



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Autumn 2010



*God has created me to do Him some definite service;*

*I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I shall do good, I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place while not intending it.*

*Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. He does nothing in vain. He knows what he is about.*

*Bl John Henry Newman*

**Eddie Slawinski (NJPN Exec) took part in the beatification Mass for Cardinal Newman. He writes: 'The creative array of artwork, the music, the levels of reflective prayer - it was an occasion that will never be forgotten by those fortunate enough to attend.'**

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## 'A Foretaste of the Banquet'



More than 400 people gathered at Swanwick in Derbyshire for an intensive two days of prayer, lectures, workshops and discussions, at the

32nd Justice and Peace Conference organized by the National Justice and Peace Network.

One of the organisers, Ellen Teague said: "Food was chosen as this year's topic, because the global food system upon which we depend is increasingly fragile. One in six people in the world goes hungry and large-scale famine looms again in the Sahel"

There were activities for young people and children, a planting ceremony, an art installation, daily Masses and liturgies, and more than one party on the last night in the sprawling conference centre. Food for the event was largely vegetarian and sourced locally.

The conference began on the Friday evening with prayers and reflections on the sacredness of food. Alastair McIntosh, a Quaker writer from the Isle of Lewis warned that today's society has become 'spiritually blinded' by the love of money. "People have become richer, money has replaced relationships. The understanding of where food has come from and whether exploitation took place along the way has been lost," he said, calling for a return to 'frugal but fulfilling sufficiency'.



Columban missionary Fr Shay Cullen, spoke of the unjust global markets that are destroying the environment and leaving most people hungry. He went on to report on the fairtrade work of his Preda Foundation in the Philippines, which supplies dried mangoes to British supermarkets, providing livelihoods for smallholders and indigenous peoples.

In a session chaired by Catholic former MP John Battle, Elizabeth Dowler, a director of the Food Ethics Council said: "The world comes to us in the UK on a plate" but at huge environmental cost to the planet. "We have cheap food here because other people are paying the price." She called for more people to support farmers'

markets, buy ethically-sourced food and reduce food waste.

Ecologist Vandana Shiva, argued that "bio-diverse, organic farms and localised food systems offer us security in times of climate insecurity, while producing more food, producing better food and creating more livelihoods".

A food debate on the Saturday evening, chaired by John Vidal, the Guardian's Environment Editor, addressed the subject: 'Feeding the world:



What are the roles for small-scale and industrial food production to achieve food security?'

Speakers were: Patrick Mulvany, Chair of the UK

Food Group; David Howlett from the University of Leeds Africa College who has worked for the British Government's Department for International Development on food and climate change policies; Vandana Shiva, and Alison Austin, an independent consultant working with businesses to put sustainable development issues at the heart of their activities.

Preaching at the Mass, eco theologian Fr Sean McDonagh suggested that: "adequate food, justice for people and the continued fruitfulness of the earth are interrelated".

A range of witnesses included Victor Barry, an organic farmer from Cornwall; Annmarie Hulley, a catering manager of a Catholic college in Birmingham which is a flagship school of the 'Food for Life' programme, involved in sustainable food sourcing; Tom Onyango, who works for CAFOD in East Africa and is responsible for their 'sustainable livelihoods' initiatives and Diana Katerregga, a Ugandan refugee who has experience destitution and hunger in Uganda and in England.

Among 20 workshops there was one led by Mae-Wan Ho on Genetic Engineering; 'Why People Go Hungry', led by Christine Allen from Progressio; Deborah Jones from Catholic Concern for Animals on 'Is Meat a Moral Matter?'; and an art workshop.



*Jo Siedlecka, Independent Catholic News*

*More pictures, reports and action ideas from Conference are available on the website, [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk). Hard copies of speakers' texts may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.*

## Speaking Personally: Martin Newell

**Where do you think your commitment to justice and peace comes from?** Definitely from my faith. I had a kind of conversion experience when I was a student. I was brought up a Catholic in a middle class family but had never heard of putting faith into practice in terms of rich and poor. Then I read Rich Christians in a World of Hunger by Ronald Rich talking about the Rich Man and Lazarus and asking basically, what were we going to do about poverty? I went on a visit to the Ashram Community in Birmingham and at that time Jim Wallis was speaking in Birmingham; he had what he called the 'Poverty Bible', where he had cut out all the references to poverty and justice to show all the holes that were left. The Ashram were living the kind of faith that the books were talking about, living in the inner city among immigrant communities, running all kinds of projects like a city farm. Later I went to Taizé where I had a very intense experience that a commitment to the poor and political action, to live simply, was what I was being called to, and basically I had to respond to this very intense experience. I then had a crisis of faith – what if I'm wrong? But if there is a Christian God, it won't go wrong... So is there a God? I decided that I did believe, so wanted to start along this path. I gave lots of stuff away, got involved in more voluntary work and tried to learn more about politics, starting in a small way. I was puzzled, though, that all this understanding of Christianity was coming from evangelicals and didn't know if it existed in Catholicism. Then when I was back at university, one of the students was giving out Traidcraft literature with an ad from CAFOD for Proclaiming Justice and Peace, which had the documents from Vatican II and other encyclicals to do with justice and peace in it. I can't say I read all the documents, but I read the summaries and realised that the Catholic Church has just as much if not more radical things to say, and it's gone on from there, with inspiration from the Catholic Worker newspaper and liberation theology.

I spent a year in Toxteth with Jesuit Volunteer Service, where I learnt about reflecting on experience as in the Pastoral Cycle, and then a year in the Simon Community where I learnt to live alongside the poor. A year later I went to the seminary where I read liberation theology. I was also inspired by Austin Smith's A Passion for the Inner City which was also coming from the experience of living with the poor and oppressed.

In the 90's I began to realise that I had been focussing exclusively on the social justice aspect of justice and peace, and wanted to look more at the peace aspect. I found Pax Christi, which had a close tie up with Catholic Worker.

**What for you are the most important areas of concern today?** For my work with the London Catholic Worker, we are just setting up a new house of hospitality to welcome refused Asylum Seekers; we also run a soup kitchen and community café. So I suppose the whole issue of migration is a big one for me – that we are trying to keep the poor out, protect our comfort zones. When God created the world he didn't draw lines round it. We have been going round the world taking the resources from other countries and bringing them here for a long time and so people are following the resources. Another important one is peace work – the war in Afghanistan, the arms trade, nuclear weapons – there is the



possibility in the present climate of significant downscaling of nuclear weapons so we need to press for that; I've been involved in organising blockades at Devonport and am part of the Trident Ploughshares group. Climate change also weighs heavily on my mind and I've been involved with the Heathrow Airport campaign. What I am also trying to promote through Pax Christi and Catholic Worker is a consistent life ethic, a

'Seamless Garment' approach, protecting life from conception through to natural death, including the threat to life from social injustice, nuclear weapons etc. People involved in campaigning on the life issues and those working for justice and peace need to support each other.

**What sustains you in your commitment?** Faith, my prayer life, my community and friends. My order, the Passionists, have been very supportive. There also all the friends around the Catholic Worker. My family are also very caring, even though they have different points of view. At the end of the day, I suppose I have always been very stubborn about going down the line that I believe in even when it might be seen as out of line. It's very deeply personal, arising out of a deep experience of conversion and I feel it is central to my faith. I'm trying to live an active contemplative lifestyle, so prayer is central. I also get a lot of satisfaction from the love that I get back from the people I meet in the Community Café; things are very equal there, you get to know people as friends. In any of the work that I've been involved in I've always tried to build relationships based on friendship.

**What are your hopes for a Church like ours in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?** There are perspectives in Catholic Worker circles that I don't come across elsewhere. Liberation Theology came from a Third World Context and is a reflection of that; but that isn't our context of First World privilege and comfort. My hope is for the Church in this country to respond to that reality, and for Christians in this country to take on that responsibility. We are like the Romans wanting to protect our own comforts, and also like the Whites in Apartheid South Africa.

A big connection that is important for me as a Passionist is an understanding of the cross as nonviolent resistance; a willingness to resist arrest, participate in the Passion. I would like there to be a more authentic understanding of the Passion in the real human and political context. I am exploring the ideas of René Girard on the meaning of the cross and scapegoating, it's a new line of theology of what the cross is about.

*Martin Newell is a Passionist priest. Born in Walthamstow, he was ordained for the Brentwood diocese in 1997 and joined the Passionists in 2001. In 2000 he took part in a Trident Ploughshares action and served 6 months in prison. He is currently missioned by his Province to work for four and half years with the Catholic Worker house in London, having previously worked in a parish in Canning Town.*

**Autumn/Winter Action Highlights:** One World Week—Week of Prayer for World Peace— Festival of Christian Peacemaking—Big Climate Connection Constituency Lobby—National Ethical Investment Week—Remembrance Day—Prisoners Week—Interfaith Week—World AIDS Day—Advent and Christmas—Peace Sunday—Poverty and Homelessness Action Week; **See Diary for more details of these and other events.**

## Justice & Peace in the Dioceses

Dioceses are the local Church and so the place where the work of justice and peace is an important expression of the Church's commitment to this aspect of its mission. Dioceses vary considerably, however, in the way they organise and the resources they put in to this work. Some have established commissions, some have looser networks, some have paid workers, others are dependent on voluntary effort. Some of these differences are illustrated in the examples below.

Click on a diocese on this map ▶



**Lancaster Diocese** had a good input into the NJPN Annual Conference this year. With staff from CAFOD Lancaster Office we organized the music and liturgy; Preston Impact group lead the programme for the young people. Other Commission members were involved in the planning of the conference for the 15 months running up to it, and took care of the needs of the workshop leaders and helped with timekeeping and preparing Graces for the tables. A local artist developed a thought provoking art exhibition for the conference and ran workshops. Another member produced the logo that was used on all the conference material. I was responsible with the Just Fair and had the great pleasure of hearing from so many people how wonderful the people from Lancaster Diocese had been, and how lucky I was to have so many great people to work with. I would like to thank the commission & NJPN for giving me this opportunity.

At the last Commission meeting it was agreed to ask both Churches Together in Cumbria and Lancashire to support a call for action and for Trident to be included into the Defence Review. As a result of this I spoke to the Churches Together in Cumbria Social Responsibility Forum meeting and they have now written to all Cumbrian MPs, all Liberal Democrat MPs and to Dr Liam Fox, Secretary of State. In Lancashire the process is different and the County Ecumenical Development Officer is working on this.

Events being organized for the autumn include the Diocesan Racial Justice Mass presided by the Vicar General at which Margaret Ann Fiske of CARJ will speak.; the Faith & Justice Annual meeting, speaker Mary Colwell; 2 Racial Justice Training Days provided by facilitators from CARJ; School Clusters Advent Services organised with CAFOD Lancaster & High School Chaplains.

Newsletters are produced four times a year.

*Maggie McSherry, Administrator, Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission*

**Cardiff Archdiocese Justice & Peace Network:** There were eleven attendees from Cardiff Diocese at the Annual J&P Conference in Swanwick – a greater number than any previous year we believe. Also, a survey based on the Diocesan directory indicates that several parishes which are not connected to the Network have groups working on fundraising and projects related to J&P issues. The hope is to make contact with these groups and promote membership of the Network. The possibility will also be looked into that there are parishes which have groups which are not included in the directory. Currently there is a concentration on a group of 3 churches in Cardiff, which represents their communication with the J&P Network rather than lack of activity elsewhere.

Future plans include: approaching Pax Christi to lead an activity in Cardiff and an event hosted by the 3 Churches United for Justice and Peace at which Sister Ann Teresa of the Medaille Trust will speak on 'People Trafficking – Slavery in Britain Today.' The group has also decided to commemorate the anniversary of Archbishop Romero's assassination every year, and will approach the Diocese in relation to the possibility of the anniversary being commemorated at a service at the cathedral.

