



*You rule forever, Lord,
and you are on your
throne, ready for
judgement.*

*You judge the world
fairly and treat all
nations with justice.*

*The poor can run to you
because you are a fortress
in times of trouble.*

*Everyone who honours
your name can trust you,
because you are faithful
to all who depend on you.*

Ps 9: 7-10
The Poverty and Justice Bible

*A Sabbath
for the Earth
and the Poor:
The Challenge of
Pope Francis*



J&P Conference 2017
21-23 July

The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

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Port Chaplain Reflects on *Laudato Si'*

I am a chaplain for the Apostleship of the Sea, based in the largest UK cargo port of Immingham.

Our charity is dedicated to the needs of the people of the sea, who spend months away from their families making a living in one of the world's harshest environments. The sea can be a cruel and unforgiving workplace, accidents and deaths often occur at sea but many of the problems we come across concern matters of justice. Often crews go unpaid for months, and conditions on some ships are appalling and dehumanising. We sometimes come across ships where there is little or no food. Seafarers are a people very much on the margins.



In his short pontificate Pope Francis has given hope to those who are on the margins of society for whatever reason - an inspiration to those who dare to serve them. There seem to be two principal themes that run through all that he says and does:-

- The need for the Church to be more open, outwardly directed.
- And the need to keep the poor at the very heart of the Church's concern.

Even before he was elected Pope he made it clear that the time had come for a new vision, a new understanding of Church

He spoke of the need for the Church to "come out of herself" and to go to the "peripheries." He warned that whenever the Church "does not come out of herself... she becomes self-referential and then gets sick."

Evangelii Gaudium laid down the markers for what was to follow, and perhaps the culmination of this is *Laudato Si'*, surely a prophetic document of this age when the world is heavily laden with anxiety and uncertainty. We have an American President to think climate change is a hoax and he wants to disband the Environmental Protection

Agency. It seems that years of painstaking discussion, analysis and cajoling of the unconvinced, could be swept away at the whim of a man oblivious to the cry of nature.

Laudato Si' takes its title from the first words of the Canticum of Saint Francis, in praise of the wonders of creation.

Pope Francis explicitly states that "*Laudato Si'*" is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching" (No. 15).

In its construction Francis uses some of the foundations of Catholic Social Teaching, based upon the "common good," in laying out his thinking here. He always seems to a Pope in a hurry and certainly *Laudato Si'* is filled with a sense of urgency that we recognise our responsibilities as custodians of "our common home" before it is too late.

It would do the work a great disservice to try to summarise its contents in the space provided. However it may be appropriate to highlight just one of its points:-

A spiritual viewpoint is a valid element in any discussion on the environment.

Usually discussion of the environment has used the language of politics and science. With this new encyclical, the language of faith enters the discussion in a way that seeks to integrate the spiritual perspective, and not to see it merely as an add on. He invites all of us to see creation as a holy and precious gift from God entrusted to our care.

Francis cries out to us to take this charge seriously. Throughout the encyclical, he affirms that the poor and least represented are the ones who suffer most from environmental change. Throughout, the Pope appeals to the Gospels, to Catholic social teaching and to the statements of recent popes, to persuade us that nobody is excluded from the fruits of creation. He repeatedly calls for an appreciation of the "immense dignity of the poor"

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. [14]

Fr Colum Kelly, Apostleship of the Sea

Sea Sunday 2017 will be celebrated on Sunday 9th July

On Sea Sunday the Catholic Church, along with other churches, remembers seafarers and prays for them, their families and those who support them. It is Apostleship of the Sea's principal fundraising and awareness raising event of the year.

To help celebrate Sea Sunday, you will find more information and resources at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/sea-sunday.

Speaking Personally: Julian Filochowski

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

My commitment grew and developed over time. Being part of the 'Sodality of Our Lady' (a precursor of Christian Life Communities) at my Jesuit grammar school in Leeds, I was introduced to See-Judge-Act. There I discovered social action as integral to Catholic faith and I became 'an activist' – a badge I still wear proudly. At University in the 60s, 'God is Love' and the text of 1 John 4: 20 became engraved on my soul. Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio*, characterised by the Wall Street Journal as 'souped-up Marxism', had a significant impact on me. And somehow an emerging awareness of the so-called underdeveloped world led me to voluntary service in Guatemala with CIIR. This changed me profoundly.

Seeing the desperate poverty and malnutrition in the indigenous Mayan communities and witnessing the gross injustice in their miserable conditions on the coffee estates and sugar plantations hit me in the guts. It not only evoked compassion but I began to understand that aid projects and volunteering were simply not enough. Genuine love, to be meaningful, had to be effective. Effective love in the context of the Third World required the pursuit of justice together with the empowerment of the poor communities themselves to secure their human dignity and fundamental rights. I had inadvertently stumbled upon social analysis. I embraced Paulo Freire's conscientisation methodology as a critical key to change, and the newly-emerging liberation theology as an intellectual anchor.

In 1973, I joined CIIR's London team working on development education and human rights. I dallied with - and rejected - far left politics. I stood for Parliament in 1979 as a Labour candidate and lost my deposit. In CIIR, and subsequently in CAFOD, I encountered literally dozens of inspiring figures from every corner of the world, working for God's kingdom - tackling poverty and struggling for justice. My own commitment matured. But the process of discernment is never done!

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

Leaving aside the failed neoliberal economic model that drives globalisation, the accelerating inequality in Britain, and the colossal challenges surrounding migration and refugees, I look at my own direct involvements:-

I work with others through the Romero Trust to try to embed into our Church life and ecclesial culture 'a faith that does justice' in the style of Pope Francis. This is principally through seeking the recognition of Oscar Romero as a saint of the universal Church, a model Christian and an ecumenical icon who embodied in his ministry and martyrdom an option for the poor, a commitment to non-violence and a profound spirituality. I collaborate with the Guyana Region of the Jesuits in the promotion of Pan Amazon ecclesial responses to the destruction of the environment, the impoverishment of the indigenous peoples and the violations of their rights by mining companies, mega development schemes and even public authorities.

I am part of an informal interagency grouping looking at how the justice, peace and social service charisms can helpfully be fostered amongst the next generations and what resources or initiatives might assist them to flourish.



What sustains you in your commitment?

My faith in God – that is God's solemn promise that the evil b**tards of this world will NOT have the last word. One of my two personal mottos is '*Non illegitimis carborundum*'.

The witness and the indomitable spirit of Oscar Romero; and the integrity, courage and dedication of other contemporary iconic figures like Maria Julia Hernandez, Helder

Camara, Maura O'Donohue, Denis Hurley, and Mildred Neville. They give me strength and hope - and in the darker moments they revive my drooping spirits!

Crucially, my companions on this faith and justice journey; we support, energise and occasionally carry one another.

What are your hopes for a Church like ours for the 21st century?

"In the beginning was the Word..." For me it's the word 'compassion'. Pope Francis continually highlights the word 'mercy' as the hallmark of the true Church. My prayer is that the whole Church will be seen to embrace that word of compassion and mercy and live it. Right teaching (orthodoxy) without right action (orthopraxis) is empty and void - as Pope Benedict once remarked.

My second motto is '*Honourably Catholic – Honourably Gay*'. There has been a gradual positive shift in the Church's attitude to lesbian, gay and trans people. But there is still a long way to go. The medical and scientific world has virtually unanimously accepted that homosexuality is a naturally-occurring, non-pathological minority variant on the human condition appearing regularly in the population. Once it is accepted that it is not a voluntarily chosen perversion and gay people are not simply defective heterosexuals to be "cured", then the Natural Law leads to different conclusions from the presuppositions that form the basis of the Church's current official teaching. But changed teaching will be the last stage - just as in the case of the divorced and remarried.

However, changed understandings, changed attitudes, changed language, changed pastoral practice are beginning to happen - and should be happening everywhere. LGBT people still suffer violence, open discrimination, bullying in schools and elsewhere, and high suicide rates – not to mention imprisonment and even capital punishment in a handful of countries - not just Chechnya. So, there is a real justice issue here - and sadly, too often, it is the elephant in the room at progressive Christian gatherings.

An end to the hateful diatribes from Taliban Catholics in the blogosphere would be a welcome blessing. We yearn for unity in the Church but not uniformity: we are many flames – but one single fire. Together we constitute that 'travelling wandering race', the rambling shambling pilgrim People of God. *Laus Deo Semper.*

Julian Filochowski: born 1947 in Normanton, Yorkshire; Director of CAFOD 1982-2003; awarded OBE and CMG for 'Services to International Development' and honorary doctorates from the UCA San Salvador and from Roehampton University; co-Founder and Chair of Archbishop Romero Trust; lives in Hackney, London.

Romero Pilgrimage to El Salvador: 13–25 November 2017

Pilgrimage to the holy places associated with the martyrs of El Salvador. Led by Clare Dixon, Julian Filochowski and Bishop John Rawsthorne. Full details from Anthony Coles, Pilgrimage Organiser, at arct@btinternet.com, 0207 431 3414. Cost including flights, food, accommodation and all local travel is £1699 per person. Book now—list closes in June!

Not Just a Crooked Spire

Readers of Justice and Peace news may well know about the Crooked Spire at Chesterfield. You can see it from trains passing up and down the Sheffield-Derby line. But is there anything else of note in Chesterfield? Yes there is. For one thing, most of the churches in Chesterfield itself are linked together quite harmoniously in Christians Together for Chesterfield. There is a common notice board in the town centre, with smaller copies of it appearing now on or in member churches. Even smaller versions of the common signage are on a shared visiting card, designed for presentation to new residents, whether in new-build properties or where there is a change of owner or tenant.



Like lots of other places, we have our Street Pastors, but now also School Pastors, who are having a part in raising the respect and reputation of a modest high school. Some of the same people are hosting an open youth club which attracts up to 90 youngsters on a Friday evening.

Predating the start of Christians Together by over 150 years is our Christian Education Chesterfield and its annual Whit Walk. Sunday Schools are not what they were, but our Whit Walk brings hundreds out in a colourful procession round the town.

Another part of CTFC is Chesterfield Christian Action (once termed Churches Association for Social Work – CASW). It has an overview of the numerous pieces of social outreach – the Foodbank, the Church on the Bus, the Soup Kitchens, Gussie's Kitchen and Roofstop Trust (which pays for some B&B for needy folk).

A recent initiative has been an Interfaith Forum, in which Pagans, Mormons, Moslems, various Christians, a Humanist and a Moonie share their religious experience and belief.

And we are playing a part in welcoming 4 Syrian refugee families, alongside the local Stand up to Racism group.

And do we pray and worship together? Yes, but 'not a lot'. There is a splendid Songs of Praise event each January, full of testimony and wholesome narratives alongside lusty singing of a range of Christian music. We have had prayer walks, and we shall play a part in the THY KINGDOM COME period from Ascension to Pentecost, concluding with festal evensong under that famous Crooked Spire.

A quietly effective shared ministry is in the circulation of information by email and other social media. Special events, job vacancies, arrivals and departures of parsons – all can be made known to anyone who lets their email address be known.

We are some way short of fulfilling the bible challenge to be One. But Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, URC and Pentecostal and Evangelical are all making common cause.

Rev Paul King, Chair, Chesterfield Christian Action

Farewells and Welcomes

We bid farewell to **Alison Gelder**, CEO of Housing Justice and former member of NJPN Exec. Alison has been walking to Rome with husband Ian.



..And welcome the new team at Housing Justice

Kathy Mohan (CEO)

and **Jacob Quagliozzi** (Deputy Director)



It's farewell too to **David Jenkins**, Administrator to Birmingham J&P Commission since 2008. We wish him well in his retirement.

A new Administrator is in the process of being appointed.

Brian Davies made Papal Knight

After two decades as Head of Development Education at CAFOD and many years of service to the Birmingham Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission and to Interfaith Dialogue, Brian Davies, 83, was invested as a Knight of St Gregory on 2 April. "We are drawing attention to the good things Brian has done with CAFOD and Justice and Peace", said celebrant Bishop Kenney, "and through these things God is shown to our world - that God's kingdom is among us".

See full report at

www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32265

Action Highlights Summer into Autumn 2017

See the Diary on p4 for more details

Celebrations for the **centenary of Bl Oscar Romero's birth** continue, as part of this the NJPN Networking Day in September will combine with attending a special Evensong at Westminster Abbey. The national **Great Get Together** gives us an opportunity to celebrate what we have in common. Other highlights for June (apart from the **General Election**) are **Refugee Week** and day of support for **Victims of Torture**—organise a vigil with resources from ACAT. Mark the **Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries** in August. Over the summer there are conferences, summer schools, festivals and retreats to energise you for getting back into campaigning in the autumn, with the DSEi **Arms Fair** on the agenda, **Creation Time** (watch out for resources from NJPN Environment Group on our website), **Harvest Fast Day**, and preparing for Weeks for—**Peace in Palestine and Israel**, **Prisoners**, of **Prayer for World Peace** and **One World Week** in October. And start thinking about the **World Day of the Poor** in November, 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time.



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JUNE

- 3 Pax Christi AGM: London: paxchristi.org.uk, 0208 203 4884
- 5 World Environment Day: unep.org/wed
- 7 CAFOD Volunteers celebration: London cafod.org.uk/events/volunteers-celebration, 0207 095 5332
- 9 Westminster J&P visit to N. London Recycling Centre: justice@rcdow.org.uk, 0208 888 4222
- 9-10 Peace History Conference plus exhibition 'People Power: Fighting for Peace': Imperial War Museum London: www.abolishwar.org.uk,
- 9-11 Green Christian Retreat: Suffolk: www.greenchristian.org.uk, 0845 459 8460
- 10 Operation Noah AGM: Birmingham www.operationnoah.org/news/events/, 07804 059 426
- 10 Trumpism Beyond Trump: Bristol www.globaljustice.org.uk/events, 0207 820 4900
- 14 Africa-Europe Faith & Justice Networking Day: London www.aefjn.org.uk
- 16-18 The Great Get Together in honour of Jo Cox: UK wide www.greatgettogether.org
- 18 Day for Life: www.dayforlife.org
- 19-25 Refugee Week: www.refugeeweek.org.uk/
- 20 Refugee Week Vigil at Home Office, London: www.londoncatholicwork.org, 0208 348 8212
- 23-25 Conscience and Peace Tax International Conference: London info@conscienceonline.org.uk, 0203 515 9132
- 24 St Vincent de Paul Society Conference and Mass: Liverpool info@svp.org.uk, 0207 703 3030
- 25 International Day of Prayer Vigils: www.acat.org.uk/internationalprayervigil.php, 01404 814 186
- 26 International Day of Support for Victims of Torture: www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/

CAFOD Masses of Thanksgiving

- 6 June Manchester: Wardley Hall
- 9 June Birmingham: St Dunstan's, Kings Heath
- 10 June London: St Mary Moorfields
- 1 July: Pilgrimage to Holy Island
www.cafod.org.uk/news/events/masses-or-thanksgiving

JULY

- 1 Romero film 'The Claim' first showing: Curzon Cinema London
Tickets from romerotrust@gmail.com
- 1-9 Climate Coalition 'Speak Up' Week of Action: www.theclimatecoalition.org/woa, 0207 802 9989
- 9 Sea Sunday: www.apostleshiofthesea.org

Aid to the Church in Need Portraits of Faith: Syria's Christians Search for Peace:

an exhibition of artworks inspired by the Syrian conflict

- 24-25 June: Lancaster Cathedral
- 1-2 July: Wrexham Cathedral
- 8-9 July: Salford Cathedral
- 15-16 July: Shrewsbury Cathedral
- 22-23 July: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral
www.acnuk.org/events.php/460/, 01524 388 739

- 21-23 **Annual J&P Conference:** Swanwick, Derbys.
- 22-23 'It Starts Here' - preparing for the Arms Fair: London www.caat.org.uk/events, 0207 281 0297
- 24-28 Christians Aware Summer School 'Listen to Africa': Ely www.christiansaware.co.uk/ss.html, 0116 254 0770
- 30 Depaul Charity Ride: Prudential Ride London-Surrey: www.depaulcharity.org/ridelondon2017, 0207 939 1220

AUGUST

- 6&9 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Anniversaries: www.christiancnd.org.uk, 0207 700 4200
- 9 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance: Aylsford Priory Kent: John Caruana 01634 864 179
- 12 12.30 Mass for 100th anniversary of Romero's birth: Southwark RC Cathedral: romerotrust@gmail.com
- 25-28 Greenbelt Festival: Nr Kettering: www.greenbelt.org.uk, 0207 329 0038

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Sept—4 October: Creation Day and Creation Time: www.ctbi.org.uk
- 4-11 Stop the Arms Fair Week of Action: London www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/,
- 5 No Faith in War at DSEI London: www.londoncatholicworker.org, 0208 348 8212
- 4-6 Health Through Peace: York www.medact.org/calendar/, 0207 324 4739
- 17-23 World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel: www.oikoumene.org/
- 21 World Peace Day: www.peaceoneday.org, 0207 456 9180
- 23 **NJPN Open Networking Day:** London—joining with:-
Evensong celebration of Romero centenary: Westminster Abbey: romerotrust@gmail.com

OCTOBER

- 6 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: www.cafod.org.uk
- 8-14 Prisons Sunday & Prisons Week: www.prisonweek.org
- 15-22 Week of Prayer for World Peace www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com, 0208 968 4340
- 22-29 One World Week: www.oneworldweek.org

DONATE TO NJPN: Online at www.cafonline.org, put National Justice and Peace Network in the Find a Charity box; **By cheque** payable to NJPN. **BACS** to NJPN Sort Code:16-31-15 Account No: 10089516, put your name and Donation in the reference field .To make a regular donation by **Standing Order**, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form on the website.

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

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