



*Lord,  
May we reflect your  
love in the world.  
May we bring peace  
to others  
and offer hospitality  
to strangers  
So that the world  
may be transformed  
to reflect  
the kingdom of God  
Amen*

Jesus Refugee Service  
'At Home' Prayer Pack  
Available at:

<http://www.jrsuk.net/blog/homelessness-and-hospitality-at-home-prayer-pack-is-ready/>

**J&P Conference 2016:**  
**Justice, Power and Responsibility:**  
How Can Democracy Work for the  
Common Good?



**Friday 15 - Sunday 17 July 2016**  
The Hayes Conference Centre  
Swanwick, Derbyshire  
See inside for how to book

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## The Hidden Victims of Crime

It is estimated that 200,000 children are affected by their parent's imprisonment each year. In fact, twice as many children are affected by their parent's imprisonment than their parent's divorce.

This figure does not even include children affected by another close family member's imprisonment, such as a brother or sister, and therefore the number of children affected by imprisonment is likely to be significantly higher.

There is no way of knowing the scale of the problem, because children who are affected by family imprisonment are not officially recorded anywhere and statutory support will only be offered if a child is currently known and deemed to be in need or at risk. There is no routine identification or information sharing system in place within the Criminal Justice System, nor is there any organised collaboration with local authorities and schools.

The stigma surrounding incarceration often leads to these children feeling unable to share this information with people close to them, such as their friends and teachers. This means that children are unlikely to receive suitable support when going through what can be a traumatic experience.

Schools, especially Catholic schools, are extremely important sources of support. They often are the one place that all children attend, irrespective of their family situation and they therefore have a unique opportunity to make a real, positive difference to children affected by this issue. As a Church we can improve how we serve those affected by imprisonment in our schools.

We at Pact – Prison Advice & Care Trust, the main Catholic Prison charity in England & Wales, have teamed up with a group of children and young people who have been affected by the imprisonment of a family member. We asked them what changes they would like to see in the criminal justice system and what we can do to make their voices heard. The result was 'Our Voice: the Charter for Children & Young People with a Family Member in Prison'.

One of their key wishes was 'to be offered emotional support'.. And for schools to be supportive and authorise time off to go to visits to see their family member.'



One of the main learning points from listening to these children was the need for support from a key person within a school. We would go further and urge all schools to develop a school policy on how best to support pupils who have a family member in prison.

We at Pact along with Place2BE, a leading children's mental health charity, have now launched a new project to deliver training in London schools on how to better support children and young people affected by the imprisonment of a family member. We are here to support schools through the adoption of our tool kit and training or resources to enable school communities to best serve these children, the hidden victims of crime.

To find out more about the Children's Charter, and give your support please visit:  
[prisonadvice.org.uk/our-services/supporting-prisoners-children-and-families/campaigns-and-advocacy/our-voice-children](http://prisonadvice.org.uk/our-services/supporting-prisoners-children-and-families/campaigns-and-advocacy/our-voice-children)

*Katherine Copperthwaite.*

This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in Justice Magazine, Spring 2016. You can find the full text of this and other articles in this newsletter at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), or contact NJPN for a hard copy.

## Action Highlights Summer 2016 - See the Diary on p4 for more details

The decision on **renewal of the Trident** nuclear weapon system is to be taken this year so now is the time to seek to influence decision makers. (See page 3). The **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** anniversaries in August can provide a focus. 2016 is also the centenary of the introduction of conscription and with it the right to **conscientious objection**. Celebrate the contribution of refugees in **Refugee Week** and pray for the **Victims of Torture**. Plus **Day for Life, Sea Sunday**. Start planning for Autumn—Creation Time, Prisons Week, Week of Prayer for World Peace, One World Week—but maybe take some time to re-charge your batteries with conferences, retreats and summer schools on offer this summer.

## Speaking Personally: Alison Gelder



### **Where do you think your commitment to justice and peace comes from?**

My commitment to justice and peace began in the nineties when we were living in Cambridge. We hosted a prayer group in our house that was part of something called the Movement for Faith and Justice Today. We spent time in prayer and reflection together trying to develop and live a justice spirituality.

This left me with a life-long commitment to justice and peace as a key part of living out my faith - and started me off in homelessness work.

### **What for you are the most important areas of concern today?**

Working where I do the most important areas for me are to do with homelessness and housing need. The vision of Housing Justice is that everyone has a home that truly meets their needs and I am committed to helping to make that happen. However we are in the midst of a crisis where homes are increasingly unaffordable and changes to the welfare system are daily forcing people into homelessness. And the situation is even worse for destitute migrants and asylum seekers who have no recourse to public funds. We need to use our resources as individuals, parishes and as the institutional Church to bring about change.

### **What sustains you in your commitment?**

The contact I have with people who are homeless and with people who are volunteering to help them is vital in sustaining my commitment. But I also need the joy and love I experience through prayer and in the Eucharist - and the support, encouragement and sometimes challenges I receive from my friends and colleagues in the Justice and Peace movement.

### **What are your hopes for a Church like ours for the 21st Century?**

My hope is for a Church where all are welcome and all can experience the love of God. And for a Church where justice and peace is integral to the life and worship of every parish. The big question remains how to bring this about...

*Alison Gelder has been chief executive of Housing Justice since 2003 but has been involved in homelessness and justice and peace work since the nineties. She is also a member of the Archbishop of Southwark's advisory committee on justice, peace and the integrity of creation.*

## EU Referendum

Arguments by both sides in the referendum debate to date have tended to focus narrowly on issues of economics, self-interest and a fear of immigration.

The statement issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on 15 April 2016 recalls us to the founding principles of the EU and the need to make justice and peace and the human person the context of our decision-making on this important issue.

"Reflecting on the forthcoming vote, we recognise the historic nature of this referendum and its implications for future generations. The outcome will have consequences for the future not only of the United Kingdom, but for Europe and for the world..."

...The coming together of European countries in the aftermath of a catastrophic war was designed to bind together former combatants and the contribution of the European project to peace in Western Europe should be recognised. Pope Francis reminds us... that the ideals which shaped this European project from the beginning were peace, subsidiarity and solidarity... Our decision in the referendum should thus be taken in the context of how best we can promote justice and peace.

Our focus needs to be above all on the human person. We need to build a Europe "which revolves not around the economy but around the sacredness of the human person, around inalienable values"

...We must not forget... that Europe has a two thousand year-old Christian culture that has shaped the continent... In response to grave challenges, we are called to be generous and welcoming to all others, especially the most vulnerable.

Each person will have their own views about the best political framework in which to realise these ideals. We acknowledge the justifiable concerns that many people have in relation to the European Union, its institutions and the implications of increasing integration..

### **Prepare and Act**

Before voting, ask yourself the following question:

### **How in the light of the Gospel, can my vote best serve the common good?**

As you vote, you may wish to use this prayer:

**"Lord, grant us wisdom that we may walk with integrity, guarding the path of justice, and knowing the protection of your loving care for all".**

How to register and vote: [aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://aboutmyvote.co.uk)

Read the full statement at: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/bishops-plenary-april-2016-eu>

### **Resources:**

'Think, Pray, Vote' from the Joint Public Issues Team includes information, theological reflection and different perspectives from Christians. [jointpublicissues.org.uk](http://jointpublicissues.org.uk), 020 7916 8632

**Christians in Politics** have various resources from different churches on their website: [christiansinpolitics.org.uk](http://christiansinpolitics.org.uk)

## From the Archive: A View from a Companion: Oscar Castaño

### **Winter 1995/96**

"...Although enriched by exile, I have to admit that many times I have felt that Europe has no hope, that the consumer society and neo-liberalism dominate the consciousness of European people. Even among people sympathetic to me I have found that pragmatism has conquered the new and creative. Agendas limit the warmth of

meetings, and telephones and computers lead to degeneration of personal contact. For most people the bank account is more important than neighbours: for many, friendship hardly exists.

...The last 40 years have completely transformed the majority of European countries. Consumer culture has dispensed with people sensitive to an

ethical dimension in favour of individuals who find solutions in hypermarkets, banks and the latest technology..."

*Extract from a letter from Oscar Castaño to justice and peace friends on his return to Columbia after 7 years as a refugee. He was a founder member of the 500 Years of Resistance Campaign.*





## Trident Renewal: A Question of Morality

No date has yet been set for Parliament to decide on whether to renew Britain's nuclear weapons system, Trident. While a case can be made against renewal on the basis of efficacy—that they do not address the threats to our security today—the fundamental argument is about morality. Recent church statements have made this clear, e.g.

*'A global ethic is needed if we are to reduce the nuclear threat and work towards nuclear disarmament. Now, more than ever, technological, social and political interdependence urgently calls for an ethic of solidarity (cf. John Paul II, [Sollicitudo Rei Socialis](#), 38), which encourages peoples to work together for a more secure world, and a future that is increasingly rooted in moral values and responsibility on a global scale.'* Message of Pope Francis to the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, 2014

### The Nuclear Morality Flowchart

Martin Birdseye has designed a method for individuals to work through moral decision making about nuclear weapons. He writes:

'Ten years ago Tony Blair launched the present Trident renewal project with the thought that "giving it up [would be] too big a downgrading of our status as a nation".

Nuclear weapons are not simply deterrents (some people say they are not deterrents at all) and no-one doubts that they are deployed for reasons of prestige and strategic power politics. However the concept of deterrence is still central to any moral justification that is made for them. Indeed morally they have only this one leg to stand on. As the world moves on from concerns with superpower security to humanitarian consequences and "ethical imperatives", the moral case has never been more important.

Though opposed by an increasing number of people, and by decades of clear (and some less clear) teaching of the Christian churches, the Cold War gospel of nuclear deterrence persists unchallenged in most people's minds. We could say that people have to change their own minds.

This is the thinking behind the **Nuclear Morality Flowchart** - a logical decision tree of the relevant moral and practical questions that are necessary for a rational, personal decision on the ethics of nuclear deterrence. You can try it on-line at <http://nuclearmorality.com/interactive/interactive.html> or contact NJPN to request a hard copy.

Now as Parliament approaches decision time on the Trident renewal programme, seemingly locked into the deterrent mindset, there is another role for the Flowchart. On 21 April it was the basis for a meeting to brief MPs on the ethics of nuclear weapons. We hope this will have helped them to confront the moral dimension of this critical issue. The flowchart also gives them the option of demonstrating their thinking to their constituents. Ask your MP to try it and then send you his or her decision path. The special software makes this easy.'



Picture: Pax Christi

"The taproot of violence in our society today is our intent to use nuclear weapons. Once we have agreed to that, all other evil is minor in comparison. Until we squarely face the questions of our consent to use nuclear weapons, any hope of large scale improvement of public morality is doomed to failure. Even the possession of weapons which cannot be morally used is wrong. They are a threat to peace and might even be the cause of nuclear war. The nuclear weapons of Communists may destroy our bodies, but the intent to use nuclear weapons destroys our souls."

Richard McSorley sj

### Ash Wednesday Witness against nuclear war preparations

'On Ash Wednesday members of the London Catholic Worker, the Catholic Worker Farm, Pax Christi and Christian CND met in Embankment Gardens to take part in the yearly liturgy that bears witness to the moral scandal of our government's nuclear weapons programme. Ann Kelly and Anne Peacey from the NJPN, Fr Joe Ryan and the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist monks and nuns also joined us.

At the start of the liturgy we laid out the charcoal and ashes to be blessed. After being marked ourselves with ashes, we processed round Whitehall Avenue, under the banner, 'No Faith in Trident'. When we came to the Ministry of Defence we spread ashes on sackcloth, in the form of the word 'Repent' and greeted each other, the police and the taxi drivers who happened to be striking that day with the sign of peace.

When the procession got to the back of the MOD Fr. Martin Newell cp and I clumsily rolled over the fence and marked the back wall, with a charcoal cross. Earlier that day Scott Albrecht from the Catholic Worker Farm and Ray Towey had already marked the front entrance.

Trident is a shadowy, hidden violence, only reported on when there is a debate in Parliament. Yet here in Whitehall sit the people whose job it is to take part in the procurement of the nuclear warheads, missiles and submarines.

In preparing for this day I read Deuteronomy 30:19, 'I have put before you life and death [...] therefore choose life'. We, together with the people who work in Whitehall, have the power to influence decisions. Our own moral failure means that we still maintain these weapons. Ash Wednesday is a good moment to remember our collective sin.

During vigils and processions such as this one, I've often become aware of the heavy masonry buildings seeming to lose their permanence. By focusing on our own faith and prayer we realize their ephemeral nature; they are only full of people just like ourselves. The capacity for repentance, then, is enormous and the Ash Wednesday witness is full of hope.'

Henrietta Cullinan



### Louise Zanré RIP

Shortly after the last edition of this newsletter went to press we received the sad news of the death of Louise, the former Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service, on 15 February 2016.

Louise had worked for Pax Christi from 1992 before going to JRS in 2000 and taking over as Director in 2002. Despite struggling with a rare rheumatoid condition, in her work for asylum seekers she was 'a tireless and fearsome advocate for their rights and human dignity. Her remarkable grasp of the policy and issues was combined with a genuine love and respect for the individuals she encountered..' (Paul Nicholson SJ in The Guardian, 02.03.16)

## MAY

26 'Conscientious Objection Then and Now': Oxford:  
for.org.uk, 01865 250 781

**Mill Hill Missionaries 150th Anniversary Red Box Masses**

**4 June** Newcastle, St Dominic's Priory Church 11.00am  
**18 June** Salford Cathedral 3.00pm  
**19 June** Liverpool, Freshfield 2.00pm  
**25 June** Plymouth Cathedral 3.00pm  
**3 July** Cardiff, Llantamun Abbey 3.00pm

For more information contact Br Eddie Slawinski mhm:  
jpicmillhillbritreg@care4free.net, 01704 835 678

## JUNE

**2** Planning for Climate Change conference: London  
Planforclimatechange.co.uk  
**5** World Environment Day: unep.org/wed  
**6** Philosophy on Tap: 'Is an Ethical Banking System Possible?':  
Stepney: hurtadocentre.org.uk, 020 7488 7325  
**7** Housing Justice Roadshow: Hull:  
housingjustice.org.uk, 020 3544 8094  
**8** Prayer Vigil for the Persecuted Church: Preston  
acnuk.org/events, 01524 388 739  
**10-12** Green Christian Retreat: North Wales  
greenchristian.org.uk, 0845 45 98 460  
**10-12** Student Christian Movement 'Stories of Faith' Festival:  
Wokingham: movement.org.uk, 0121 426 4918  
**13** Launch of Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice:  
London: ccstp.org.uk  
**18** 'Telling the Truth About Trident' Training Day: London  
christiancnd.org.uk  
**19** Day for Life: dayforlife.org  
**20** Philosophy on Tap: 'Is there a place for faith in politics?':  
Wapping: hurtadocentre.org.uk, 020 7488 7325  
**20-26** Refugee Week: refugeeweek.org.uk/  
**24-26** International Prayer Vigils for  
**26** International Day of Prayer for Victims of Torture  
acatuk.org.uk, 01404 814 186  
**24-27** Living Theology 2016: Ammerdown:  
ammerdown.org.uk/courses, 01761 433 709  
**25** Drone Campaign Network Gathering: London  
for.org.uk, 01865 250 781  
**26** 'Courage of Conscience' Exhibition: Chesterfield:  
propeacechesterfield.wordpress.com, 01246 271 650  
**27** Peace Prayers at AWE Burghfield:  
londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk, 020 8348 8212

## JULY

**7** Prayer Vigil for the Persecuted Church: Carlisle  
acnuk.org/events, 01524 388 739  
**9** Truth Telling and Money: Oxford: lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk

**10** Sea Sunday: apostleshipofthesea.org.uk, 020 7901 1931

**15** 'Take Back Our World' Global Justice Now Festival: Devon  
globaljustice.org.uk, 020 7820 4900

**15-17** **Annual J&P Conference:** Justice, Power and Responsibility—  
How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good? Swanwick

**18-22** Christians Aware Summer School: 'Hope for Our Planet?':  
Yorkshire Dales: christiansaware.co.uk, 0116 254 0770

**23** Theology Study Day: 'What Makes a Good Life?': London  
hurtadocentre.org.uk, 020 7488 7325

**30** World Youth Day: worldyouthday.com

**'Power to the People' CAFOD Campaign Events  
with Takura Gwatinyanya, Caritas Harare**

**6 July** Amigo Hall, London 6.00-9.00pm  
**8 July** Hartlepool, 12-2.00pm: North Shields, 5.30-7.00pm  
**9 July** Loreto College, Manchester 9.30am-4.00pm  
**10 July** Liverpool, venue to be confirmed 1.30-4.00pm  
**12 July** Cardiff Cathedral Mostyn Room, 6.30-9.00pm  
**13 July** St Mary's on the Quay, Bristol, 6.00-9.00pm  
**14 July** Birmingham, venue to be confirmed 6.00-9.00pm

For more information contact Maria Elena Arana:  
marana@cafod.org.uk, 020 7095 5417

**July—October:** Knights of St Columba Mercy Pilgrimages: ksc.org.uk

## AUGUST

**6 & 9** Anniversaries of first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima &  
Nagasaki: paxchristi.org.uk/christiancnd.org.uk

## SEPTEMBER

**1** Creation Day: Vigil resources from cafod.org.uk  
**1 Sept-4 October** Creation Time: CTBI 020 7654 7254 ctbi..org.uk  
**19** **NJPN Open Networking Day:** Bath  
**19** CHAS Diamond Jubilee Evensong: Rochester Cathedral  
housingjustice.org.uk, 020 3544 8094  
**21** Peace One Day: peaceoneday.org, 020 7456 9180;  
Church resources from for.org.uk, 01865 250 781

## OCTOBER

**7** Harvest Fast Day: cafod.org.uk  
**9** Prisons Sunday  
**9-15** Prisons Week: prisonsweek.org  
**10** World Mental Health Day: who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/  
**12** Housing Justice Roadshow and AGM: Coventry  
housingjustice.org.uk, 020 3544 8094  
**17** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:  
unmeditation.org/  
**16-23** Week of Prayer for World Peace:  
weekofprayerforworldpeace.com, 0208 968 4340  
**22-23** CARJ Urban Network Retreat: Birmingham  
info@carj.org.uk, 020 8802 8080  
**23-30** One World Week: 'Including You': oneworldweek.org  
**24** United Nations Day: unmeditation.org

**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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