

The monthly 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
Download earlier bulletins at: <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/newsletter.html>

THE TIGHTROPE WALKER

Posted by RhodesWriter 30 May 2014

Britain's food banks and other welfare charities are being swamped by demand <http://qu.com/p/2ttbp/tw> Increasing numbers of vulnerable people are in desperate need of help. The major parties signal their approval of 'hard working' families: but what about those unable to work? Those like my friend the tightrope walker? She had such a damaged childhood that, like many other young people who've been abused, she was taken into care. But enterprising men who ran prostitution rackets regularly cruised the neighbourhood. One day they spotted her. They gave her one thing she craved: attention. And they gave her heroin. Soon she was addicted. Then they sent her out on the streets to make them money.

Somehow she survived her ordeal. Now, years later, she hardly has two pennies to rub together but she's got a modest little council house and a lovely 11-year-old son. She's also got severe depression caused by the post traumatic stress. She has flashbacks of her abuse as a child and frequent nightmares. She has a body damaged by years of sexual exploitation. Her immune system is shot to bits by the heroin addiction and her teeth are falling out. She walks the tightrope of life and tries hard not to look down. With disability benefits and an exceptional local GP, she manages to survive. With her damaged immune system she is often ill. With her depression caused by abuse she's unemployable. Meanwhile, she fears she'll be unable to keep her benefits. Every year she has to re-apply. The trauma of her nightmare past is constantly raked up: not in the setting of counselling therapy or her doctor's surgery but in the abrasive interrogation of a government assessment process. It's an ordeal that leaves her on the brink of mental breakdown.

Technically, of course, there's an answer. She could go back on the streets and hope to make enough money through prostitution to survive. But she's not as young as she used to be – and the customers do like them young. Sometimes her son hears her crying in the night and goes to comfort her. So far she hasn't fallen from her tightrope, but one day I fear she will.

Blog: <http://tinyurl.com/k2fw87g> <http://ind.pn/1kuZANR>

Taken from from the newly extended edition of David Rhodes' *Faith in Dark Places*. Combining moving stories from the inner city with a fresh approach to the Gospel, *Faith in Dark Places* explores the revolutionary idea that the good news of God's love is being spoken to a tired and damaged world by those rejected as worthless: the homeless and the poor. This radically revised edition, incorporating powerful new insights and reflections, draws on recent theological research and the author's own experience of urban poverty. It examines key biblical texts, such as the Lord's Prayer as a prayer for the poor (in particular the implications of kingdom, bread and trespasses); the Magnificat; and the causes of the crucifixion.

<http://www.spckpublishing.co.uk/shop/faith-in-dark-places/>

BELOW THE BREADLINE

Church Action on Poverty's new report *Below the Breadline*, published in partnership with Oxfam and the Trussell Trust, contains shocking new figures about the rise of food poverty. Although the UK is the seventh richest country in the world, it is also deeply unequal, and millions of families across the UK are living below the breadline. Oxfam and Church Action on Poverty have calculated that 20,247,042 meals were given to people in food poverty in 2013-14 by the three main food aid providers. This is a 54% increase on 2012-13.

The *Below the Breadline* report builds on CAP's 2013 work *Walking the Breadline*. It shows that a combination of changes to the social security system, including a more punitive sanctions regime, a lack of decent work and rising living costs, are contributing significantly to food poverty. More and more people are being forced to turn to food banks to put food on their table. The report calls for the social safety net to be repaired for when people need it, so that it supports people into sustainable work and provides for those unable to work. It also calls for the UK minimum wage to be increased to a living wage by 2020.

Some MPs have responded by attacking Oxfam, trying to silence the voices of the thousands going hungry. But the support of politicians of all parties is needed to help tackle this crisis. Please contact your MP and ask them to take action now.

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/breadline/read>

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/below-the-breadline-the-relentless-rise-of-food-poverty-in-britain-317730>

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/Dispatches/videos/all/breadline-kids>

CHRISTIAN AID: TIME FOR RICH NATIONS TO GET OUT THEIR CLIMATE CHEQUE BOOKS

As negotiations at the recent Bonn climate talks reached their conclusion, Christian Aid warned that leaders of rich countries need to show up to the September summit called by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with their climate cheque books in hand. Despite the Bonn session opening in an optimistic atmosphere, following the announcement of emissions reductions by the USA and China, countries at the talks made slow progress towards the 2015 global climate deal. However there is now greater clarity of what such a deal may look like.

Christian Aid's Senior Climate Change Advisor, Mohamed Adow, said: "Negotiators did their job here in Bonn, but now ministers and heads of state need to address the elephant in the room; the lack of climate finance. Climate funding from rich countries has been promised for years, but now there are only 18 months left until the deal is set to be hammered out in Paris. Without finance on the table before Paris it's hard to see how we can avoid a stalemate, which puts a deal in danger. Poor countries are asking developed nations to stick to their promises on finance before committing to cuts in emissions.

