

What's it all about?

One of the most important documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church and the World (1965) proposed the creation of a body which would "*stimulate the Catholic community to foster progress in needy regions and social justice on the international scene*". The Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace was set up to "*promote justice and peace in the world in the light of the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church*".

In Shrewsbury Diocese, Rt Rev Joseph Gray set up a Justice & Peace Commission in 1984.

Sixteen people have served on the Commission during the past year, supported by a full-time Coordinator.

The Commission has links with the National J&P Network www.justice-and-peace.org.uk, and through that Network with national organisations working for justice and peace.

Current Priorities include :

- Fostering J&P activity by parishes, Local Pastoral Areas (LPAs), and individuals
- Dialoguing with other departments and Commissions of the diocese
- Improving communication
- Engaging with young people
- Reflecting on climate change issues and promoting action and resources within the diocese
- Encouraging greater political engagement
- Monitoring implications of increased migration
- Continuing to promote the work of agencies working for the Common Good
- Continuing to network with other Christian traditions and other faiths
- Creating opportunities for prayer
- Providing opportunities for reflection on Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
- Promoting Craighead Institute 'Integrating Life & Faith Course'

Justice & Peace Commission

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

Chair: Tony Walsh

Elizabeth Barratt

Sue Bownas

(CAFOD Diocesan Manager)

Ged Cliffe

(Treasurer)

Michael Crawley

(Secretary)

Dave Fitton

(Diocesan Youth Ministry
Coordinator)

Ann Gill

Bernice Halson

Bryan Halson

Anne O'Connor

Bernard Payne

(Vice Chair)

Ann Taylor

Marian Thompson

(*MouthPeace* Editor)

Fr Ned Wall

Anne Westmacott

Coordinator: Joan Sharples

16 Wellington Road,

Nantwich

Cheshire CW5 7BH

01270 620584

joansharples620@btinternet.com

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission



REPORT 2010 - 2011

Vision:

A diocese fully engaged with the call of God to be a people of justice and peace.

Purpose:

As Christians, we are called to try to live out God's will.
God calls us to act for the common good and the good of all creation.
The main task of the members of the Commission is to answer that call personally and to engage the diocese in doing likewise, in the light of scripture and Catholic social teaching.

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

In the past year the J&P Commission, through its members and Coordinator, have:

- launched a new and improved website www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk, which allows ready access to J&P resources including liturgy material produced by Anne O'Connor. The website is updated weekly.
- Produced quarterly magazine - **MouthPeace** containing a huge range of topical articles.
- Produced quarterly **QuickNews Network** mailings and a J&P Calendar and contacts list for national organisations working on J&P issues.
- Produced a leaflet **People on the Move: Migration Resources for Reflection and Action** and circulated it to all parishes. (available on website).



- Hosted the **Pax Christi Icon Reconciliation: the Heart of Peace** which visited six parishes and two schools and was used at a J&P Commission Meeting. According to feedback, people found this very moving.
- Promoted the Bishops' Conference document **Choosing the Common Good** through *Quick News Network* mailings and in *Church in the World* articles in *The Shrewsbury Voice* and Led sessions on **Choosing the Common Good** in two parishes.



- Arranged a highly successful focus day **Enough is Enough: A Christian challenge to our current lifestyle**. How can we flourish on a finite planet? attended by 80 people. (Report available on website.)
- Assisted the diocesan group, *Catholics for Racial Harmony*, in organising a **Racial Justice Sunday Mass** (12/9/10) at Holy Family, Sale Moor.
- Organised a **J&P Advent Reflection** "Drop down dew, ye heavens from above" given by Sr Martine Patoir, IBVM at Wistaston Hall.
- 8 people from the diocese attended the National J&P Conference '**Our Daily Bread**' at Swanwick, Derbyshire.
- Involved local schools in the **Altrincham One World Week** event.
- Promoted **CAFOD's work** and attended a CAFOD Energiser Day.
- Co-sponsored a **Progressio** speaker event addressed by Michèle Pierre-Louis, former Prime Minister of Haiti.

- Adopted a **Commission Prayer** (reproduced here)
- Submitted articles to the diocesan newspaper *The Shrewsbury Voice*.
- Held a service to commemorate the thirty-first anniversary of the death of Salvadoran **Archbishop Oscar Romero** at All Saints, Ashton on Mersey (24/3/10).
- Liaised with **School contacts** through the Chaplaincy network.
- Worked with the Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Commission to promote **CEDAR: Catholics Experiencing Domestic Abuse Resources** (cedar.uk.net)
- Promoted the **Craighead Integrating Life & Faith Course** and ran a successful follow-up day for previous participants.
- During the year **new J&P groups** started at Holy Angels, Hale Barns and St Bernadette's, Brinnington.

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission Prayer

We come together
in love and fellowship
to proclaim
the Good News
that promises
freedom for all people
freedom in justice,
freedom in peace,
freedom to thrive
and flourish.

Mindful of our
responsibility
as stewards of creation,
let us tread lightly
on the earth.

Rooted in faith
and supported
by one another
may we bring
God's peace and justice
to our families
and friends,
our communities,
our world.

Amen.

© Anne O'Connor

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk