

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to anneoc980@hotmail.com

ROME SEMINAR: THE CHURCH UP CLOSE

9 September 2018: On Monday, 10 September, journalists who cover the Catholic world are meeting in Rome for a seminar *'The Church Up Close: Covering Catholicism in the Age of Francis'*, organised by the School of Church Communications at Rome's Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

The seminar's sixth edition will take place in Rome 10-16 September, and is designed to equip journalists with the tools to enhance their coverage of today's Roman Catholic Church. The seminar takes place every two years and has seen the participation of reporters from Catholic media outlets and others, such as *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Il Corriere della Sera*, *El País*, the BBC and *Le Monde*.

Among this year's guest speakers are Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States (Vatican Secretariat of State); Bishop Fabio Fabene, Under-Secretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops; Bishop Brian Farrell, LC, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity; Msgr. Mauro Rivella, Secretary of the APSA; Mgr Santiago Michael, from the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue; Mgr Lucio A Ruiz, Secretary of the Dicastery for Communication; Professor Guzmán M. Carriquiry Lecour, Secretary of the Pontifical Commission of Latin America; Rev Michael Czerny SJ, from the Vatican's Department for Migrants; and Rev Professor Hans Zollner, SJ, from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The participants will be attending the weekly audience of Pope Francis. In addition to conference sessions, this week-long seminar features on-site visits and personal meetings with curial officials and veteran Vatican correspondents. Among others, participants will meet the Honorable Mrs Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to the Holy See; Mgr Philip Whitmore, rector of the Venerable English College; Rev Prof Paul Mueller, SJ, vice-director of the Vatican Observatory; and Fr Tad Oxley of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Church Up Close provides an insight into the nature of the Catholic Church and the inner workings of the Vatican. Conference sessions and interactive workshops address topics from the financial life of the Holy See, the Synod for the youth, the work of the Holy See in the international arena, Christians and the Muslim world, the Magisterium of Pope Francis, ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue, and the state of the Church in Africa and Asia. According to the president of the organizing committee, Rev Prof John Wauck said: "*The Church Up Close* seminar was inspired by a series of classes that our school was already offering throughout the year for Rome-based 'vaticanisti'. *The Church Up Close* is a condensed, intensified and amplified version of the class that has been tailored for journalists from around the globe."

The goal is to provide both a basic understanding of the Vatican and an in-depth analysis of specific hot issues regarding the Church today.

Fr Wauck observes: "Covering an institution as old and as large as the Catholic Church has always been a huge challenge, and in today's shrinking world, it's becoming ever more necessary to tell even local stories about the Church from a global perspective. The seminar should help reporters do that. What's more, Rome is an ideal setting for reflecting on religion and the media with journalists from around the world."

For more information, see: www.church-communication.net/english-seminar-2018

• **Josephine Siedlecka, editor of ICN, and writer Ellen Teague are attending the seminar.**

ROME: THE CHURCH UP CLOSE - DAY 2

Ellen Teague 12 September 2018

Who would have thought our group of Catholic journalists would be admiring the wonderful view of St Peter's from the roof of next door's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Its stunning building and courtyard transported us back into the sixteenth century.... with a few flashbacks to the Inquisition. When we moved to the ground floor for a meeting, the room was the one in which Galileo had been tried! We were told that the CDF has been dedicated to "protecting the faith and morals of the Catholic Church" for more than 400 years.

But let me report on a talk there by Mgr Michael Santiago of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue. Many grassroots Catholics are not aware that the Church believes in respect for and dialogue with people of other faiths. Dating back to 1964 this Pontifical Council is the central office of the Catholic Church for promoting interreligious dialogue in accordance with the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, in particular the declaration *Nostra Aetate*.

Until his death in July, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran was president and warm tributes were paid to his commitment to this mission. Mgr Santiago, who hails from India, conveyed a determination to support Pope Francis in his initiatives for collaboration with other faiths on Justice, Peace, and Ecology. He flagged up the Pope's trip to the Holy Land in May 2014, where he prayed for peace at the Wailing Wall of Jerusalem with Jewish and Muslim leaders. Also, the welcome *Laudato Si'* has received from other faiths anxious to join with Pope Francis in protecting '*Our Common Home*'.

The new World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation on 1 September, initiated by Pope Francis, has been taken up by other religions, as has the World Day of the Poor. Mgr Santiago reported that Christian-Muslim Dialogue has been a priority for Pope Francis. The Pope encouraged meetings between the Pontifical Council and the al-Azhar University in Egypt, which led up to a February 2017 conference, *'The role of al-Azhar al Sharif and of the Vatican in countering the phenomenon of fanaticism, extremism and violence in the name of religion'*.

We were told that Pope Francis' vision is to build "bridges of peace". He has reintegrated nonviolence into the heart of Catholic teaching on war and peace, has created initiatives reaching out to the poor and vulnerable, and invites all people of goodwill to care for one another and for creation. During the meeting Mgr Santiago was told of grassroots initiatives of interreligious dialogue in England and Australia - known to the journalists - and he said that the Pontifical Council encourages this celebration of diversity at every level.

Read the report in full: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35615>

ROME: THE CHURCH UP CLOSE - DAY 4

Ellen Teague 14 September 2018

"The United Nations is vital, and without it we would go back to the jungle". The Holy See's work on the international stage was presented in a talk this morning by Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Vatican Secretariat of State, who hails from Liverpool. He told journalists from 16 countries that in an age of global interdependence the Holy See offers an ethical vision in many forums, especially UN bodies. The Holy See is a member of various bodies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It is a permanent observer in the UN General Assembly, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Pope Paul VI and Pope Francis have spoken at the UN in New York.

The outreach of the Secretariat of State ranges from supporting global pacts on Migration ("a wound in the social fabric of the human family"), to helping the international community meet climate change commitments made at the 2015 Paris Climate Talks, to promoting the right to clean water and food. Human Rights, Solidarity and Peace are major issues today and inspirational social teaching documents Archbishop Gallagher mentioned included *Pacem in Terris*, *Populorum Progressio*, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, and *Laudato Si'*. I might say that these are documents well known to Catholics working in the areas of Justice, Peace and Ecology. The Holy See has supported treaties to ban anti-personnel mines and nuclear weapons. He felt it was important to "delegitimise" nuclear weapons for "they offer a false sense of security".

Archbishop Gallagher suggested that journalists could highlight more the good things the Holy See is trying to do to promote the common good. As well as tackling global structural problems, he highlighted that the Church internationally runs one quarter of the world's HIV/AIDS treatment centres, 610 leper treatment centres, and over 2000 special education centres. Assisting needy and vulnerable people is top priority and the presentation of the Holy See's mission to "hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth", as it says in *Laudato Si'*, was impressive and moving. Catholics are around 16 percent of humanity and a significant "soft power" global network.

Later, missionary priests with extensive grassroots experience in Asia spoke about *'The Future of the Church in Asia'*. Asia has 4.3 billion people, that is two thirds of humanity, but in most Asian countries Christians are minority communities. Australian Columban Robert McCulloch, who worked in Pakistan for 34 years, was critical of Pakistan's blasphemy laws which "have consistently been mis-used and abused as a means to control and marginalise non-Muslims through a reign of fear". He has deep respect for Pakistani Christians who have a "deep spiritual reservoir of faith" that helps them cope. His report was humbling for those of us Christians who can practice our faith without fear or sacrifice.

We heard presentations on the forthcoming Synod of Bishops on Youth and Vocation. It will definitely be going ahead said Bishop Fabio Fabene, who acknowledged that some bishops, particularly in the United States, called for it be cancelled or deferred in the light of the abuse scandal. Around 35 youth will be attending. The role of women in the Church was highlighted by Professor Liria Morali of the Pontifical Gregorian University. She felt that reform is happening, that Pope Francis is urging more professional jobs in Holy See bodies and Catholic universities to be open to women. However, she also felt that change is slow. "Over the last 30 years women of high quality have not been treated well, but there are some exceptions" she said.

The day was rounded off with a visit to the residence of the British ambassador to the Holy See, The Honourable Sally Axworthy. I might have been a bit familiar with my 'Hi Sally' but I was so relieved to be met at the top of seven flights of stairs with a welcome smile and a gin and tonic. Dainty 'envelopes' with fish pieces and chips followed. We were on a breezy roof terrace at sunset overlooking Rome, with the Vatican on one side and the Colosseum on the other. She spoke of her engagement with the work of the Holy See, particularly on Migration, Human Trafficking and Climate Change. And dealt with a few challenging questions about possible tensions between Holy See peacemaking and Britain's role as a leading arms trader and with a nuclear weapons programme. She admired Pope Francis' outreach to 40 million twitter followers. But I will take away something she said that chimed with Archbishop Gallagher's report that morning. She told us that the mission of Pope Francis and the Holy See is perhaps the biggest "moral force" in today's world.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35627>

ROME: THE CHURCH UP CLOSE - DAY 5

Ellen Teague 16 September 2018 (Updated 18 September 2018)

This morning Jo Siedlecka of *Independent Catholic News* and I headed off for a mile walk to a session at Rome's English College, a Catholic seminary. It meant negotiating heavy rush hour traffic - especially dodging mopeds - but also involved a tranquil walk in the summer sunshine by the River Tiber. Mature plane trees are a feast along the Tiber, their rustling leaves reaching out to the water. At the English College, hidden away in a side street near Piazza Farnese, we received a warm welcome at the door from Rector Mgr Philip Whitmore. He brought us down to the crypt for a presentation. There were fragments of an ancient Roman pavement beside where we were sitting and the long history of the English College was explained to us. It was originally founded in the 14th century as a hospice for English pilgrims.