The Green Climate Fund has just opened for business, it's time for developed countries to put some money in it. We need leaders to show up at the Ban Ki-moon climate summit in September with their cheque books open and emission reduction pledges on the table. Once this finance gap is closed we can effectively move on to bridging the gap between what scientists have shown we need to do and what countries are currently offering. Postponing all action until after the 2015 deal comes into effect in 2020 is not an option - not for the poor, not for the planet. The more they delay action now, the harder the job gets."

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/june-2014/christian-aid-time-for-rich-nations-to-get-out-their-climate-chequebooks.aspx>

CHRISTIAN AID CALLS ON UK PARTIES TO MAKE CLIMATE MANIFESTO PLEDGE

As parties begin to draw up their manifestos ahead of next year's General Election campaign, Christian Aid, its supporters and faith groups across the UK are demanding that action to tackle climate change be at the heart of parties' plans for government.

Climate change has long been the scourge of poor people around the world, but the reality of global warming was brought to UK shores last winter as floods caused misery and destruction to many parts of England. This led to leaders from all parties to voice their concern about the impacts of climate change with Prime Minister David Cameron declaring: "I believe man-made climate change is one of the most serious threats that this country and this world faces." Ed Milliband added: "The events of the last few weeks have shown this is a national security issue in our own country too with people's homes, businesses and livelihoods coming under attack from extreme weather," and in November last year Nick Clegg said: "If there was ever a time to sharpen our focus on our green commitments, it's now."

Christian Aid and its supporters are now urging them to match words with action by including policies to address climate change in their manifestos. Barry Johnston, Christian Aid's Senior UK Political Adviser, said: "They have all talked the talk, but if these warm words are to mean anything party leaders need to back them up with action.

"Voters care about the environment for all sorts of reasons, whether it's insuring their homes, conserving their local environment, or concern for the dreadful impact of climate on the lives and livelihoods of people in the poorest countries. They don't want to see these problems worsened by political point scoring. There was a strong cross-party consensus on the urgent requirement to tackle climate change at the last election. Our political leaders need to recommit to this to provide long term security to future generations and the world's most vulnerable.

"The UK has a proud record of helping poor countries by giving vital development aid, but it's in danger of seeing this good work unravel if it allows climate change to wipe out the progress that's been made. We're calling on the British voting public to use their voice and ask their MPs, from whatever party, to ensure climate change is at the heart of their party manifestos."

To join Christian Aid's One Million Ways campaign and email party leaders visit www.christianaid.org.uk/climate

To sign a petition calling for the renewal of the Trident nuclear defence system to be cancelled and the funds to be spent on flood defences go to: https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/UK_Government_Cancel_Trident_spending_help_flood_victims/

PETITION

Please read and consider signing the petition at www.nuclearzero.org in support of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which has filed suit in the International Court of Justice and U.S. Federal District Court against the nine nuclear-armed nations for "failure to comply with their obligation under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and customary international law to pursue negotiations for the world wide elimination of nuclear weapons."

IN PALESTINE, JESUS WEPT - AND SO DID I

By Peter Goers OAM

<http://m.adelaidenow.com.au/news/opinion/peter-goers-the-shame-of-israels-palestine-apartheid/story-fni6unxq-1226921167044>

I weep for the Palestinians living under the Israeli apartheid.

On a June visit with the Australian Friends of Palestine and Senator Nick Xenophon I wept for little children in Hebron unable to cross a deserted road to go to school. The doors of their houses have been welded shut and they must travel 40 minutes to get to their school across the road.

I weep for a woman who is a prisoner in her own home, unable to use her front door or her street. She's stoned by American Israeli settlers and she's had to build a cage around her little balcony. She and our party – and a Palestinian friend – were abused by an aggressive, pistol-packing American settler. Minutes beforehand our party was harassed violently by an Israeli soldier because the Palestinian with us cannot use the same street as the Israelis. Elsewhere, they must walk behind yellow lines on the side of the road. In the garbage.

I weep for those who must live behind the wall. Imagine if you woke up and there was an 8m-high grey concrete wall on your front fence line. Your front door and driveway are now useless and your house is now worth 10 per cent of its value. You now have to travel 40km around this wall, through six difficult invasive checkpoints just to get across your road. Millions of Palestinians live behind this wall.

I weep for all 720km of this barbaric wall in Israel, a tiny country twice the size of Kangaroo Island.

I weep for the worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third most holy place in Islam. It's in the Old City of Jerusalem, next to the Dome of the Rock – one of the most thrillingly beautiful structures in the world. Israeli police and soldiers remove the ID cards of the Palestinian worshippers and tell them to pick up the cards from a police station. After an eight-hour wait, they are told the cards are now at another police station and this can go on for weeks at the risk of being arrested for not having their ID card.

I weep for the many Israelis who want to destroy the 1400-year-old Dome of the Rock, the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Christian churches in this land whence prophets come.

I weep for the Palestinians who are second-class citizens in their own land. Intimidated, harassed, removed. The population of Palestinians and Israelis is about equal but that is the only equality. Palestinians get only 20 per cent of power and water and pay six times more than the Israelis for their intermittent supply.

I weep for the settlements and the 630,000 intrusive settlers in Palestinian territory.

I weep for faith, killed by fundamentalism.

I weep for the illegal military occupation of Palestine for 47 years after millennia of occupations of this land as old as time.

Jesus was a Palestinian born under another occupation.

I weep for this apartheid, so-called by former US President Jimmy Carter and current US Secretary of State John Kerry.

I weep for our Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop, and Labor leader Bill Shorten who can't see that these settlements are all illegal.

Nick Xenophon says: "We listen to the International Court of Justice on whales but not Palestinians."

I weep for Palestinian refugees. "My dream is to go to Hebron", says Mohammed, in the DHL office in Amman, Jordan. Neither he nor his parents have ever been there. Only his grandmother can remember Hebron.

I weep because he may never see his homeland one hour away by car.

I weep for the oppressive, bellicose Israelis. The Jews – once so oppressed, now so oppressive. Recently the most distinguished Israeli writer Amos Oz decried some of his countrymen as "Hebrew neo-Nazis". I weep that the Palestinians are "the Jews of the Jews".

I weep for the brand new little housing development in Nablus – attacked two nights before I visited – by Israeli soldiers using nail bombs and their rifle butts to destroy every door and window and I weep with the families who live here.

I weep for Palestinians who have to make six calls to get an ambulance. Israelis make one.

I weep for greed and God and rocks and guns and demographics and the ghastly, endless geo-politic.

I weep for the 1004 Palestinian children arrested, tortured, abused and abducted last year.

I weep for the pain and cost of all this useless persecution in this sacred place with the best food, and the best, kindest, most stoic and eloquent people I've known.

I weep for this land of endless repression.

I weep because there is no answer.

"We are human," screams Palestinian graffiti on the wall. Help. Please. Help. Understand.

Peter Goers OAM is an actor, director, reviewer and current host of the radio programme The Evening Show on 891 ABC Adelaide, which broadcasts throughout South Australia and to the city of Broken Hill. peter.goers@news.com.au

CARDINAL NICHOLS ADDRESSES GLOBAL SUMMIT TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Vincent Nichols addressed the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict on 12 June, highlighting the role of faith leaders and communities in their work against this injustice, and their support for victims of this crime. "The unbelievable surge of sexual violence against both women and men in parts of our world is manifested in the shocking facts well documented in this Conference," he said. "I doubt though whether even the most graphic accounts of this evil are capable of conveying the sheer horrors which are generated by sexual violence in conflict and warfare. The damage which is done to the human dignity of the large numbers of victims of sexual violence is so radical and so permanent that it defies description." "Every human activity," the cardinal said, "is subject to moral principles and judgment, even in war, if it is not to lose its truly human character." "Sexual violence is always a crime," he said. "It is always an immoral act."

Acknowledging the work of religious sisters and others who work in areas where such violence takes place, Cardinal Nichols went on to say that "the Church wholeheartedly backs every initiative to prevent sexual violence being perpetrated against anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances." The cardinal spoke of the dignity of every person which "arises from within their nature and that nature is most clearly understood as deriving from its Creator, from the mystery of God ...The violation of that bodily integrity in sexual violence is therefore a most fundamental denial of human dignity and a most gross breach of a person's human rights. It is a crime which ought to be eradicated with all vigour."

The three-day global summit, held in London, was co-chaired by UK Foreign Secretary William Hague and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, recently awarded the honorary title of Dame in recognition of her humanitarian work. The conference was the largest ever gathering to confront the issue of sexual violence in conflict with over 100 countries and over 900 experts, NGOs, survivors, faith leaders, and international organisations from across the world participating. The Summit hopes to shatter the culture of impunity for sexual violence in conflict by launching a new International Protocol with international standards for documenting and investigating sexual violence in conflict zones. The International Protocol will help to strengthen prosecutions for rape in conflict, increasing the prospects for successful convictions. It aims to take practical steps to reduce the dangers women face in conflict zones around the world calling for soldiers and peacekeepers to be trained not only to understand the gravity of sexual violence in conflict, but to prevent it and to protect people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/sexual-violence-in-conflict>

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/cardinal-vincent-nichols-addresses-global-summit-to-end-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

PRAYERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As we think of Meriam Yehya Ibrahim, of the girls in India raped and murdered, of the woman stoned in Pakistan and all women faceless and voiceless who suffer violence throughout our world, we pray together:

God of heaven and earth before you we confess our sin.

R: God of transformation hear our prayer

We confess the terrible physical and sexual violence that so many women and girls across the globe are subjected to. **R:** We confess how even into our own time scripture has been used to justify violence against women and their exclusion from a full role in society. **R:**

We confess a violent culture which turns women's bodies into sexualised commodities and sees women as part of the spoils of war and commerce. **R:**

We confess the structural violence of our institutions including the church which too often exclude women from decision-making, power or authority. **R:**

Great God, we give you thanks that you call us out of silence to name hidden and domestic violence.

We pray for all those women who despite suffering from violence, continue to care for family and children, to grow and prepare food, carry water, earn a living and offer support to others.

We pray for women who are trafficked as domestic or sex workers; for women who are raped and do not know how to find words to name their pain or a way into the future.

We pray for transformation of our societies which often find it easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve the problems of injustice

We pray that women's voices may be heard and taken into account in all peace and reconciliation work.

We pray for a transformation in the violent way many men act towards and think about women.

We pray for right and just relations between women and men that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms and learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence.

We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished, both women and men are able to love and to be loved, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.

*These prayers are from the World Council of Churches' website **Overcoming Violence**. A full copy of the liturgy is available at:*

<http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/resources/campaigns/women-against-violence/week-6-stories-from-around-the-prayers.html>

GROWING TOGETHER IN UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP

Canon John Rafferty, Chair Altrincham Interfaith Group, writes:

The aims and objectives of Altrincham Interfaith Group are very simple: to provide opportunities for people of different faiths to meet locally and to grow in understanding, friendship, cooperation and mutual respect. They are simple and need to be simple because we human beings are complex and complicated. While that complexity makes life exciting, enables us to enjoy the wonderful variety of ways of being human, discover the beauty of different cultures and faiths, inspires scientists and philosophers to set off on their journey to discover knowledge and wisdom, we know the pain of the complications.

I have just read Simon Sebag Montefiore's *Jerusalem, the Biography*. It is a city that is so dear to Jews, Muslims and Christians alike, but has been at the centre of so many atrocities, so much cruelty and bigotry. We have just held the elections for the European Parliament and the local authority and have heard some politicians appealing to people's suspicion of ethnic minorities and those who seem to be different, often through fear, ignorance or prejudice.

We live in a world which is in danger from fundamentalists and extremists of all hues making our work all the more important. Our work is to remind people of the simple truths about being human: that we live in a world that is beautiful, that we thrive when we live in harmony with God, one another and this beautiful creation, that we become fully alive when we discover within ourselves and in others those qualities that make us truly human: kindness, gentleness, tenderness, compassion, love, creativity, humour. Our aims, then, have a noble simplicity and the way to their achievement is through the generous and open hearts of our members and of our local community of Altrincham and Trafford.

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD: JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE SYRIA

The 2014 Pax Christi International Peace Award has been granted to the Jesuit Refugee Service Syria (JRS Syria) for its outstanding dedication in providing emergency relief to Syrians since the war began in 2011. Established in 1988, the Award is funded by the Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink Peace Fund and honours contemporary individuals and organisations who make a stand for peace, justice and non-violence in different parts of the world.

<http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=d36eca0b97c5e510d0e8e5745&id=6ddced88e0&e=bb5135d25c>

REFLECTION: STEPHEN SUTTON - JOY AND SORROW TRANSFORMED BY LOVE

Fr Robin Gibbons who writes the regular Sunday Reflection for Independent Catholic News has launched a petition calling on Prime Minister David Cameron to create a new Stephen Sutton award for young people. Fr Robin writes:

A number of thoughts swirl around my mind at the moment, perhaps it's the prompting of the Spirit for in recent days I have found a new focus, one little expected, suddenly moving me into action to try and shine a light on the need for new directions, to help change one small area of our national life. You'll find mention of Stephen Sutton in a number of my recent reflections. He stands for so many other unsung people, young and old who, responding to the Spirit's gifts in their lives, do what we ought to, reach out in care, love and concern and get on with working for a better world! We shall remember them!

There are many conflicting and competing voices in the world's affairs, not all of them good, some are siren voices of cultures inimical to the Gospel. Take the cult of celebrity for instance, or the over aggressive pursuit of wealth, fame and power, at the expense of others. More than ever our society has need of the voice of the Spirit preaching, speaking and working through us in our words and in our deeds, to bring to the fore truth, reconciliation, hope and love.

Fr Robin sent an update on 14 June: I am glad Stephen was awarded his posthumous MBE, he knew about this before he died and it must be of comfort to his family and friends. But now more than before is the time to press on and change something for the future. David Cameron talks about the Big Society and the Common Good, I found some people who represented that in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, but I suspect like many others I wondered why so many 'celebrities', members of Institutional Organisations, and of course business, etc., featured. It is unnecessarily elitist and in a world where we are trying to stress equality does it send out the right messages? A new award, for those who have nobody to speak for them, who are young and do unsung, unrecognised acts of great worth for the community would be a start. Let's get on with it!!

To sign the petition to Prime Minister David Cameron calling for the creation of a Stephen Sutton award go to:

http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/prime-minister-create-a-stephen-sutton-award-and-start-changing-the-honours-system?utm_campaign=new_signature&utm_medium=email&utm_source=signature_receipt#

INSPIRING WORDS

Athena Orchard, a 12 year-old girl who died of cancer recently, left an inspiring 3000 word message on the back of her mirror to encourage family and friends. She wrote: *Every day is special, so make the most of it ... Happiness depends on ourselves ... Maybe it's not about the happy ending; maybe it's about the story ... The purpose of life is a life of purpose.*

CARJ REVIEWS NEW INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

The Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) has published a Review of selected educational initiatives designed to support young people, families and schools in marginalised communities. The review - entitled *Stepping Stones to a More Equal Society* - outlines the educational disadvantage faced by some young people from ethnic minority and low income backgrounds. Attempts to address this 'achievement gap' have been partially successful, but important challenges remain. The Review describes various initiatives, sketches the context in which they are set and outlines some of the research that has been done in this area. For a free pdf version, contact CARJ info@carj.org.uk 0208 802 8080. For more information about CARJ see: <http://www.carj.org.uk/>

ST HILDA CHAIR IN CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT AND PRACTICE: INAUGURAL APPOINTEE

The Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University, within which the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) is situated, and Durham University Business School are delighted to announce the concurrent appointment of Dr Mark Hayes as the inaugural holder of the St Hilda Chair in Catholic Social Thought and Practice. Dr Hayes' appointment will begin in September 2014, when he will be installed as a Reader of Durham University.

This endowed research and teaching post was made possible by a number of benefactors and supporters across the UK, Europe and the US. This enabling group includes major foundations, women's religious congregations, and business executives who are each passionate about providing first-class academic resource, which by producing fresh research and understanding can contribute both to the constructive development of the Catholic Social Teaching tradition and to its imaginative practical application and dissemination amongst scholars and professionals alike. Letters of support were provided by: H.E. Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; H.E. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster; Rt Rev. Seamus Cunningham, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, and – in an inspiring show of ecumenical support for CST – the Most Rev. and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dr Hayes is currently Fellow and Director of Studies in Economics at Robinson College and an Affiliated Lecturer in the Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge. His non-academic background is in finance, as an investment manager at 3i, and as principal founder and Managing Director (1990-99) of Shared Interest, the co-operative lending society that finances Fair Trade. Dr Hayes's professional and personal interest in Catholic Social Teaching dates to this time. Educated at Stonyhurst and Cambridge, he holds his PhD (2003) from the University of Sunderland. His primary teaching and research interests have been in macroeconomics, finance and co-operative law. He has written on the economics of Fair Trade, for which he holds the 2006 Helen Potter Award from the *Review of Social Economy*. His major book is *The Economics of Keynes: A New Guide to The General Theory* (2006) and has also published a review of the Vatican's recent reflections on the reform of the international financial and monetary system (*ROSE*, 2013) and provided notable commentaries on economic and social issues for media partners such as *The Tablet*, BBC, the *FT*, *The Guardian* and others. He is the Secretary of the Post-Keynesian Economics Study Group and a Trustee of the Association for Social Economics. He is on the Editorial Boards of the *Review of Social Economy* and the *European Journal of Economics and Economic Policies*.

Professor Paul D. Murray, Dean and Director of the CCS, said: "An ambition of the CCS Directorate was to attract an accomplished academic economist with industry credentials who could bring wide credibility and access to this post but who also has a deep personal connection with Catholic Social Teaching and the desire and ability now to develop this dimension of their work to full potential. Mark Hayes fits perfectly this description.

Dr Anna Rowlands, Chair of the UK Centre for Catholic Social Thought and Practice, said: "This is a truly ground-breaking post for those of us who are passionate about the development and impact of CST in the UK and I am delighted that Dr Mark Hayes has been appointed as the inaugural holder of this position. Based upon his considerable business and academic expertise, Mark will have an invaluable contribution to make to the growing community of business leaders, social entrepreneurs, engaged academics and Church leaders who are taking up Benedict XVI and Francis' invitation to rethink and remodel our dominant forms of economic life."

His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said: "Indeed the time has urgently come to educate and form men and women in Catholic Social Thought and Practice. Their challenge is to integrate this discipline into their faith life, and through greater dialogue and principled leadership, to implement it in social and charitable efforts, in economic and commercial enterprises, and in communications, politics and culture. The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace congratulates Dr Mark Hayes on his appointment to the St Hilda Chair of Catholic Social Thought and Practice at Durham University."

VIDEO - 2 MINUTE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Hold onto your seat, don't blink your eyes for a second! Seventeen year old Joe Bush got a high school assignment to make a video reproduction. He chose history as a theme and tucked it all into two minutes. Hold on tight!

<http://marcbrecy.perso.neuf.fr/history.html>

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

12 July No TTIP National Day Of Action

Hands off ... our democracy; our public services; our environment; our food. Behind closed doors, the EU and US are drawing up a new trade deal called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The UK government is a major supporter of this deal, which would tighten the grip of big business over our society. If agreed, TTIP would:

- Grant corporations the power to sue governments;
- Lock-in the privatisation of public services like the NHS and education;
- Undo regulations that protect workers, the environment and food safety, giving harmful industries like fracking an easier ride.

On Saturday 12 July 2014, people across the UK will be taking action together to say no to TTIP. <http://www.nottip.org.uk/>

- War on Want has set up a dedicated social media site, which you can find at www.wdm.org.uk/ttip This will act as a hub and forum where people can post regional events and actions, articles, videos and photos and such - See more at:

<http://www.wdm.org.uk/events/no-ttip-public-events#sthash.YiRLKkK7.dpuf>

NoTTIP is a national day of action supported by: Biofuelwatch, Campaign Against Climate Change, Disabled People Against Cuts, Frack Off London, Friends of the Earth, Globalise Resistance, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Lewisham People Before Profit, Occupy London, OurNHS, People & Planet, People's Assembly Against Austerity, Platform, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Red Pepper, SumOfUs, UK Food Group, Unison, University and College Union (UCU), War on Want, We Own It, World Development Movement.

18 -20 July National J&P Conference for 2014 *Called to life in all its fullness*

Organised by NJPN Executive Committee with Christians Aware and Vincentians in Partnership. A conference to: empower lay people to accept the responsibility of their baptism; provide an opportunity to bring our life experiences and relate them to our baptismal call; be a celebration of life and a renewal of vision. Speakers Sarah Teather MP; Mary Colwell; Gemma Simmonds CJ; Clare Dixon; Chair: Rev Ruth Gee. The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Places still available - please contact the Administrator (020 7901 4864, admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk).

23-28 July World Youth Day *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

Pope Francis has chosen the beatitudes from the fifth chapter of the Gospel of St Matthew as the themes for World Youth Day 2014-2016. This year and next, World Youth Day will be celebrated on a local level – on Palm Sunday by the Vatican – leading up to an international gathering in Krakow, Poland in 2016. To be poor in spirit, the Pope told young people, they must learn to be free or detached from material things, living simply, being concerned about the essentials, but “learning to do without all those unneeded extras.” Poverty in spirit also requires “a conversion in the way we see the poor,” which means meeting them, listening to them, caring for them and offering them both material and spiritual assistance, he said. Living according to the beatitude also means recognising that the poor “have much to offer us and to teach us,” particularly that “people’s value is not measured by their possessions or how much money they have in the bank.” <http://www.laici.va/content/laici/en/media/notizie/comunicato-messaggio-gmq-2014.html>

9 August International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples

The theme for this year is 'Indigenous peoples building alliances: Honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.' <http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>

23 August International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

Materials from the Human Rights Education Association <http://www.hrea.org/> and Stop the Traffik <http://www.stopthetraffik.org/>

30 August International Day of the Disappeared

The International Day of the Disappeared is a reminder that a great number of people are missing as a result of conflicts around the world. Each year, the Red Cross marks the day by commemorating those who have gone missing in armed conflicts or other situations of violence – and remembers the plight of their families.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Finding-missing-family/International-Day-of-the-Disappeared>

31 August – 5 Sept 2014 World Water Week *Energy and Water*

World Water Week is hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and takes place in Stockholm. The World Water Week has been the annual focal point for the globe's water issues since 1991. SIWI provides a platform for over 200 collaborating organisations to convene events at the World Water Week. In addition, individuals from around the globe present their findings at the scientific workshops. Each year the World Water Week addresses a particular theme to enable a deeper examination of a specific water-related topic. The theme for 2014 is "Energy and Water."

<http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

1 September – 4 October Climate Time

A Season to celebrate and raise awareness of creation and the environment. As Christians we are inspired to be stewards of the earth, to conserve and protect God's creation and the earth's resources. By our actions, we can mitigate the effects of climate change stop the destruction of habitats and reverse the decline of species worldwide. The way we treat the earth today is already affecting the poorest and most vulnerable in the world and, in time, will affect us all. Materials will be available from CTBI's Creation Time page.

www.greenchristian.org.uk

7 September Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer

The UK is consistently one of the top five global armaments exporters and continues to sell weapons to countries with dismal human rights records and those where the massive expenditure on arms would have been much better spent on education, health and social welfare. Although not one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, an end to the arms trade would be a key factor in making poverty history.

The CAAT Christian Network (CN) was formed in 1989 to bring to the attention of national Churches and Christian organisations, the immorality of the arms trade. The CN provides resources, both written materials and speakers, which will help you to challenge others in your Church to think more about these issues. CAAT Christian Network is holding a Day of Prayer on 7 September. Resources from www.caat.org.uk/events

14 September Racial Justice Sunday

The Churches' Racial Justice Network www.ctbi.org.uk works for racial justice across Britain and Ireland. It aims to make a real difference in the Christian community and far beyond by raising awareness, encouraging effective working together and facilitating imaginative local initiatives. Racial Justice Sunday is an opportunity for all Christians in Britain and Ireland to focus their worship, prayer and action on racial justice by:

- Celebrating human diversity
- Rejoicing in how far God's people have travelled together
- Recognising that there is much further to go both in the Church and in the world
- Raising awareness and deepen understanding of the diversity of culture and experience both in society and in the church
- Becoming more inclusive, outward-looking and welcoming
- Encouraging all Christians to tackle injustice, not ignore it

Resources available soon from www.carj.org.uk Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)

20 Sept – 5 Oct 2014 British Food Fortnight

Encourage family, friends and your School and Church Communities to follow the LOAF principles from Christian Ecology Link's Food Campaign - choose food that fulfils at least one of the following criteria: **L**ocally produced; **O**rganically grown; **A**nimal friendly; **F**airly traded. <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/resources/loaf>

21 September Peace One Day - An annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence

The annual International Day of Peace (21 September) is organised by Peace One Day, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness of peace issues. Peace One Day was founded in 1999 by British documentary filmmaker and actor Jeremy Gilley, whose dedication and persistence resulted in a UN Resolution 55/282 nominating one day a year for peace and inviting organisations and individuals to commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness, and to co-operate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire. www.peaceoneday.org

Peace Day 2014 hopes to build on the achievements of 2013, reducing violence around the theme: *Who Will You Make Peace With?* Find out more about Peace One Day's 2014 campaign here: www.peaceoneday.org/global-campaigns

21 – 27 September World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel

When did we see you in prison? Theme - Child Prisoners

An annual event to promote education, prayer and action for peace in Palestine & Israel. Each year 500-700 Palestinian children from the West Bank (between the ages of 12-17 years) are prosecuted in Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army or police. Young Israelis too can be imprisoned. 50 Israeli teenagers said that they will refuse to join the Israeli Defence Force because of the occupation of the West Bank (March 2014). www.worldweekforpeace.org
Resources for 2014 available from Pax Christi including a Prayer written by Palestinian Christian Church leaders in Jerusalem <http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Jerusalem-Prayer-2014.pdf>.

www.paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns

27 September World Tourism Day

Tourism has experienced continued growth and deeper diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Modern tourism is closely linked to development and includes more new destinations for tourists. These dynamics turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress. Tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represents at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries. On September 27, 2014 Mexico will be the global host of World Tourism Day, an annual event held by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). According to UNWTO, World Tourism Day's goal is to "foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. The event seeks to address global challenges outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to highlight the contribution the tourism sector can make in reaching these goals." The 2014 World Tourism Day theme will be "Tourism and Development in the Community." www.wtd.untwo.org mexicotoday.org/.../mexico-host-world-tourism-day-September-27-2014

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 1** The Justice and Peace Association (Caritas, Diocese of Salford) working to promote justice and peace matters in the diocese of Salford, regular bi-monthly meeting at 7pm in the Servite Priory, 500 Bury New Road, Salford M7 4ND. New members always welcome. Enquiries 'phone Jean on 0161 792 9771. Email faithandjustice@ymail.com
- 7** Film: *The Christmas Truce* followed by discussion 7-9pm St Benedict's, Rhodes St, Warrington WA2 7QE. (Behind the altar at St Benedict's is the second biggest mosaic in the country, a memorial to the dead of WW1). 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 8** Chester World Development Forum bi-monthly meeting 6:45pm - 9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. Sue Bownas (CAFOD) will be providing an update on actions in support of small farmers and their key role in food security, and of the campaigning of the Climate Coalition.
- 9** Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Chifundo Fashion project, which works in various ways to support the development of tailoring schools and enterprises in Malawi 10am to 12 noon at 107 St James Avenue, Upton Chester CH2 1NN.. Chifundo fashion, accessories and household products will be on sale plus cake stall. Entrance £2.50. Info: Susan Flynn, 01244381490.
- 9** *Hands off – SAY NO to Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Deal (TTIP)*. Speaker tour meeting 7pm at Manchester NW UNISON Regional Centre, Arena Point, 1 Hunts Bank, M3 1UN. Rally with chance to take action in Manchester probably in Piccadilly from about noon - details still being formalised. Updated information on <http://www.nottip.org.uk/>
- 10** Closure of the Jesuit Volunteer Community project in England after 25 years of communities in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. They will be greatly missed by the partner organisations they served.
- 10-12** 30th Anniversary Celebration Young People's Congress for World Citizenship: *Working together for a more just, more equal, more cooperative society* at Liverpool Hope University. This 3-day residential gathering will bring together young people from England and Wales (and beyond) to explore their major social, ethical and cultural concerns and ideas. This will be an active and engaged experience with the young people taking responsibility. Cost: £99 - including programme, accommodation and food. For more information please email carjcongress@hope.ac.uk
- 12** TTIP National Day of Action <http://www.nottip.org.uk/>
- 12** Liverpool J&P Commission Annual Assembly: *Dwelling in God with No Boundaries*. How do we commemorate the centenary of WW1? 10am-4pm at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA. The day will use a variety of means to help us consider how we commemorate the centenary of WW1 and work towards understanding and resolving current conflicts. CST will be central to the process. Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 12** CAFOD Shrewsbury's July Novena Mass for Peace 10am at St Hugh and St John West Timperley (one each month around the diocese from March-November 2014). Tea and coffee afterwards in Church Hall and a chance to learn more about CAFOD's work for Peace in Sierra Leone. Further info: CAFOD Shrewsbury 01244 677594 sbownas@cafod.org.uk
- 12-13** North West Transition Conference *How Local Action Can Change Our World*. Hugh Pollard Lecture Theatre, University of Cumbria, Bowerham Road LA1 3JD. In collaboration with Transition Lancaster and South Lakes Action on Climate Change, a participatory conference style of workshops, open space, great hang outs, and engaging conversations. Cost £20, Concessions £10. Info: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/events/2014-07-12/north-west-transition-conference> or download pdf <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/sites/www.transitionnetwork.org/files/NW%20Transition%20Con%20Program.pdf> <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/sites/www.transitionnetwork.org/files/NW%20Transition%20Con%20Program.pdf>
- 15** Leigh Pastoral Area J&P group meet to work with CAP's 'Partnership Church' project. St Ambrose Barlow, Manchester Rd, Astley M29 7DZ 7:30-9pm
- 15** Merseyside & Region Church Action on Poverty (MARCAP) monthly meeting 10:30-11:30am SFX, Salisbury St Liverpool L3 8DR
- 15** *Walking and Cycling in the Holy Land* - Talks by Deborah Darnes and Ann and Mike Eggboro organised by Friends of Sabeel U.K. (North West Region) 10:30 for 11am -3:30pm Farnworth Methodist Church, Derby Road, Widnes WA8 9JX. Our speakers have recently returned from trips with a difference. Come and see their pictures of the terrain, hear about challenges they faced and discover alternative ways of seeing this wonderful region. Bring and Share Lunch. Palestinian sales table — foods, crafts and literature. For further info contact John Logan 01942 214656 logan-j@btconnect.com
- 17** Film: *The Christmas Truce* followed by discussion at St Teresa's, College Rd, Upholland WN8 0PY 7-9pm 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

17 Speaker Fr Alberto Franco, Colombian priest & human rights advocate working for more than 20 years to support the rights of Afro-Colombian, indigenous, & peasant farming communities on *The work of the Inter-Church Commission for Justice & Peace in Columbia supporting displaced & conflict-affected communities in their struggle for justice, affirming their rights & advocating for the return of their lands*. Fr Alberto Franco featured in the Christian Aid Week 2014 stories and is a Christian Aid visiting guest. 8pm in St Bernadette's Parish Room, St Bernadette's Church, Bowerham Road Lancaster LA1 4HT. All Welcome. Refreshments from 7:45pm. Info: Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission Email: lfjc@talktalk.net Tel:01524 383081

18-20 NATIONAL J&P CONFERENCE *Called to life in all its fullness* The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire – places still available – please contact the Administrator (020 7901 4864, admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk).

19 Chifundo (charity to empower the women of Malawi through education and income generation) AGM & presentation 12 noon-2pm Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road Chester CH2 3N. Lunch followed by a short business meeting and discussion, finishing by 2.00pm. Please RSVP to wta@cawyld.co.uk for catering purposes. Susan Flynn, 01244381490.

21-25 Living Theology Week: *Understanding your everyday beliefs*. Registration 9:45am, first talk 10am – 3:30pm daily. The main speaker is Brian O'Leary SJ *Open to the Divine: from Ignatius the Pilgrim to Ignatian Spirituality Today*. Liverpool Hope University Everton Campus L3 8BR. Info from Debbie Reynolds on 0151 298 1911.

AUGUST

4 A call for silent vigils in city/town centres between 12-2pm with the message 'War No More – War Never Again' to mark the anniversary of the start of the First World War. Resources: Pax Christi www.paxchristi.org.uk

6&9 69th Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries. *'To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace'* John Paul II

9 Roll out of the 7-mile Wool Against Weapons scarf which will connect the nuclear bomb factories at Aldermaston – Burghfield. Details on CND website www.cnduk.org/wool

SEPTEMBER

14 Racial Justice Sunday: 020 8802 8080 www.carj.org.uk

20 NJPN Open Networking Day 10:30am-4pm, St William of York, Forbury Road, Reading, Berks RG1 3HW including presentation by the CAFOD group, St John Bosco parish on Becoming a LiveSimply Parish www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

20 North West Kairos Training Day Stockton Heath Methodist Church. Approx times (to be confirmed):10:30am-4pm. For further info contact John Logan 01942 214656 logan-j@btconnect.com

20 Manchester Peace Conference Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS. Speaker John Westmoreland <http://stopwar.org.uk/events/manchester-peace-conference-peace-history-lecture-no-glory#.UxiKQo3iuUE>

21 International Day of Prayer for Peace. Each year the World Council of Churches calls churches and parishes to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace. 21 September is also the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace (next item) <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace>

21 Peace One Day - An annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence. Peace Day 2014 hopes to build on the achievements of 2013, reducing violence around the theme: *Who Will You Make Peace With?* www.peaceday.org/global-campaigns

21-27 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. The theme of the week in 2014 is: *Let my people go!* with a special focus on Child Prisoners – peace postcards available from Pax Christi www.paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns. Background info and resources from World Council of Churches: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-israel>

OCTOBER

18 *Dignity or Slavery – does work still work for the Common Good?* Salford Justice and Peace Assembly, 2pm at Holy Cross College, Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 9BB. Speaker: Paul Donovan. Paul will address issues such as zero hours contracts, low pay, trade unions etc in the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.

19-26 One World Week. 2014's theme *Living Differently* leads on from last year's theme about consumption. It recognises that we need to make changes now to secure a fairer, more satisfying, life for us all and one that protects the planet's resources for future generations. The subtitle *Breaking Chains - Making Change* is inspired by Nelson Mandela's words: *'to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.'* www.oneworldweek.org

NOVEMBER

27 Advent Reflection Day. Bishop Richard Llewellyn will speak about Kairos Britain Tent of Nations and reflections from his time as an Ecumenical Accompanier. Luther King House, Manchester. Contact John Logan 01942 214656 logan-j@btconnect.com

DECEMBER

7 Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Commission Annual Advent Reflection Wistaston Hall Sunday afternoon – details nearer the time.

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