*Angela Rigby, Cardiff Archdiocese Justice & Peace Network*

## Dioceses: How NJPN can help

**Signposting:** We can direct people enquiring about justice and peace to the contact in their diocese who can put them in touch with a local group.

**To find your diocesan J&P contact** log on to [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), go to the Diocesan J&P Contacts page and click on your diocese. Ask to be put on their mailing list if you're not already on it.

**Resources:** The *NJPN Resource Handbook for Dioceses and Groups* provides lots of practical advice on how to do various aspects of campaigning and organising, as well as study material on Catholic Social Teaching and Justice Theology. It is downloadable from the website or can be obtained from the office. Our website, [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) provides a 'one-stop-shop', with links to diocesan and agency websites, a Catholic Social Teaching page, resources and rolling calendar.

The *newsletter* can be used to advertise diocesan events.

Weekly *E-Bulletins* circulate information from around the network and can be used to advertise your events too. To subscribe email [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk).

**Networking opportunities:** Our Networking Days enable sharing and support between diocesan workers, agencies, individuals and local groups.

**Fieldworkers:** NJPN facilitates 2 residential meetings a year for diocesan J&P workers.

**NJPN** would also like to support groups and individuals where there are currently no diocesan structures in place. Please get in touch if you want to know more.

## Diocesan Assemblies

Most dioceses hold a Justice & Peace Day once or twice a year. These are a great opportunity to make contact with other groups and individuals in your area as well as being nourished by good speakers, workshops and liturgies. Some upcoming assemblies this autumn include:

**16 October:**

**Birmingham:** 'Steering through the Rapids: a spirituality of justice and peace.' Speaker: John Battle, former Foreign Office Minister.

**Southwark:** Speaker: Archbishop Peter Smith.

**Westminster:** 'Spoilt for Choice'.

Speakers: Christine Allen (Progressio),

Sheila Dillon, Ed Echlin

**6 November:**

**Nottingham:** 'Social Change—how to make it happen and how to make it stick.'

Facilitated by RE:generate.

**13 November:**

**Lancaster:** Speaker: Mary Colwell, advisor on the environment to Bishop Declan Lang.

For more information about diocesan events get in touch with your diocesan J&P contact (see above for how to find them).

# DIARY

This is a selection of dates. Find more on our rolling calendar and via links to organisations on our website, [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), where there are also links to many of the sites listed below.

## OCTOBER

- 16 Birmingham J&P Assembly: [jenkins@woxon.freemove.co.uk](mailto:jenkins@woxon.freemove.co.uk), 01993 702 654
- 16 Southwark JPIC Autumn Assembly: [office@southwarkjandp.co.uk](mailto:office@southwarkjandp.co.uk), 020 7928 9742
- 16 Westminster J&P Assembly: [justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk), 020 8888 5518
- 17-24 One World Week: Peacing Together One World. [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org), 0118 939 4933
- 17-24 Week of Prayer for World Peace: [www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com](http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com)
- 18 Anti-Slavery Day: [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)
- 19 London: Responsible Credit UK Convention: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk), 0161 236 9321
- 21 Moving to a No Growth Society: [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk), 0845 459 8460
- 24 United Nations Day: [unmeditation.org/](http://unmeditation.org/)
- 26 Sheffield: The UN in the Congo 1960—2010: the dilemmas of peacemaking in Africa: [patricliffe@gmail.com](mailto:patricliffe@gmail.com), 0114 230 2102
- 26 London: Gambling on Food: the bankers' addiction starving the world's poor: [www.wdm.org](http://www.wdm.org), 020 7820 4900
- 28 Churches Criminal Justice Forum Network Meeting: [www.cjcf.org](http://www.cjcf.org), 020 7901 4878
- 29-31 Coventry: Festival of Christian Peacemaking: [www.cndn.gn.apc.org](http://www.cndn.gn.apc.org), [Christians@cnduk.org](mailto:Christians@cnduk.org), 020 7700 4200
- 30 York: Ecocell Energy Course: [www.christian-ecology.org.uk](http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk), 01904 654 355

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Devonport: Trident Ploughshares Big Blockade: [www.tridentploughshares.org](http://www.tridentploughshares.org), 0845 4588 366
- 3-5 Swanwick, Derbys: Faith in the Future of the Countryside: [www.rural20.org](http://www.rural20.org)
- 5 Prison Advice and Care Trust Conference: [www.pactevents.org.uk](http://www.pactevents.org.uk), 020 7735 9535
- 5-6 The Big Climate Connection Constituency Lobby: [www.cafod.org.uk/climateconnection](http://www.cafod.org.uk/climateconnection), 020 7095 5417
- 6 London: CAAT National Gathering: [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk), 020 7281 0297
- 6 Nottingham J&P Assembly: [nottinghamjip@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nottinghamjip@yahoo.co.uk), 01332 293 836
- 7-13 National Ethical Investment Week: [www.neiw.org](http://www.neiw.org)
- 9 London: 10 Years On: Participatory Budgeting and the Big Society: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk), 0161 236 9321
- 11 Remembrance Day: White poppies from Peace Pledge Union, [www.whitepoppy.org.uk](http://www.whitepoppy.org.uk), 020 7424 9444

- 11 Liverpool: Wreath laying ceremony: [www.mcnd.org.uk](http://www.mcnd.org.uk), 0151 709 3995
- 12 London: Paul VI Memorial Lecture: Claudette Werleigh: [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk), 020 7733 7900, [cchandler@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cchandler@cafod.org.uk)
- 13 Lancaster J&P Assembly: [lfjc@talktalk.net](mailto:lfjc@talktalk.net), 015524 383 081
- 14 Remembrance Sunday (see above 11 Nov for white poppies)
- 14 Movement for the Abolition of War AGM and lecture: [www.abolishwar.org](http://www.abolishwar.org), 01908 511 948
- 15 Manchester: Nurturing Christian Leadership in and with Urban Communities: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk), 0161 236 9321
- 18 London: ECCR Open Debate: Positive Impact Investment: Too Good to be True? [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk), 01865 245 349
- 20 **NJPN Open Networking Day**: CAFOD London: [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), 020 7901 4864
- 20 Afghanistan: Time to Go Demonstration: [www.cnduk.org](http://www.cnduk.org), 020 7700 2393
- 21 Prisoners Sunday and—
- 21-27 Prisoners Week: [www.prisonadvice.org](http://www.prisonadvice.org), 020 7735 9535
- 21-27 Interfaith Week: [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women: [www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)
- 27 Leeds: Celebrating Women Peacemakers: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk), 020 8203 4884
- 29 International Day in Solidarity with Palestinian People: [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)

## DECEMBER

- 1 World AIDS Day: [worldaidsday.org](http://worldaidsday.org)
- 3 World Migration Day: [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)
- 3 Manchester: Bridging the Gap: Citizens organising to tackle poverty, and CAP AGM: [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk), 0161 236 9321
- 6-10 Wood Green Library, London: Nobel Peace Prize Exhibition: Bruce Kent, [bruce@uk2.net](mailto:bruce@uk2.net)
- 10 International Human Rights Day: [unmeditation.org/](http://unmeditation.org/)

## JANUARY 2011

- 16 Peace Sunday: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk), 020 8203 4884
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day: [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)
- 29-6 February: Poverty & Homelessness Action Week: [www.actionweek.org.uk](http://www.actionweek.org.uk), CAP AGM 0161 236 9321, Housing Justice 020 7920 6600

## FEBRUARY

- 12 **NJPN Open Networking Day**: Birmingham: [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), 020 7901 4864
- 28-13 March: Fairtrade Fortnight: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

**DONATE TO NJPN:** By cheque payable to NJPN to the address below, online at [www.cafonline.org/donate](http://www.cafonline.org/donate), put National Justice and Peace Network in the Find a Charity box. To make a regular donation by **Standing Order**, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**The National Justice & Peace Network** encourages and facilitates communication and networking between Catholic/Christian individuals, groups, and organisations (both lay and religious) who are working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation at grassroots, diocesan, national or international level.

*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

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