The seminary was founded in 1576 - 44 students went on to be martyred for their Catholic faith in England between 1581 and 1679, as well as 130 who suffered imprisonment and exile. *'The Martyrs' Picture'* in the chapel shows blood from Christ's wounds falling onto a map of the British Isles. During those dangerous years, each time news reached Rome that another priest had been executed in England, students would gather round the painting and sing the *Te Deum*. This custom continues today when the *Te Deum* is sung in front of the painting on Martyrs' Day, 1December, and relics of the martyrs are venerated by the students. Forty priests from the English College have been canonised or beatified by the Church.

The college currently has 29 seminarians, largely drawn from the dioceses of England and Wales, and their training focuses on the following formation: Spiritual, Intellectual, Human, and Pastoral. We learnt that Canon Law requires that seminarians must spend two years studying Philosophy and four years of Theology - academic courses which they take at Rome's Pontifical universities. They also acquire such skills as celebrating Mass, preaching, baptising babies, hearing confessions.

We learnt - in response to questions - that they do not, however, receive much formation in the Social Teaching of the Church. Although women are involved in delivering elements of pastoral courses, their role "could be amplified". There was discussion about how clericalism is addressed in seminary training, with journalists from three continents reporting that younger priests tend to be less aligned to the post Vatican II Church than older ones.

Back at the Holy Cross University we had a raw session on *'The Church's response to Sexual Abuse'* from Fr Hans Zollner SJ, President of the Gregorian University's Centre for Child Protection and a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. Waves of abuse stories have been met with "disgust", "anger" and "depression" by Catholics - as well as the wider world - and it cannot be avoided anymore. Pope Francis is being called upon to "do something". Many Catholic journalists on our course have had to cover the issue and they raised questions about more transparency, that safeguarding policies be implemented, and that the Church has more focus on victims.

"The impression is that the hierarchy just don't get it" and "we produce papers but who does follow up?" seemed to be common threads, and "safeguarding needs to be an integral part of mission". Few dioceses have put this issue at the top of their formation programmes. Is the Church being scapegoated for a problem which is huge throughout society? To some extent, but the Church has attracted particular attention because it regards itself and is regarded as a moral authority.
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35631>

ROME: THE CHURCH UP CLOSE - DAY 7

Ellen Teague 20 September 2018

On Sunday, our final day, the *'Church up Close'* seminar group met up at Holy Cross University in Rome for Mass next door in the chapel of St Apollinare, attached to a larger basilica ... This was an intimate Sunday Mass where Fr John Wauck, our seminar chair from the university, asked God to help us do our job as journalists better. In the centuries' old church we were told that we are living stones of today's Church. It was appropriate that in the context of the issue of women in the Church being raised throughout the week the central figures in the fifteenth century fresco behind the altar were the Madonna and child.

We were a diverse group, with two journalists from the Philippines very concerned for the victims of the latest typhoon to hit their country, and those from the United States concerned about the rift in their country over the sexual abuse revelations. Our sign of peace was warm and the sense of Church community strong as we prepared to walk to the Sunday Angelus in St Peter's Square before returning to our home countries.

The second reading at Mass was from St James, that faith without good works is dead. In the last few days we heard about Vatican work with migrants from Fr Michael Czerby SJ of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development. It was just one of many initiatives the Church sponsors - and what about the Church's huge Caritas network - to reach out to the vulnerable. And the Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of education and health care in the world.

It was Sunday's Gospel reading that was picked up by Pope Francis during his Angelus reflection. He was some distance off at a window but we could see him clearly on the large screens. Just as Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" the same question can be asked of all of us. Pope Francis said the profession of faith in Jesus Christ cannot stop at words, "but must be authenticated by concrete choices and gestures, by a life sealed with the love of God and neighbour." Pope Francis gave a crucifix to every person present to mark the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrated on 14 September. "The crucifix is the sign of the love of God, who in Jesus gave his life for us," he said before distribution. "I invite you to accept this gift and place it in your homes, in your children's rooms, or that of your grandparents." The Holy Father thanked religious sisters, poor people, and refugees who distributed the gift and they received refreshments afterwards.

So, during this week we have learnt that the Vatican of Pope Francis is open to the wider world and reading the 'Signs of the Times'. Climate Change, Peace and Human Trafficking are amongst those global concerns being addressed. On Sunday he sent the following message to his millions of twitter followers: "Let us deal with climate change through international cooperation: each person's choices have repercussions on the life of everyone." We heard the British diplomat to the Holy See describe it as "one of the most influential soft power networks in the world". *Laudato Si'* is hugely respected.

During the week we saw Pope Francis attack the 'blasphemous' Mafia during visit to Sicily to honour a murdered priest, and around 100,000 people turned out in the Sicilian sunshine. We noted tremendous admiration for Pope Francis and loyalty, although there are clearly small conservative groups within the Church who are not willing to support him or his mission for the common good and our common home.

During our week in Rome it has also been clear that the sex abuse scandal is growing faster than the Church can contain it. Pope Francis suspended priests in Spain and Chile and has said that "no effort to beg pardon and seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient." He has called for a meeting of the church's top officials in February to address the scandal. A bombshell report about sex abuse in Germany was leaked to the press and the territory of sexual abuse crime was expanded to religious sisters when a nun in India reported being raped by a bishop. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, who was in Rome this week to discuss allegations against Theodore McCarrick, is the bishop of one of our journalists. This is increasingly feeling like a watershed moment for the Church, especially when our young people have an antipathy to anything fake and hypocritical. Action on sexual abuse must be decisive and it was gratifying to witness humility in the face of criticisms and to hear that the Church has dedicated professionals, such as Rev Prof Hans Zollner SJ of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, to support a substantial response and effective safeguarding measures.

So, goodbye balmy summer weather, umbrella pines, authentic limoncello, grace before all meals and the visibility of clergy and religious in clerical dress on Rome's streets. I am still rather confused by the structure and reforms of the Roman Curia and it was interesting to hear two speakers ask, 'What exactly is a Dicastery?' There was a widespread realisation that clericalism is a problem, though fear of the structural changes being suggested to tackle it. I would like to see more women in positions of authority, although it was good to see the press office of the Holy See headed by two lay people and one is a woman.

My presence was representing the media desk of the Columban Missionary Society in Britain, and I was delighted to see the Holy See paying attention to grassroots missionary work in such countries as Pakistan and the Congo. The Vatican Secretariat of State works closely with organisations of the United Nations, and is very serious about delegitimising nuclear weapons and bringing real security through meeting basic human needs for water, food and peace, and restablising the global climate.

That Sunday evening, some of us paid a final visit to St Peter's Square. As night fell and crowds departed, homeless people become more visible under the columns of the colonnades. It is good to know that Pope Francis has expanded initiatives such as help with meals, toilets, showers, haircuts, medical care and a laundry service. A dormitory is nearby. Pope Francis has made people on the margins of society a central focus of his papacy. There was constant underlining that religious values have an important place in the public arena, and Catholic journalists play an important role in highlighting them.

LINKS

Rome: Church Up Close Day 6 www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35638

Rome: Church Up Close Day 5 www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35631

Rome: Church Up Close Day 4 www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35627

Rome: Church Up Close Day 3 www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35622

Rome: Church Up Close Day 2 www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35615

Rome: Church Up Close Day 1 www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35607

SIX PRESIDENTS OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND MEET

20 September 2018

"Only by working together can we alleviate the pain suffered by so many," said one of the six Presidents of Churches Together in England this week. His Grace Archbishop Angaelos, the Orthodox CTE President, was referring to Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Salvation Army churches responding to refugees. He was speaking alongside his co-Presidents at the Forum of Churches Together in England which took place at Swanwick in Derbyshire on the theme: *'I am with you always - together in God's mission'*.

With 270 delegates present, including many under 35 years old, the six Presidents had a conversation together about the *'Presence of Christ'*. Questions were posed from six young adults who were present as Forum delegates and each President reflected on the ecumenical journey which we all share in response to the prayer of Jesus for mission and unity.

Pentecostal President, Pastor Agu Irukwu, said that our witness to Christ continues despite what we are going through. 'Whether on the mountains or in the valleys, we tell the story of his presence with us just the same'. Archbishop Justin Welby, the President for the Church of England, added, 'people will see the presence of Christ in us when we stop holding on to things and we start letting God put a cross in our hands'.

Referring to Jesus, one of the young adults asked the Presidents: "What tables would you overturn?" Cardinal Nichols for the Roman Catholic Church said: "we are being given a consistent lead by Pope Francis on clericalism and the assumptions on a position of superiority and privilege that are sometimes present. He wants that table clearly and vigorously turned over."

Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, the Free Churches President, agreed, suggesting we needed new ways of measuring success: "We need to come away from the competitiveness we've had between the Churches. Why not measure what impact we are having on society?"

All the Presidents spoke of the need for divine encounter. Revd Canon Billy Kennedy, representing the New Churches, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Lutheran and German-speaking Churches, said that in a 'very fragmented world .. the Church needs to rediscover its confidence,' and whilst language and culture change, 'the need in human hearts hasn't changed.' Cardinal Nichols used the image of a rose window as a picture of the Church, "which always has Jesus at the centre" he added, referring to the Churches working together in England.

The Forum marked the change of CTE General Secretary from the Revd Dr David Cornick, who retires, to the Revd Dr Paul Goodliff, recently appointed. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35663>

CHARITY'S NORTH-WEST CATHEDRAL WALKS BRING HOPE TO CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

Murcadha O Flaherty 20 September 2018

Walking up to 175 miles across north-west England and Wales, staff from a leading Catholic charity, Aid to the Church in Need, visited five cathedrals over five months to raise awareness of the suffering Church in Iraq. Finishing at Shrewsbury Cathedral last Saturday (15 September), ACN's North West Manager, Dr Caroline Hull and Bridget Teasdale, the region's Schools and Events Coordinator completed the five cathedral walks to help Christians persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Thanking ACN benefactors for their support, Caroline said: "By applying St Augustine's adage '*Solvitur Ambulando - it is solved by walking*', the charity's cathedral walks for Iraq have now raised just over £6,000 in sponsorship. We are so grateful for their prayers and for those of all who have supported us." She added: "All money raised by the walk will go towards the charity's work rebuilding Christian towns and villages in the Nineveh Plains where families were driven out by Daesh (ISIS). ACN has already provided more than £6.1 million (€6.9 million) towards reconstruction - and by this July 45 percent of Christian families who fled the extremists in the summer of 2014 had returned home."

Having walked through sunshine and rain, Bridget said: "The best bit about our walks was meeting bishops, priests, Sisters and lay people - they all welcomed us into their cathedrals, parishes and even their homes." She added: "Our time walking has led me to reflect upon and pray about the Christian people of Iraq... whenever I was feeling tired, or too warm, hungry or thirsty, whilst walking - I called to mind those in Iraq, and united my small struggle to theirs, through the power of prayer." Thousands of Iraqi Christians were driven out of Mosul and the surrounding region by Daesh had to walk more than 50 miles to Erbil to find safety.

Following the blessing of their boots by Bishop Paul Swarbrick of Lancaster in May, the pair walked 65 miles from Lancaster Cathedral to Salford Cathedral, the final few miles with Bishop John Arnold of Salford. In June, they walked 35 miles from Salford to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. With Archbishop Malcolm McMahon's blessing, they walked with ACN benefactors Tony and Lynne Glynn in July from Liverpool to Wrexham Cathedral in north Wales. On the final leg to Shrewsbury last Saturday, Bishop Peter Brignall of Wrexham accompanied them as far as the border with England.

Caroline said: "We've received wonderful hospitality from parishes, religious communities and ACN benefactors along our 175 mile journey. Our final night was spent with the Poor Clares in Ellesmere where Mother Carmel and the community provided us with warm beds, fantastic meals and generous sponsorship as well." Describing their "amazing and enriching experience", Caroline said: "Bridget and I have walked many miles together, through so many different landscapes with bishops, family and ACN benefactors. At the very heart of our experience has been a deep desire to show compassion for our brothers and sisters in Iraq. They truly need our prayers and our support." She added: "Walking ACN's North West Cathedral Walks for Iraq's Christians has been fantastic... many thanks to all those who prayed with us, walked with us and sponsored us."

- **To support ACN's NW Cathedral Walks for Iraq, please go to JustGiving:** www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walks4iraq
- **ACN's Annual North-West Benefactors' Mass** will be held on 6 October at Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1TE, followed by refreshments. Mass starts at 12am.
- **An Afternoon of Talks on the Suffering Church, focusing on Christians in Iraq and Pakistan** will take place at St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1SA on 7 October at 3pm.

Other ACN events in October:

- Thursday 4** at 7:30pm: *Life Today for Christians in Iraq and Pakistan* The Catholic Chaplaincy, Lancaster University LA1 4YW
- Friday 5** from 1-2:30pm: Q & A for Secondary Schools St Columba's, Chester CH2 1SA register via bridget.teasdale@acnuk.org
- Saturday 6** at 12:00 noon: NW Benefactors' Mass Shrewsbury Cathedral SY1 1TE
- Sunday 7** at 3:00pm: Talks on the Suffering Church in Iraq and Pakistan St Columba's Church, Chester CH2 1SA

Invited speakers include: Sr Luma Khudher OP from the Nineveh Plains in Iraq; The Most Reverend Habib Jajou, Chaldean Archbishop on Basra and Fr Emmanuel Yousaf, National Director of the Justice & Peace Commission of Pakistan. Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director of ACN UK, will attend the Mass and the talks in Chester. **All are welcome;** please feel free to bring a friend (or two!). Entrance is free; retiring collections will go to ACN's work around the world.
PLEASE NOTE: speakers may change at short notice due to changes beyond ACN's control.

To find out more about any of these events, please contact ACN's NW office in Lancaster tel: 01524 388739 nw.office@acnuk.org

ACN OVERWHELMED WITH SUPPORT FOR ADORATION CAMPAIGN

Murcadha O Flaherty 18 September 2018

A leading Catholic charity has been "overwhelmed" with support for its campaign encouraging devotion to the Eucharist as an act of solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world.

Calling on Christians across the country, Aid to the Church in Need launched its [#Go2Adoration](#) for those denied religious freedom at *Adoremus* - the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress. ACN UK head of press John Pontifex and Marie Fahy, the charity's schools and youth officer, presented the campaign in front of more than 6,000 faithful in Liverpool's Echo Arena, where attendees described ACN's [#Go2Mass](#) video as "inspiring" and "powerful".

Marie Fahy said that since the congress, on the weekend of 7-9 September, more than 150 schools and parishes had signed up to the campaign and that ACN has had to order a second print-run of its [#Go2Adoration](#) prayer cards depicting victims of persecution. She added: "Since the congress we have been overwhelmed by responses from laity and clergy alike - people wanting prayer cards, and resources and speakers for their parishes, schools and colleges. Some schools have asked for a prayer card for every pupil."

Marie Fahy added: "It was a privilege for the charity to launch its [#Go2Adoration](#) for those who can't campaign at the congress - adding to the prayerful sacrifice ACN benefactors and others have made to [#Go2Mass](#) for the past year. This call to participate in a wave of prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ will now continue in schools, universities and parishes for the next year and beyond. The number of teachers, chaplains, catechists and parish representatives who have agreed to promote this call to prayer pays testament the belief that 'prayer linked to sacrifice is the most powerful force in the world' (Pope St John Paul II)."

Marie Fahy said: "ACN has long been aware of the Eucharist's power to change the lives of the people we seek to help, those being persecuted for their faith." Describing *Adoremus's* "marvellous" effect and the [#Go2Adoration](#) campaign, Caroline Hull, ACN's North-West Manager said: "ACN supporters old and new took up our challenge to attend Mass or Adoration for someone who cannot."

One Religious Education teacher from Birmingham stated how she "was profoundly struck by the work which ACN do, and thought it would be fantastic if we could incorporate [#Go2Adoration](#) into our school life". A London college lay chaplain also wrote of the "amazing Congress", noting: "Congratulations to Marie Fahy and John Pontifex for an excellent presentation at *Adoremus*... I think the campaign in general and the cards in particular, are excellent."

• See the charity's campaigns: <https://acnuk.org/resource/go2mass/> and <https://acnuk.org/resource/go-to-adoration-for-someone-who-cant/>
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35649>

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY PRAYER EMAIL SEPTEMBER 2018

Liam Purcell, Communications Manager, Church Action on Poverty writes:

Thank you for praying with Church Action on Poverty for a fairer society and a narrower gap between rich and poor.

In progress: updates on our work

Over the past year, our *Voices from the Margins* project has shared over 100 stories of real people's experiences of poverty. Take a look through some of them on the blog <https://voicesfromthemargins.org.uk/> and hold them in your prayers to a God who is always on the side of people who have been pushed to the edges.

The growing *End Hunger UK Coalition* is starting to have a significant impact on the causes of food poverty. Your church could help make a difference by supporting our current campaigns, during **Harvest Festival** or **End Hunger Week** (13-21 October). **Click here for worship materials, petition sheets and other resources:** <http://endhungeruk.org/churches/>

Prayer and worship

We have been exploring what it means to truly be a '*Church of the Poor*'. Here are some of the things we look for in a local church that is on this journey:

- It is interested in building the kingdom, not growing the church.
- It listens attentively to voices from the margins and works to be visibly present to the community around it (especially 'those who don't sit in the pews on Sundays').
- It expects to be challenged and changed by its neighbours, especially by people on the margins.
- It puts an emphasis on sharing food and hospitality. ('Social communion before holy communion!')
- It is hungry and thirsty for justice.

Click here to read more about what a 'church of the poor' looks like:

<https://blog.church-poverty.org.uk/2018/05/04/churchofthepoorquestions/> - a blog by Rev Al Barratt one of the keynote speakers at the NJPN Conference in July <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Autumn-2018.pdf>

Click here for ideas on creating an 'outside-in church' that listens to concerns from the neighbourhood around it:

<https://blog.church-poverty.org.uk/2018/06/14/bringing-our-neighbourhoods-into-church/>

More prayer points

- The roll-out of Universal Credit is sweeping thousands of people into hunger and poverty. Pray that the Government may listen to the many voices calling on them to fix Universal Credit.
- A new measure of poverty has just been introduced, showing that 14 million people are living in poverty in the UK. Pray that we may all work together to build a truly just and compassionate society, unlocking the poverty trap for all of those people.

• **Church Action on Poverty** works with church and community groups across the UK to make tackling poverty a priority. Our work involves: educating churches about poverty in the UK; enabling people in poverty to speak for themselves; working for policies to eradicate poverty; promoting reflection and action for social justice.

• Church Action on Poverty emails may be freely distributed, with the following attribution - **Source: Church Action on Poverty 2018** www.church-poverty.org.uk

Church Action on Poverty, 28 Sandpiper Court, Water's Edge Business Park, Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ, 0161 872 9294

CARJ BRIEFING: DEFINING ANTI-SEMITISM

Source: CARJ 24 August 2018

The Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) has issued the following briefing on 'Defining Anti-Semitism'.

Recent discussions of antisemitism, mostly in and around the Labour Party, have included a lengthy public discussion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. The IHRA currently has 31 members (including the UK, the USA, France, Germany etc.).

On 26 May 2016 the IHRA Plenary in Budapest adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism.

Download the briefing here: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/3d2b3ff9853eab9381ba677d5/files/d76435ee-ca4a-439b-91f5-f52579bbaf57/AntiSemitism.CARJBriefingFinalAug2018_1_.doc

Recent discussions of antisemitism, mostly in and around the Labour Party, have included a lengthy public discussion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. The IHRA currently has 31 members (including the UK, the USA, France, Germany etc.). On 26 May 2016 the IHRA Plenary in Budapest adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations: Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits. The definition goes on to list actions which could, taking into account the overall context, be considered contemporary examples of antisemitism. See: <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/node/196>

In the recent discussions of antisemitism, the IHRA definition has come under further scrutiny, and some questions have been raised and reservations voiced.

In October 2016, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee published a Report – *Antisemitism in UK* – which discussed the IHRA definition and concluded:

We broadly accept the IHRA definition, but propose two additional clarifications to ensure that freedom of speech is maintained in the context of discourse about Israel and Palestine, without allowing antisemitism to permeate any debate. The definition should include the following statements:

- It is not antisemitic to criticise the Government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.
- It is not antisemitic to hold the Israeli Government to the same standards as other liberal democracies, or to take a particular interest in the Israeli Government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent. (para 24)

We recommend that the IHRA definition, with our additional caveats, should be formally adopted by the UK Government, law enforcement agencies and all political parties, to assist them in determining whether or not an incident or discourse can be regarded as antisemitic. (para 25)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/136/136.pdf>

In December 2016, David Feldman, Professor of history and Director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck, raised questions about the definition in a Guardian article (28 December 2016):

So does the IHRA definition that Britain has adopted provide the answer? I am sceptical. Here is the definition's key passage: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews." This is bewilderingly imprecise. The text also carries dangers. It trails a list of 11 examples. Seven deal with criticism of Israel. Some of the points are sensible, some are not. Crucially, there is a danger that the overall effect will place the onus on Israel's critics to demonstrate they are not antisemitic. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/28/britain-definition-antisemitism-british-jews-jewish-people>

In March 2017, High Tomlinson QC of Matrix Chambers was asked by a group of Jewish organisations to provide an Opinion on the Government's decision to adopt the IHRA definition. He concluded (in part) that:

The IHRA "non-legally binding working definition" of antisemitism is unclear and confusing and should be used with caution.....

The "examples" accompanying the IHRA Definition should be understood in the light of the definition and it should be understood that the conduct listed is only antisemitic if it manifests hatred towards Jews. (Conclusion 1 and 2)

<https://freespeechonisrael.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/TomlinsonGuidanceIHRA.pdf>

CARJ intends to continue to monitor this debate and related discussions and to work with others - including the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE) – to understand the complexities of these issues.

- **CARJ Briefings** are primarily intended to give readers accurate and relevant background information on current issues.

Occasionally, a position or argument may be put forward for reflection and further discussion.

CARJ, 9 Henry Rd, London N4 2LH. 020 8802 8080. Info@carj.org.uk. The Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) is an independent charity committed to working with others of diverse backgrounds and beliefs to bring about a more just, more equal, more cooperative society.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35501>

IF YOU WANT A FAIR DEFINITION OF ZIONISM, IT'S BEST TO ASK A PALESTINIAN

Robert A. H. Cohen 6 September 2018

There are lots of good reasons to think the IHRA document, now adopted "in full" by Labour's NEC and by Labour MPs, is, well, a bit rubbish: the actual definition of antisemitism is not up to much; the illustrations are a legal mess; it appears to be having no impact on antisemitism in the (few) countries which have endorsed it and it's already being used to prevent open debate on university campuses

A recent article by Tony Lerman gathers together all of these points and more. It was short-term political expediency which drove this week's decision-making, necessitated by an ongoing high-stakes campaign of vilification that takes no prisoners. The Liberal Democrat Party has also fallen into line, no doubt realising that attempting to conduct a rational discussion over the merits of the IHRA burns up too much political capital. And now we read that the Church of England wants to adopt it sanctification of this document is going ecumenical.

But there's a further problem which should be reason enough to dump the whole IHRA definition, and its illustrations, in the rubbish bin. And it goes beyond the need to guarantee freedom of speech. The truth of the matter is, the Jewish community can no longer define 'Zionism', or indeed 'antisemitism', without the help of Palestinians.

I know what some people will be thinking. Surely, it's for the Jewish community, through its leadership, to determine what antisemitism is? What Zionism is? Surely, an oppressed people should have the right to define the nature of the oppression perpetrated against them? Hence the insistence that the Labour Party adopt, in full and without amendments or caveats, the IHRA definition and illustrations. That's what the Board of Deputies of British Jews has asked for. So surely, that's what it should get?

It's become a politically difficult task, if not impossible, to challenge this assertion of the right to define what's perceived as exclusively Jewish experience and terminology, especially at a time when identity politics rules our daily discourse. The President of the Board of Deputies, Marie van der Zyl, provided a good example of the accepted parameters of the debate in her statement welcoming the NEC's decision. "It is very long overdue and regrettable that Labour has wasted a whole summer trying to dictate to Jews what constitutes offence against us."

Similarly, the NEC's addition of a one-sentence free speech caveat was characterised by Simon Johnson, CEO of the Jewish Leadership Council, as driving "a coach and horses" through the antisemitism definition: "It is clearly more important to the Labour leader to protect the free speech of those who hate Israel than it is to protect the Jewish community from the real threats that it faces."

But this is a perspective devoid of historical context. It just doesn't work for the situation in which we as a Jewish community now find ourselves, and which our leaders have done so much to create. If defining 'antisemitism' has become, to a considerable extent, what can and can't be said about Israel and Zionism, then how can it be a question which only (some) Jews get to answer? And if this is really all about the right to define your own oppression, then why does this rule not apply to the Palestinians? It's a bit like trying to define 'British colonialism' by only asking the opinion of a 19th-century British diplomat. Or praising 'American freedom and values' without acknowledging the experience of Native Americans or African Americans. It makes no sense because you only get half the story, half the lived experience (at most). The language and the ideas in question have more than one owner.

For more than 100 years, the history of the Palestinians and the Jews has been inextricably linked. Neither of us can understand our past or present condition without reference to the other. Neither people's story is complete without the other. Of course, our interlinked relationship is not one of equality. Our story is shared but the consequences of our entanglement are vastly different. One side has rights and national self-determination. The other side is denied those same things in the name of Jewish security and Jewish national sovereignty. In short, one side has been empowered by dispossessing the other.

The Palestinians have even become caught up in the telling of the Holocaust. Successive generations of young Jews have been taught to see Israel, as it's currently constituted, as the only rational response to our 20th-century catastrophe. The Palestinians are seen as attempting to thwart that response.

It's this entanglement of narratives and the need to defend Israel's legitimacy that have led to the muddle, the confusion and the deliberate politicisation of 'antisemitism' as a concept. And, by contrast, it's led to the spiritualisation of 'Zionism' so it has become not a political project but an expression of Jewish faith. All of this has forfeited our right to independently define our oppression without consulting the victims of our new faith in Jewish nationalism. The meaning of 'antisemitism' and 'Zionism' is no longer ours to determine alone. These words, and most importantly the experiences they bring with them, now belong to the Palestinian people too.

To get beyond this, we as a Jewish community, need to confront Zionism's past and present. We need to rethink Jewish security in a post-Holocaust world. We need to build broad coalitions to tackle all forms of discrimination. That must include antisemitism from the left, and more often the right, which uses anti-Jewish myths and prejudices to promote hatred of Jews for being Jews. And that includes those who use anti-Jewish tropes to critique Israel.

Above all though, if we want to be serious, rather than tribal, about a fair definition of Zionism, we need to ask the Palestinian people what they think and believe and feel about it. And if they tell us "Zionism is a racist endeavour" we'd better pay attention.

The Jewish High Holidays are coming up. They are a time for reflection and repentance as an individual Jew and as part of a Jewish community. I doubt we'll see much sign of reflection or repentance on the question of Israel/Palestine. The denial is too deep. The fear of 'the other' is too great. The emotional layers of self-preservation are too many.

Not all Jews can or should be held responsible for what's done in the name of Zionism or the actions of the State of Israel. That's antisemitism. But all Jews ought to feel obligated to speak out against the discrimination, ill-treatment, and racism carried out in the name of protecting Israel. To me, that's Judaism. And if you don't see the discrimination, ill-treatment and racism – then read more books, listen to more Palestinian voices, open your heart. But whether we choose to face into it or not, our relationship with the Palestinian people will remain the single most important issue facing Jews and Judaism in the 21st century.

To my Jewish readers, 'Shana Tova!' A good New Year! May our names be written in a 'Book of Life' that is filled with love and justice for all who call the Holy Land home.

http://www.patheos.com/blogs/writingfromtheedge/2018/09/if-you-want-a-fair-definition-of-zionism-its-best-to-ask-a-palestinian/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=BRSS&utm_campaign=Jewish&utm_content=344

• **Robert Cohen** is a Jew, married to Anne, an Anglican priest (and former Christian Aid staff member) working in a diocese in Yorkshire. He is a Greenbelt speaker, and has been doing the blog *Writing from the Edge* for some time now.

CHRISTIAN AID ON US WITHDRAWAL OF AID FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES

2 September 2018

William Bell, Head of Christian Aid's Middle East Policy, has issued the following statement in response to the news that the US is cancelling all aid to Palestinian refugees: "After withdrawing all aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the United States cannot present itself as an impartial peace broker between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The primary motive appears to be to challenge the number of eligible Palestinian refugees who can claim the right of return to their former homes in what is now Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. With one stroke, the status of millions of Palestinian refugees and the humanitarian lifeline they depend upon for vital health, social and education services is in serious jeopardy. Such a move will clearly send shockwaves through a population who have endured 70 years of vulnerability and insecurity throughout the Middle East, including Syria.

"Christian Aid has always been unequivocal in its support for Israel's right to exist, its security and the rights of all its citizens. We believe that Palestinians deserve the same rights. This latest US move comes after its controversial embassy relocation to Jerusalem. Peace for Palestinians appears to mean accepting the will of the most powerful and giving up the most basic of human rights. Tragically, the international community continues to stand aside and watch as Palestinian claims and historical ties to the land are steadily dismantled.

"Palestinian refugees' desire to return to their original homes is not a manufactured idea: it is a legal and moral right that has become part of Palestinian identity. This is one of the key issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Regardless of US desires, only the UN General Assembly can determine the legal status of refugees. From Gaza to Lebanon to Syria, people remember where they are from and understand that, like all UN-registered refugees, they have a right to return there. It is very hard to imagine how peace will be achieved if one side is effectively stripped of their legitimate identity.

"Since Christian Aid began working in the Middle East in the 1950s, we have witnessed the ongoing displacement of Palestinians as a reality that threatens them wherever they live. We cannot stand by and watch as Palestinian lives are consistently treated as second class. International law should underpin and guide any peace process, but without respect, dignity and compassion as well, the poor and dispossessed, the stateless and those without power, will only become more vulnerable and desperate. By threatening the vital humanitarian services that UNRWA provides and challenging people's identity, the US is condemning millions to even greater insecurity. A peace process is not a blunt instrument to bend people against their will. It must be the path that leads all to security, prosperity and hope."

UNRWA was established after the 1948 war when approximately 750,000 Palestinians fled or were forcibly removed from their homes. Today there are more than five million Palestinians scattered across the Middle East and beyond who consider Palestine as their historical homeland. Until now, the US has been the largest single donor to UNRWA, providing \$368m (£284m) in 2016 and funding almost 30% of its operations in the region. The UN defines refugees as anyone who has been forced from their homes by war, persecution or violence. Descendants of refugees are included while displacement continues.

"Before the war in Syria, Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus was home to more than 100,000 Palestinian refugees. The camp experienced some of the most savage fighting in Syria's bitter civil war: the population dropped to less than 18,000, of whom 3,500 are children, and it continues to suffer from a lack of food and medical treatment.

Visiting the camp in July 2018, UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl reported that "the scale of the destruction in Yarmouk compares to very little else that I have seen in many years of humanitarian work in conflict zones". This example is sadly not the exception. In 1982, during Israel's invasion of Lebanon, a Lebanese militia, linked to the Maronite Phalange Party, savagely demonstrated how unwelcome Palestinians are in the country. Red Cross sources estimated that between 1,000 and 1,500 were massacred in Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in Beirut; some reports suggest it was nearer 3,000.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35556>

GLOBAL FAITH LEADERS CALL FOR UN TO PROTECT MILLIONS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

20 September 2018 **Source: Christian AID/ICJ&P**

Dozens of faith leaders are urging heads of state not to turn their backs on the world's 40.5 million internally displaced people. Their call comes ahead of the creation of the new Global Compact on Refugees, an international instrument that will be signed at the United Nations General Assembly in New York this month. The Compact applies only to people who have been forced to flee across borders and ignores the plight of those displaced within their own countries.

While global leaders are signing up to supporting refugees, the vast majority of people displaced within their own countries' borders are often woefully ignored and abandoned by their countries' leaders. More than 57 leaders from across the global faiths have signed an open letter challenging UN member governments about the exclusion of the 40.5 million people from the new Global Compact. Internally displaced people remain in their own countries but have been forced to flee their homes due to violence and 'natural' disasters such as floods and earthquakes, and left to fend for themselves. Despite having no place to call home, they lack the support and protection that international law gives refugees - people who have crossed international borders.

According to the faith leaders' letter, if the world is to realise the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, then the international community must ensure that internally displaced people are neither forgotten nor ignored. Father Alberto Franco Giraldo, Director at Interchurch Commission on Justice & Peace, Colombia said: "As members of different churches and religions we work together for the rights of the victims. Together we will generate and strengthen the hope of more than seven million internally displaced people in our country, Colombia. The world cannot continue to ignore this tragedy. Our faith demands solidarity and denouncement of the root causes of the violence and displacements."

Paul Anticoni, CEO, World Jewish Relief said: "World Jewish Relief recognises that there are now unimaginable numbers of people fleeing conflict and persecution, and becoming displaced within their own countries. These people are often hidden, denied access to support and protection, and extremely vulnerable. We join our fellow faith-based agencies in calling for greater support and assistance to prevent, mitigate and respond to this scourge on humanity."

Naser Haghamed, CEO, Islamic Relief Worldwide said: "My family and I had to flee our home in Eritrea because of conflict when I was 13 years old, I will never forget what happened. We fled on foot and walked for days just to reach the border. And yet, I was lucky compared to what displaced people have to endure today. As faith groups, we are urging governments to fulfil their obligations towards their own displaced and calling on world leaders at the UN to make the safety, dignity and well-being of millions of displaced people a key priority."

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, CEO, Christian Aid said: "If not at the United Nations, then where will the voice of internally displaced women, men and children be heard? Where can their issues be dealt with? Who will bring together global efforts and resources so that they are not left behind?"

The letter is being published ahead of the UN Advisory Council on Faith's inaugural meeting on 21st September in New York. Extract: "The Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration, to be signed this year, regrettably provide scant attention to the ignored millions, forced out of their homes but still within their countries of origin. If we are to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure we Leave No One Behind, then the international community must ensure that internally displaced people receive the protection and support that they so desperately need.

"We therefore encourage you, leaders of national governments, together with local partners, civil society, faith communities and the private sector as well as humanitarian and development actors, to join the GP20 Plan of Action to prevent further forcible displacement of people, strengthen the protection of those who are displaced, and seek long-lasting and durable solutions with them. We call on you to consider your commitments to the SDGs and those made at the World Humanitarian Summit to ensure that nobody is left behind but that everyone, including the millions of internally displaced people so often overlooked, have access to adequate protection and assistance in line with their inherent dignity and worth."

Statistics: The number of new internal displacements associated with conflict and violence almost doubled, from 6.8 million in 2016 to 11.8 million. In 2017, there were 30.6 million new displacements associated with conflict and disasters across 143 countries and territories. 39% of new internal displacements were triggered by conflict and 61% by disasters.

IDMC has been used for all figures which can be viewed here: www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35664>

THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.

"Show a people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become."
— Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Watch Chimamanda's full TED Talk about the danger of a single story here: <http://bit.ly/2utmNE5>

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

THE NJPN Environment Group has been working to encourage dioceses to develop Environmental Policies—here is an update on progress: It is heartening to see that dioceses are beginning to develop policies. Three have produced clear diocesan guidelines - Middlesbrough, Hexham and Newcastle and Salford. The Middlesbrough one was launched at a day on 21 April in York, where Ellen Teague was a speaker.

Four dioceses (Liverpool, Southwark, A&B, Portsmouth) are working on policies. Paul Kelly is to be congratulated for all the energy he has put into this. He has complimented excellent diocesan contacts such as Mark Wiggin, the Director of Caritas Salford, and Fr Chris Hughes of Hexham and Newcastle Justice and Peace. Birmingham has recently started to look at policy.

NJPN Environment Group is network of church groups concerned to promote care for our common home in the Church. The group meets 3 times a year. If you would like to know more, receive the minutes or hope to encourage your diocese to introduce a policy, please contact NJPN admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

CHURCHES INVITED TO COMMIT TO FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

Following the Church of England's fossil fuel divestment vote in July Operation Noah is inviting local churches of all denominations to make divestment commitments during the Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October) and beyond. For churches without existing investments in fossil fuels, this would simply involve a pledge not to make such investments in the future. By making a divestment commitment, your local church can send a powerful message about the need for urgent action on climate change as well as keeping up the pressure for national Churches to divest. Operation Noah's 'how to' guide, ***Divest your church***, explains how your church can divest from fossil fuels and outlines the range of alternative investment options available.

More information: <http://brightnow.org.uk/action/divest-your-church-season-of-creation/>

If your church would like to join the divestment announcement at the end of the Season of Creation, please email james.buchanan@operationnoah.org by 12 noon on Monday 1 October. We look forward to hearing from you!

IRISH BISHOPS ANNOUNCE DECISION TO DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS

25 August 2018: The Irish Bishops' Conference has decided to divest from fossil fuels. Bishop William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, read the following statement at a multi-faith service at Christchurch Cathedral on Friday evening:

"Today, on the eve of Pope Francis' historic visit to Ireland, I wish to announce the decision of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference to divest from fossil fuels. The Bishops' Conference has signed the Global Catholic fossil free pledge and today begins the process of divesting its resources from all fossil fuels. In doing so, we are responding directly to Pope Francis' call in his 2015 encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* (on care for our common home) by moving away from fossil fuels "without delay" (paragraph 165).

"Our decision was taken at the Summer 2018 General Meeting of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Meeting in Maynooth. It relates to investments held by the Bishops' Conference at a national level and involves divestment from the top 200 oil and gas companies by reserves within five years.

"As chairman of Trócaire, I am delighted to make today's announcement. Trócaire is to the fore in terms of tackling the disruption that climate change is already causing to our living environment. Over the past decade we have seen more intense storms, devastating floods, prolonged droughts and higher temperatures. The impact in terms of human suffering to families is devastating. Climate change is already leading to forced migration, separation of families and increased pressure on resources. Girls and women are often in the front line of this added burden.

"Avoiding further climate change and protecting our common home requires a major change in direction, as Pope Francis outlines in *Laudato Si'*. In particular, it requires a major shift in our energy and investment policies away from highly polluting fossil fuels towards cleaner renewable energy. Our announcement, whilst modest in terms of financial resources, is more than just symbolic. It is about joining the growing social movement, led by young people across the world, calling for the realignment of our financial policies to safeguard their future. It makes good sense and it is the least that we can offer our future generations. Together with our brothers and sisters in the Church of Ireland, and with many Religious Congregations in Ireland that have already divested, we now call on all faith organisations at home and abroad to consider joining the global divestment movement."

A growing number of Catholic organisations have committed to divestment. They include Caritas Internationalis, a Vatican-affiliated humanitarian assistance organization, Catholic banks with €7.5 billion on their balance sheets, and dozens of religious orders and lay movements. 95 Catholic organisations, including six Irish Religious Congregations, have made divestment commitments to date.

Today's announcement follows a number of significant decisions in Ireland around fossil fuel divestment. Trinity College Dublin, Maynooth University and The National University of Ireland, Galway, have made similar commitments. Last June Dáil Éireann passed a private members bill which, if passed through the Seanad, will see the country become the first to fully divest its sovereign wealth fund (Irish Strategic Investment Fund) from all fossil fuels, and preclude future such investment by law. In May the Church of Ireland General Synod made a decision to divest its resources from fossil fuels.

On 9 June 2018 Pope Francis met with senior oil executives in the Vatican. The Holy Father said in his address, "The Paris Agreement clearly urged keeping most fossil fuels underground ... Civilisation requires energy, but energy must not destroy civilisation." <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35504>

'AID MUST NOT BE USED TO SIMPLY OIL WHEELS OF BRITISH BUSINESS'

Source: Christian Aid, 28 August 2018

Commenting on Prime Minister Theresa May's speech this morning in Cape Town, pledging £4 billion in support for African economies, Christine Allen, director of policy and public affairs at Christian Aid, said:

"Aid must not be used to simply oil the wheels of British business, but instead should prioritise the needs of those it is intended to benefit - the poorest and most marginalised. Africa has indeed suffered from lack of investment. But it is important to remember that, historically, it is domestic investment and public finance that has created the type of development that best serves those in need.

"Christian Aid believes UK investment into Africa must meet key principles, including creating decent jobs, a near-zero carbon economy, increased tax collection to pay for precious public services and reduced inequality. Small and medium sized businesses are the engines of innovation and job creation across Africa and we should be seeking to support such enterprises and avoid any possible 'crowding out'.

"Africa as a continent is already facing some of the worst impacts of climate change. Any economic development path must be clean and green. The City of London has a poor track record of investment - banks on the UK delegation are among the largest lenders to polluting coal plants - so the PM should ensure there are clear guidelines to bring about rapid divestment from fossil fuel infrastructure and instead support renewables and promote energy access for the poor. Aid has been marred for years by donor countries putting their own priorities ahead of the needs of the countries and people who should benefit from that aid. This distorts the purpose of aid and while there may be some areas of overlapping interests, progress does not always involve 'win-wins'. It would be wrong to put British interests first in ways that harm the poorest. Any attempts to do so will raise questions about how aid policy is being developed and in whose interests.

"It's far from clear that huge multinational companies need incentives and subsidies from the UK aid budget to invest in Africa - we must be very careful aid is not used to help export failed investment models such as public private partnerships that are costly, create debt and do not meet the needs of the poor. The purpose of aid, enshrined in law, is to tackle poverty. The answer to Africa's problems must be rooted in global solidarity and self-determination, not in a renewed form of imperialism."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35530>

THREE FUNERALS: WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM A LIFE WELL-LIVED

Jim Wallis 6 September 2018

I saw three funerals last week; I went to two and watched the other one on television. For me, they all had lessons and questions for America's future. The best funeral services are not only about the past, but also about the future.

I attended John McCain's funeral at Washington National Cathedral, a place where I have been many times before. This time, I sat in the north balcony, with a good view of the pulpits and speakers, and a clear view of the south transept where the senators sat together (more on that in a moment).

I must confess how hard it was for me to be there. I spent much of my early life as a student and young person trying to stop the war in Vietnam, which devastated my generation, bitterly divided the nation, and destroyed the morality of American foreign policy. The Vietnam War was based on lies — lies about why and how we got into that war, lies about the history of Vietnam and Indochina, lies about the chances of winning the war, and lethal lies about why we kept fighting it long after our leaders knew we couldn't win it. The cost in lives was 58,000 Americans killed, 3.3 million Vietnamese killed, 153,000 Americans and countless Vietnamese seriously wounded, and untold numbers of people traumatised for the rest of their lives. McCain fought that war and always defended it, was shot down over Hanoi while bombing the city and its people, then held for 5 ½ years as a prisoner of war. As many have testified, those years seemed to have deepened his life and values. Refusing the chance of early release to stay with his fellow prisoners, his time serving gave him a sense of purpose bigger than himself — something all need to learn.

I also spent endless days trying to stop the war in Iraq, then dealing with the consequences of it since. It was a war that John McCain also uncritically and unapologetically supported. The Iraq War was also based on lies — lies that killed so many people unnecessarily, further destabilized the whole Middle East region, and ultimately increased, not decreased, the scope and danger of terrorism in our world. The war ultimately failed — as many of us faith leaders warned that it would. Many of the tributes to John McCain at his funeral service pointed to the several times that McCain admitted and apologized for his mistakes — which is true and admirable — but he never apologized for being wrong about the two biggest mistakes in American foreign policy history.

That needing to be said, I was still moved by many of the tributes to Sen. John McCain that were made at his impressive service. They spoke of his independence, willingness to speak to moral issues he believed important, like torture, even against his own party and even presidents. McCain showed a willingness to work with other senators across the aisle to try to find solutions together — for example, giving his thumbs down against destroying the Affordable Care Act, saying it could be fixed without taking health care away from millions of people. I admired him for his ability to listen to and respect his colleagues and even political adversaries, showing humour and humility when necessary; his eagerness and capacity to learn; his willingness to stand up for principles and values; his commitment to public service even to the point of suffering; and, perhaps mostly, for wanting to put his country ahead of himself.

The dramatic power of the National Cathedral service, as many have pointed out, created a deep moral contrast made between the man Sen. John McCain was, and the man Donald J. Trump isn't. That radical character comparison was choreographed into the service by McCain himself, and was led off dramatically by his daughter Meghan's first tribute. President Barack Obama pitted the big ideas of America he said McCain held to against how "small" the politics of this moment are, and President George W. Bush followed by imagining John McCain whispering over all of our shoulders saying America is "better than this."

But given where I was sitting, I couldn't help watching the senators during that 2 ½ hour service. There they sat in a bipartisan way given the seating chart McCain had mandated. Because Trump was the unspoken name in the room, I wondered what would happen if the Cathedral audience would have voted on the impeachment of Donald Trump based on the virtues, opposed to their vices, named during the service. I think they would. But I also wondered whether two-thirds of the senators — what would be ultimately needed to convict of impeachment — would vote to do. I don't think they would because, in the end, politics still tragically trumps all the values lifted up that day in the National Cathedral. And I fear that remains tragically true, even after more revelations this week from Bob Woodward's new book and an anonymous op-ed in the New York Times by a "senior official" inside the administration continue to confirm that Donald Trump is morally, mentally, and emotionally unfit to be the president of the United States. Therefore, the most dangerous historical combination of Trump's recklessness and the Congress's repeated unwillingness to do their constitutional job has put our country and the world in great peril.

Being a Detroit boy, I had to watch the many hours of the funeral service for Aretha Franklin, remembered by the nation last week as the Queen of Soul. I grew up in Motown where our lives were shaped by so many of the young artists who began singing in their African-American churches and eventually shaped the rest of American music. In what became an extraordinary going home service in her father's home church, everyone testified how the voice of Aretha Franklin rose above all the others of her generation (and perhaps for many to come), and how she used music to sing to our very souls emotionally, spiritually, and politically. She did it all — from gospel, soul, rhythm and blues, jazz, and even opera. Since she died, the country has learned more of her life and how the lyrics of her songs were the lyrics of a people determined to claim their place in this nation. Respect is what Aretha Franklin asked for and demanded on behalf of all African Americans and all women and all of us who believe that being an American ought to mean something.

What moved me so much throughout the day was the sense of history, a history of oppression and suffering and liberation with the voices — hers and many other historical voices that were lifted up throughout the service — of the music and oratory that has led our country to freedom, a freedom fight that is clearly still going on. The small man who was laid bare during the McCain service also made it into this service with his reaction to the news of Aretha's death, saying she used to "work for me." The response to Trump's comment produced not only many gems of prophetic criticism, but his personal and presidential smallness in so many ways was powerfully contrasted by how large the voice and legacy of Aretha Franklin was and will continue to be.

I couldn't listen to Aretha's voice, and those of all who came to speak and sing for her, without putting it in context of the history of freedom that those who are politically in charge of America are now deliberately trying to roll back, even while a new generation of black lives are lifting their voices now with their own power and determination. "Keep singing" was a strong message, but so was "keep voting," and "keep organising." And the voice of Aretha Franklin will help us keep doing all three.

The third funeral I went to last week was for a personal friend, a baseball umpire who I had worked with for 22 seasons as a Little League baseball coach. Hundreds of people showed up to celebrate the life of Andre Presser, and the stories from one person after another became the real eulogy for a man who had made countless people feel loved, protected, and cared for. I said that Andre was the umpire who loved everyone on the field and showed it. Both of my own two baseball sons remember him well (Andre always asked about them after they moved beyond Little League), and some testified that Andre was the best coach and mentor they had ever had — both on and off the field. We remembered this most loving father and friend with many not being able to hold back tears.

During this week of funerals, I felt such gratitude for a great man like Andre Presser, who wouldn't be nationally recognised, but will be remembered by countless people as one who helped to shape and change so many lives. May we all live with that as our goal — to inspire and serve those we encounter, regardless of the scale.

<https://sojo.net/articles/three-funerals>

RECLAIM THE POWER

26 September at 13:12: *"This won't break us, we will come out stronger. Some may view us as victims, but we refuse to be victimised by this. The real victims will be future generations suffering preventable disasters caused by climate change. Our friends and fellow campaigners outside will continue to fight for a ban on fracking and for a just transition to a renewable and democratically owned energy system"* - Roscoe, one of the Frack Free Four.

Today four brave protesters have been sentenced to prison for their part in stopping the fracking industry. They are the first anti-fracking protesters to be jailed in the UK in nearly twenty years. Today's outcome is a disproportionate use of an archaic law and is a blow to our democratic right to protest, but the fight against fracking will continue.

We were sent this video by the Frack Free Four support crew who asked us to share it.

Play Video: https://facebook.com/story.php?story.fbid=29956663754120&id=301820216584422&_rd=1

More info on how to donate or send messages of support to the four at: www.frackfreefoursupporters.org

NEW J&P APPOINTMENTS

Welcome to: **Paul Bodenham**, new J&P Fieldworker for Nottingham Diocese. Paul is a long time campaigner for the environment through Green Christian. Read more about him in Nottingham J&P's newsletter '*Just Now*' via the website link: justice-and-peace.org.uk/nottingham/.

Tessa Ricketts, who takes up responsibility for Social Action and Justice and Peace in Arundel & Brighton Diocese.

Aisling Griffin, new Schools and Youth Education worker at Pax Christi, is looking forward to working with young people to promote peace, non-violence and reconciliation. You can get in touch at education@paxchristi.org.uk or follow her work on Twitter at [@PaxChristiYouth](https://twitter.com/PaxChristiYouth)

KEY J&P JOB VACANCIES

ADMINISTRATOR NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK

15 Hours per week, from 1 January 2019

Due to the retirement of our current post holder, NJPN seeks to recruit an Administrator to support the work of the Network: arranging meetings; networking with members and partnership organisations; developing effective communications between members and the wider public; co-ordinating the Annual Conference, guided and supported by the Executive Committee of NJPN.

A good knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching and an understanding of Church organisations is required. Some travel within England & Wales will be necessary. Although the NJPN office is in London, some flexibility is possible with regard to the place of work. Salary: £26,227 pro rata (including London allowance) Closing date for applications: 5 pm Monday 15 October 2018

Further details: Download the Application Pack from our website: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or contact Kevin Burr (Company Secretary) Email: kevin@the-burrs.co.uk Tel: 07947 773 106

DIRECTOR PAX CHRISTI UK

Dear friends, we have decided to undertake another round of advertising for our Director role. PLEASE help us. Take a look at the role, which we are prepared to consider as a job-share. Do you know of people who could fulfil the tasks/work with us? If so please share with them. This is also on the Guardian On-line Jobs website and other media outlets.

See here: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/work-for-us/> and below.

The British section of Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace and a membership organisation, is seeking a Director to be responsible for developing, implementing and coordinating the work of Pax Christi and taking forward its strategic plan to 2022 and beyond. Applications on a job share basis considered.

Are you an effective communicator across diverse audiences, with deep knowledge and understanding of Christian peacemaking? Can you think creatively and strategically and make clear decisions? Do you work well in a team, enabling others to make the best of themselves? Do you have budget and line management experience? Do you have an ability to respond to national and international demands of peacemaking? The post holder will be a committed Catholic. This could be the job for you. The salary will be in the range of £38,000 to £42,000 and is a permanent position with a six month probationary period. The role will involve significant UK and some international travel and working outside core hours. Start date February 2019

TRAIDCRAFT – SAD NEWS

Many of you will be Traidcraft Supporters, and will have been shocked and saddened to hear of their recent news. Poppy Pickard (Green Christian's Web-designer) has been fair trader for about 27 years and cares passionately about how they are doing. She gives a shortened message that was sent to Traidcraft friends and volunteers by the CEO Robin Roth.

"Traidcraft plc's recent trading has been poor, and despite enormous efforts to reverse the company's performance we have not yet succeeded. Traidcraft plc's assets remain considerably greater than its liabilities, and while this remains the case the Board of Directors believe it is prudent to close our current loss-making trading operations. Traidcraft plc's mission to put the principles of fair trade into commercial practice is not, in any sense, fulfilled but we appreciate that it is time to consider new approaches. We are very much aware of the impact that this will have on our producer friends. Over the years we have built up personal and trusting relationships with many organisations and we deeply regret that these will be coming to an end. We are communicating with all our partners to see if we can help them transfer their business to other organisations.

