

For 20 years – with the support of J&P Groups, churches and individual members - Church Action on Poverty has been seeking to ensure that the churches are a powerful force in the struggle to enable all people to enjoy 'life in all its fullness.'

The Churches themselves have much room for improvement. Our own research has discovered that nearly 2 in 3 people employed by churches in Greater Manchester are paid less than a Living Wage of £5.80 an hour.

We invite J&P Groups, parishes and Dioceses to join our Living Wage campaign – to pay a Living Wage, to campaign for an increase in the National Minimum Wage and encourage others to do the same...



Debt on our doorstep: time to act

For many, poverty and low pay is also the beginning of the debt trap. We know this, from our work with those who live with and experience it on a daily basis. CAP works with local groups across the UK to ensure that the voices of people in poverty are heard in the corridors of power in Westminster, and now also in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast.

But the choices facing people in poverty in many cases are very stark indeed.

Over 3 million people are forced to rely on the services of extortionate doorstep moneylenders to make ends meet. Rates of interest are commonly in excess of 164% apr – a practice condemned in the Bible as usury.

This is why CAP set up the Debt on our Doorstep Network – a coalition of over 150 organisations committed to campaigning for a fair deal for people currently being exploited by extortionate lending.

On 3 December hundreds of people from across the country will be travelling to Westminster for a Debt Lobby and Action Day. Join us there, or if you can't make it in person, write to your MP to express your concern about Debt on our Doorstep.

Niall Cooper

To read more visit:
www.debt-on-our-doorstep.com or
www.church-poverty.org.uk

NJPN FORMATION

For further details contact
Rosemary Read (01332 293336)
who also continues to offer
support to local groups and
dioceses.

From Autumn 2002 till Summer 2003, NJPN is offering workshops on a number of skills and issues. These are run by request in various parts of the country.

So far the following have been arranged.:

NOVEMBER Sat 23rd Justice & Peace in Liturgy and Parish Life, Worcester

FEBRUARY Sat 15th Call to Conversion with Pax Christi, Preston

FEBRUARY Sat 22nd Trade Justice with CAFOD, Swindon

MARCH Sat 8th Refugees & Asylum Seekers with Jesuit Refugee Service, London

MARCH Sat 22nd Environment with Christian Ecology Link, Salford

APRIL Sat 26th Environment with Christian Ecology Link, Dorset

MAY Sat 17th Refugees & Asylum Seekers with Jesuit Refugee Service, Devon

JUNE Sat 14th Environment with Christian Ecology Link, London

Some of these venues and dates are to be confirmed and further requests are being worked on. Other workshops we can offer are: Theology & Spirituality of Justice & Peace, Groups Skills, Working with the Media, Presentation skills/ Public Speaking and Allies and Action Models.

JUNE Thurs 19th

An opportunity for people to observe a J&P Inset training day on how to incorporate Justice & Peace into secondary schools. At Christ the King School, Arnold, Nottingham. Contact Rosemary Read to attend.

DIARY

Prayer Information
Reflection Action

NEWS

2002 - United Nations International Year of Dialogue Among Civilisations International Year of Ecotourism

PLEASE CHECK ALL DETAILS WITH ORGANISERS BEFORE USING THIS INFORMATION

- Nov 1** CIIR AGM, 18h00-22h00 (buffet from 19h30), International Students' House, 229 Great Portland St, London. (020 7354 0883 or barbara@ciir.org) speaker, Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg, South Africa, an advocate of open and informed debate about HIV/AIDS.
- Nov 2** CIIR public conference on HIV/AIDS, speaker, Bishop Kevin Dowling of Rustenburg.
- Nov 2** Annual Service at St Martin in the fields for all who have died homeless in the past year
- Nov 2** "Building a Culture of Peace When the World Prepares for War". Day led by Pat Gaffney, 10h00-16h00, St Hugh's Parish Hall, Timperley. (Joan Sharples, 01270 6207780)
- Nov 4-10** Landmine Action Week. (UK Working Group 020 7820 0222, www.landmineaction.org) "Explosive Remnants".
- Nov 9** "Integration" - National Catholic Refugee Forum Day, 10h30-17h00 at St Francis, Levick, Middlesbrough (0117 024 8059 or naomicheesman@ncrf.fsnet.co.uk). Bring a lunch to share.
- Nov 10** Remembrance Sunday - info. on Peace Pledge Union and their White Poppies from 020 7424 9444. Relevant info. from National Peace Council on 020 7690 9666.
- Nov 17** Day of prayer for prisoners and their dependants. Date for PACT (Prison Advice & Care Trust) - formerly Bourne Trust annual appeal for funds. 020 7820 3454. Parish packs from Alexander King on 020 7582 1313 or alex@thebournetrust.org.uk
- Nov 17-23** Prisoner's Week - materials from PACT 020 7582 1313
- Nov 25** UN Int. Day of Action to End

Violence to Women - info. from Women's Co-ordinating Group, CTE or pauline@cte.org.uk

Nov 29 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR CORPORATE AND PRIVATE USE FOR ADVENT :

Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers; Human Life

Dec 1 World AIDS Day (WHO). Info. from 020 7814 6726

Dec 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - contact Anti-Slavery International 020 7501 8936

Dec 3 "End Debt on Our Doorstep". Debt Awareness Day – co-ordinated by CAP's Debt on our Doorstep Network – to include lobby of Parliament and other events at various locations, including Edinburgh.

Dec 6 CAFOD Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture 2002. Timothy Radcliffe OP addresses CAFOD's annual lecture *Globalising Hope*, chaired by Cherie Booth, QC at The Assembly Hall, Church House, Westminster, 18h45 (doors open 18h15). Tickets in advance from Nikky Smith at CAFOD (020 7733 7900)

Dec 10 Human Rights Day

Dec 11 Pax Christi Carol Service and Fayre, 19h30, St Aloysius Ch Phoenix Road (Euston) - details 020 8203 4884.

Dec 28 Holy Innocents. CCND Commemoration of child victims of war. 020 7700 2393

2003

Jan 19 Peace Sunday (Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884).

Jan 26 Homelessness Sunday, A Call for Change. (020 7723 7273)

Mar 3 Unemployment Sunday, "Give us this day our daily bread". (0160 236 9321)

Mar 29 Shrewsbury J&P Conference at Crewe (01270 6207780)

July 11-13 NJPN 25th Annual Conference, Swanwick, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice - A theology of protest in a globalised world.

Welcome to two new diocesan Justice & Peace Fieldworkers.

Fr Pat Davies has been appointed the first J&P Fieldworker for Westminster diocese and can be contacted at 020 7437 1525.

The new worker for Brentwood is **Claire Lawrence** (01277 265290)

J&P GROUP AUDIT

Thanks to those groups who have responded to our request for details of J&P groups throughout England and Wales. We welcome hearing from others.

NJPN SUPPORT

The NJPN Executive has written to Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor to fully support his statement in The Times on 5 September on the proposed war on Iraq: "In a globalised world, the wisdom of specific actions or policies with international impact must ultimately be judged by the extent to which they improve the lot of all mankind, especially the poorest, and enhance the prospects for world peace." His article regretted that the pouring of massive resources into military action, diverts funds from the war against world poverty.

BURMA UPDATE

After many years of campaigning by The Burma Campaign UK and others it has been announced that Premier Oil is to pull out of Burma.

PAX CHRISTI SEMINAR

"War on Terrorism—Iraq and Beyond"

Speakers: Rt Rev Walter Sullivan
Dr Scilla Elmworthy
Julian Filochowski

Venue: St Vincents Centre,
Carlisle Place, Victoria, London
2.00-5.00 pm

Tickets: Pax Christi 020 8203 4884
or paxchristi@gn.apc.org

POPE PAUL VI MEMORIAL LECTURE

Timothy Radcliffe OP speaks on
"Globalising Hope"

Chaired by Cherie Booth QC

6 December 2002

6.45pm (doors open 6.15pm)
Church House, Westminster
Tickets in advance from Nikky Smith
at CAFOD 020 7733 7900