Traidcraft plc continues trading as usual through the autumn and to the end of 2018. Our final autumn craft collection is one of the best we have produced with artisans throughout the world contributing. We look forward to working with all our supporters right through the season, and we would like to invite our customers to help us end our current trading operations with our best season ever. All products can be purchased online at the Traidcraft Shop <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk>

We are the sort of business that pays up front – that's in our nature as an ethical business. So when the pound fell after the Brexit referendum, we took a hit. We also stand by our published prices, so unlike other retailers we stood by our customers, absorbed a lot of the additional cost, and kept price rises to a minimum." A 'disappointing' online relaunch failed to revive the trading figures, prompting the Traidcraft board to propose ceasing trade at the end of the year unless a sustainable alternative can be found. Although the business side is facing closure, the charity arm, Traidcraft Exchange, will continue its work of campaigning for trade justice in the UK. All 68 of the staff who work for the business division at Traidcraft HQ in Gateshead are facing redundancy. Traidcraft has now launched a consultation into its future and is inviting supporters to get in touch with their ideas for a new model by emailing lovetraidcraft@traidcraft.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29 September-5 October Good Money Week www.goodmoneyweek.com

OCTOBER

Black History Month www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

4 Life Today for Christians in Iraq and Pakistan ACN talk 7:30pm The Catholic Chaplaincy, Lancaster University LA1 4YW

5 Harvest Family Fast Day

5 And the Beat Goes On..... A short drama performed by The Journeyman Theatre Company charting over 300 years of Quaker Nonviolent Direct Action, from the early Abolitionists, through Quakers living in Nazi Germany and Jean Zaru in Palestine to Trident Ploughshares in the 21st century. Doors open pm. Start 7.30 pm. Chester Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham Street, Chester CH1 3LF Admission free. Tel: 01244 316554

5 Aid to the Church in Need Q & A for Secondary Schools 1-2:30pm St Columba's, Chester CH2 1SA

To register for the schools' event in Chester, please email [Bridget Teasdale](mailto:bridget.teasdale@acnuk.org) bridget.teasdale@acnuk.org

6 ACN's Annual North-West Benefactors' Mass at 12 noon Shrewsbury Cathedral, SY1 1TE, followed by refreshments.

6 Chester Friends of Palestine, street campaigning 10.30am -12.30pm. Meet up by Eastgate Clock, Chester. Further information: ChesterFriendsofPalestine@hotmail.com

An Afternoon of **Talks on the Suffering Church**, focusing on Christians in Iraq and Pakistan 3pm St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1SA organized by ACN

7 HOMELESS SUNDAY IS MOVING DATES - After consulting with partners and supporters, we've decided to move Homeless Sunday to a new date this year, to coincide with the beginning of the winter season for church and community night shelters. www.housingjustice.org.uk

9 Time out on Tuesdays an ecumenical quiet day for everyone at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW 10am – 4pm Cost £10

10 World Homelessness Day www.worldhomelessnessday.org

10 World Mental Health Day www.mentalhealth.org.uk

13-21 End Hunger Week. Worship materials, petition sheets and other resources: <http://endhungeruk.org/churches/>

14 Canonisation of Archbishop Oscar Romero in Rome romerotrue.org.uk

14 'Singing for Justice; Singing for Peace' 4pm Hoole URC Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT A 'Songs of Praise' type service, organised by the Chester Christian Aid Committee. Speakers from the Cathedral will talk of their recent visit to Malawi and the time they spent with one of CA's Partners. Retiring collection for CA's Harvest Appeal. Contact 01244 638441.

14-21 Prisoners Sunday prisonadvice.org.uk; 0207 735 9535 and **Prisons Week** www.prisonweek.org

14-21 Week of Prayer for World Peace www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com 0208 968 4340

17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty unmeditation.org/october.cfm#idep

19 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £3.00 (children £1). All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fund raising project. Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419

21-28 One World Week: The world is changing - How about us? www.oneworldweek.org

23 Celebration of the canonisation of Oscar Romero Salford Cathedral. Mass at 12.10pm. Celebrant Bishop John Arnold. The mass will be followed by refreshments and a short talk at 1.30pm on *Romero's Legacy* by Steve Atherton, Liverpool Archdiocese J&P worker, who visited El Salvador in November 2017. Please book by phone or email with CAFOD/Caritas Salford on 0161 705 0605 or email annwilson@cafod.org.uk or tel 0161 817 2263 email info@caritassalford.org.uk

23 Time out on Tuesdays an ecumenical quiet day for everyone at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW 10am – 4pm Cost £10

24 United Nations Day unmeditation.org/

24 Chester to Newport Peace Train - an event being organised by the Hereford Peace Council to ask Parliament to ensure that the UK becomes a signatory to the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. A number of the Hereford Peace Council and supporters will ride a regularly scheduled Arriva train on the South Wales/North Wales line from Chester to Newport. At each stop along the route, they will collect any written messages and add them to the 'mail bag'. Messages from Chester will be delivered to the Peace Train at the entrance to Chester station. Chester CND will organise an opportunity for a press photograph as we hand over our letters to the Hereford Group, important for reaching out to the public here. Contact Dai Owen, Joint Convenor Chester CND on 01244 679051 or email chestercnd@gmail.com

27 Irenaeus Come & See Day Maricourt High School, Maghull L31 3DZ. Keynote speaker Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, workshops by Fr Chris Thomas, Eileen T Snow, and Dr Karen Groves. For a booking form email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or phone 0151 949 1199

NOVEMBER – CAFOD CAMPAIGN EVENTS

CAFOD has three opportunities to come to its Campaign Retreat *Countering Consumerism* – all events from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays in November this year:

3 November in Liverpool: Sandymount House of Prayer, 16 Burbo Bank Road, Blundellsands, Crosby, Liverpool L23 6TH

17 November in Lancaster: Boarbank Hall, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH. or

24 November in Salford: Wardley Hall, Wardley Hall Rd, Worsley, Manchester M28 2ND

The day is built around Pope Francis' encyclical *Gaudete et Exsultate*. Please bring some food for a shared lunch. The day is free but donations would be welcome. For further details and to book your place online, visit this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/countering-consumerism-lessons-from-gaudete-et-exsultate-registration-47461730313>

Ged Edwards, Community Participation Co-ordinator – CAFOD, CAFOD Liverpool Volunteer Centre, 27 Crofton Road, Liverpool, Merseyside L13 5UJ 0151 228 4028 or 07779 804 241 gedwards@cafod.org.uk

OTHER DIARY DATES IN NOVEMBER

2-4 'Women Stand Tall' weekend for women led by Sr Moira Meeghan at The Irenaeus Project 32 Great Georges Road. For a booking form email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or phone 0151 949 1199

3 CAFOD Family Fast Day Briefing 7pm - 8pm St Joseph's Parish House, St Joseph Catholic Church, Slyne Road, Skerton, Lancaster, LA1 2HU

3 CAFOD Lancaster Memorial Mass 6pm St Patrick's Catholic Church, 22 St. Johns Road, Morecambe, LA3 1EX
lancaster@cafod.org.uk

3 CAFOD Salford Memorial Mass 12 noon at St Mary's, Duke Street Denton M34 2AN. Contact CAFOD in Salford on 0161 705 0605 or salford@cafod.org.uk for more details

3 Conference: "Palestine: Reframing the Debate" 10am-4pm Chester venue to be confirmed. This day for Palestine, organised by Stop the War Coalition, Chester, will involve speakers from a wide variety of political, religious, media, academic, social justice, NGO and civil society backgrounds, who help explore ways to promote peace and justice for the Palestinian people. Opportunities for networking and workshops will be included in the programme. Further info: joseph.oneill777@gmail.com

10 Autumn Fiesta Festival of Food, Music and Family Activities 10.30am – 3pm St Thomas Church Lancaster to raise Awareness and funds for Refugee and Asylum Seekers Groups

10 CAFOD AnneSoup Lunch 12 noon – 1.30pm Our Lady & St Edward's Parish Centre, 4 Malborough Drive, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9UE lancaster@cafod.org.uk

11 Remembrance Sunday <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/remembrance-2018/>

11-18 Interfaith Week interfaithweek.org 020 7730 0410

13 Chester World Development Forum Speaker local firefighter Anthony McCarthy on his ongoing work with the project in Nepal *Classrooms in the Clouds*. www.classroomsintheclouds.org The Unity Centre, Cuppin St, Chester CH1 2BN. 6.45-9pm

16 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £3.00 (children £1). All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fund raising project. Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419

17 CAFOD Lancaster retreat 10am-4pm Augustinian Sisters, Convent, Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH All welcome. Lunch provided. Pope Francis, in his new letter *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad)*, challenges us to be disturbed by faith, challenge the culture of consumerism and respond to a profound invitation to care for our common home. Pope Francis asks us to find time for our own holiness. Come to a CAFOD retreat and explore your own holiness. This autumn, take time out of your routine to explore scripture and Church teaching. Come and be inspired by one another, CAFOD's campaigning and our work overseas. Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/countering-consumerism-lessons-from-gaudete-et-exsultate-registration-47461730313>

17 Church Action on Poverty Conference Manchester church-poverty.org.uk/conference 0161 872 9294

17 NJPN Open Networking Day London 10.30-1.30

18 World Day of the Poor csan.org.uk 020 7281 0297

19 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church csw.org.uk 020 8329 0010

23 Chester Friends of Palestine Advance notice of meeting with Chris Matheson MP, details to follow

27 Time out on Tuesdays an ecumenical quiet day for everyone at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW 10am – 4pm Cost £10

28 Red Wednesday Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is asking people all over the UK to take a stand for Faith and Religious Freedom by marking Red Wednesday on 28 November. There are lots of ways for individuals, schools and parishes to get involved; to find out more, please visit ACN's website: <https://acnuk.org/red-wednesday-2018/> ACN's NW office has #TimeToSeeRed glasses to give away to participating schools and parishes in NW England and North Wales. Get in touch to find out more! Aid to the Church in Need 01524 388739 nw.office@acnuk.org

DECEMBER

1 World AIDS Day National AIDS Trust worldaidsday.org

10 UN Human Rights Day unmeditation.org/

18 International Migrants Day un.org/en/events/migrantsday

30 Sunday Worship led by Sarah Teather, Jesuit Refugee Service Radio 4 8am-10am

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.
- Sign up for comprehensive weekly e-bulletins from National J&P Network (plus copies of this newsletter and back issues) and resources at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or contact admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk 0207 901 4864

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN