

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](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## UK AID CHARITIES ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT ON CRISIS IN MYANMAR

17 September 2017: A group of UK international aid charities have issued a statement on the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar/Burma. **Action Against Hunger UK, ActionAid UK, Christian Aid, Save the Children UK and the International Rescue Committee UK** strongly condemn the attacks carried out on 25 August. We are deeply concerned by the spiraling violence that has followed across Myanmar's northern Rakhine State. We are also concerned about reports of extensive loss of life of civilians and the immense suffering that is producing the displacement of thousands of people from their homes and livelihoods. The Myanmar government has a responsibility and obligation to protect all of the civilian population without distinction. Violence is not a long-term solution to the challenges faced by all populations in Rakhine State.

"As humanitarian actors, we remind all parties of their responsibility to exercise restraint, avoid the targeting of civilians and prevent the further escalation of conflict in the area. It is also crucial that Myanmar national and local authorities facilitate access for UN agencies and international, national and local NGOs able to provide aid and immediate relief to the civilian population affected by the ongoing military and police operations. We are particularly concerned about reports of the impact that the conflict and displacement is having on women and girls. The Bangladesh government and local authorities should continue to ensure the safe passage of people fleeing the violence and providing aid to refugees upon arrival. As UK based INGOs we call on the British government to press for an end to violence and to use its international influence to encourage the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its obligations regarding ensuring humanitarian access and the protection of all civilians. Further we call on the UK and other donors to urgently make funds available to respond to the needs of those who have been displaced, in particular the estimated four hundred thousand people who have crossed into Bangladesh." **Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33414>

## CAFOD PARTNERS RUSH AID TO ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH

**Dan Bergin** 17 September 2017

More than 340,000 people are now estimated to have fled to Bangladesh, escaping violence in Rakhine State in neighbouring Myanmar, and the numbers are growing daily. **CAFOD partner, Caritas Bangladesh**, is responding to the refugee crisis by providing emergency aid. Earlier this month, aid workers from Caritas Bangladesh's regional office, Caritas Chittagong, visited Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazila in the Cox's Bazar district. They reported back about the worrying situation faced by thousands of Rohingya refugees. Many refugees are sleeping in the open air and in desperate need of food and water. Others are in makeshift refugee camps along the side of the road, or wherever they can find space. Food, clean water and sanitation, and medical and health services are urgently needed.

Tom Delamere, CAFOD's Programme Officer for Bangladesh, said: "Reports we have received from the UN and from our partner, Caritas Bangladesh, show the desperate need faced by thousands of people. Those that have made it into Bangladesh are living in extremely poor conditions – they are hungry, weak and sick." In coordination with the Bangladeshi Government and other Caritas aid agencies, Caritas Bangladesh hopes to reach more than 14,000 vulnerable families with emergency aid.

**To donate to CAFOD's Emergency Response Team see:** <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies>

## MYANMAR/BURMA: COLUMBANS URGE END TO PERSECUTION OF ROHINGYA PEOPLE

**Fr Kevin O'Neill** 14 September 2017

As the persecution of the Muslim minority in Rakhine State in Myanmar/Burma reaches a feverish pitch and forces thousands to flee to neighboring Bangladesh, Columban Superior General, Fr Kevin O'Neill, sends a message of solidarity saying: "We reject persecution of any community regardless of religion, race, or ethnic identity. We urge an end to the violence and violation of human rights of the Rohingya people and hope for their peaceful return to their homes in the Rakhine State of Myanmar/Burma."

Columban missionaries urge the government of Myanmar/Burma to immediately allow international humanitarian assistance to reach people in need and to seek long term peace and protection for the Muslim minorities of the Rakhine State and ethnic minorities throughout the country. We support the **Caritas Internationalis** campaign for refugees and migrants, "**Share the Journey**" which launches September 27, 2017, and hope that it will contribute to a global response of support for the Muslim minorities forced to flee Myanmar/Burma due to violence and persecution.

In May 2016 Cardinal Bo, Myanmar/Burma's first Cardinal, spoke at the United Kingdom's parliament saying of the Rohingya crisis that is, "an appalling scar on the conscience of my country... No human being deserves to be treated this way. Without a solution, the prospects for genuine peace and true freedom for my country will be denied, for no-one can sleep easy at night knowing how one particular people group are dying simply due to their race and religion." In February 2017 Pope Francis delivered a message of prayer and love for the Rohingya people saying: "They are good and peaceful people. They are our sisters and brothers." Columban missionaries share this feeling of unity with all people of good will and faith. Pope Francis will be visiting Myanmar/Burma in late 2017, the first papal visit to the country in history.

In a joint statement released by the Catholic National Justice and Peace Commission of Pakistan, the President of Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference His Grace Archbishop Joseph Coutts and His Excellency Bishop Joseph Arshad, Chairperson of National Commission for Justice & Peace, pleaded that the State Counsellor/Noble Peace Prize Honorable Aung San Suu Kyi being the beacon of peace should ensure the full rights of Rohingya people. Furthermore, they appealed to the democratic Government of Burma/Myanmar to immediately intervene by ceasing all military operations in Northern Rakhine State. Pakistan is estimated to be home to one of the largest Rohingya population outside of Myanmar/Burma. Columban missionaries are present in Myanmar/Burma and in Pakistan. We work with the local church in carrying out its mission of evangelisation which includes working for peace, justice, and care for creation. **For more information see:** [www.columbans.co.uk](http://www.columbans.co.uk)

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33400>

## PERSECUTION OF THE ROHINGYA

**Fr Shay Cullen** 15 September 2017

The hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees fleeing the attacks and burning of their villages in Myanmar are walking hundreds of miles across mountains and through jungles in rain to escape the slaughter by the Myanmar armed forces. As many as 3,000 Rohingya have been killed according to some reports. The survivors, now numbering 370,000 men, women and children, some pregnant and all hungry and thirsty, reach the border of Bangladesh and there they step on a landmine and their legs are blown off, eyes gouged out and arms mangled. The video footages from the hospitals in Bangladesh is shocking and evidence of cruel atrocities against innocent women and children and civilians.

Those that make it across the border have nowhere to go but they clear a patch of ground on a hillside and with hundreds of others they stake out a spot to spread a plastic sheet and there they make their resting place. If they have money, they have to buy more plastic sheeting to use as a tent to shelter from the rain.

The Burmese, the vast majority of whom are Buddhist, do not recognize these Muslim ethnic people as citizens of Myanmar and have persecuted them for many years. Killings and burning of houses and villages is not new. It's been going on for years. Video footage released in recent months showed them being beaten, tortured and abused by the Myanmar police. This abuse and persecution has given rise to a resistance movement by some of the Rohingya who have lost everything and whose families have been killed. Poorly armed, they staged attacks on police outposts and the military and Buddhist youth savagely attacked the Rohingya villages driving out the people forcing them to flee or be killed. The United Nations representative for refugees said it is a textbook example of ethnic cleansing. The UN Security Council will discuss the issue this week and will issue a resolution that is likely to criticise Myanmar.

The Myanmar government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, who was persecuted herself and held under house arrest for 15 years by the military government as she stood for human rights and democracy in Myanmar, has remained silent and supportive of the government actions against the Rohingya. As a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, she has been admired and praised by millions for her stand against the military government that had ruled Myanmar for decades until her party was elected. She has fallen from grace and has been severely criticised for her inability to speak out and help the Rohingya. She was once a great defender of the oppressed. In her acceptance speech receiving the peace prize after twenty years, she said in part: "To be parted from those one loves and to be forced to live in propinquity with those one does not love." She continued: "I thought of prisoners and refugees, of migrant workers and victims of human trafficking, of that great mass of the uprooted of the Earth who have been torn away from their homes, parted from families and friends, forced to live out their lives among strangers who are not always welcoming." Now her silence is broken and she speaks for the government she heads.

We can understand her fragile hold on power where the military still have huge influence. For her to go against them and against the popular national and religious sentiment that is dead and racially set against the Rohingya would be political suicide for her and her party. Angry resentment from the nationalist majority against her would surely rise up, demanding her resignation. Then the military could find it a good excuse to sweep away all the democratic gains made and resume totalitarian power. This is possibly the reason for her silence. All the gains won over thirty years would be swept away if she stood with the Rohingya - the loss would be too great. And what change could her voice make when there is fanatical hatred of the Rohingya among the extremist Buddhists? This extremely embarrassing and difficult situation is likely to be the reason she will not attend the United Nations meeting. She is internally hurting and suffering from having to ride along with this nationalist sentiment. And sadly, she will be rethinking her own words she wrote in a famous book *Freedom from Fear*, where she said: "It is not power that corrupts but fear, fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it." Has she become morally corrupt by ignoring the grave injustices suffered by the Rohingya? I don't think so. She has to survive the military and going against them will be her total downfall.

**Read more:** [www.preda.org](http://www.preda.org)

**Read in full:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33402>

## ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU WRITES TO AUNG SAN SUU KYI

I am now elderly, decrepit and formally retired, but breaking my vow to remain silent on public affairs out of profound sadness about the plight of the Muslim minority in your country, the Rohingya.

In my heart you are a dearly beloved younger sister. For years I had a photograph of you on my desk to remind me of the injustice and sacrifice you endured out of your love and commitment for Myanmar's people. You symbolised righteousness. In 2010 we rejoiced at your freedom from house arrest, and in 2012 we celebrated your election as leader of the opposition. Your emergence into public life allayed our concerns about violence being perpetrated against members of the Rohingya. But what some have called 'ethnic cleansing' and others 'a slow genocide' has persisted – and recently accelerated. The images we are seeing of the suffering of the Rohingya fill us with pain and dread.

We know that you know that human beings may look and worship differently – and some may have greater firepower than others – but none are superior and none inferior; that when you scratch the surface we are all the same, members of one family, the human family; that there are no natural differences between Buddhists and Muslims; and that whether we are Jews or Hindus, Christians or atheists, we are born to love, without prejudice. Discrimination doesn't come naturally; it is taught.

My dear sister: If the political price of your ascension to the highest office in Myanmar is your silence, the price is surely too steep. A country that is not at peace with itself, that fails to acknowledge and protect the dignity and worth of all its people, is not a free country. It is incongruous for a symbol of righteousness to lead such a country; it is adding to our pain.

As we witness the unfolding horror we pray for you to be courageous and resilient again. We pray for you to speak out for justice, human rights and the unity of your people. We pray for you to intervene in the escalating crisis and guide your people back towards the path of righteousness again. **Read in full:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33375>

## JRS DEMANDS END TO 'CULTURE OF ABUSE' AFTER BBC EXPOSE ON IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTRE

7 September 2017: An undercover **BBC 1 Panorama** investigation into **Brook House** - one of the nine immigration removal centres in the UK - shown on Monday, showed disturbing footage of abuse of detainees. At one point, one detainee was apparently strangled by an officer; other footage of detainees self-harming in distress was met with derision and further abuse.

**Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) UK** has a longstanding ministry of outreach to immigration detention, with volunteers and staff providing pastoral and practical support to those in the Heathrow Immigration Removal Centres, Colnbrook and Harmondsworth. JRS UK's Director, Sarah Teather, also previously chaired an All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Immigration Detention, which was referred to in the programme.

Commenting ahead of the Panorama film Sarah Teather, said: "The news of the footage filmed by Panorama of detainees being abused inside Brook House Immigration Removal Centre is extremely disturbing. "The greatest risk at this point however, is that we focus on the individual officers and let the Government off the hook. Abuse like this takes place in a context - that is that the UK locks up too many people in immigration detention for far too long."

"More than that, this Government's stated policy of creating hostility towards unwanted immigrants has created a kind of underclass in the public's mind: those in detention are now the hated of the hated. If you set out to debase a person's value in the sight of others in order to eject them from society, you have to expect that to have consequences.

"Rather than inventing new rules to stop a culture of abuse in immigration detention, we would be better to begin to promote the fact that all human beings are worthy of respect and treatment in accordance with their inherent dignity, regardless of their immigration status. A good way to begin that in practice would be to move away from our obsession with detention."

The use of immigration detention is something that Pope Francis has tried to discourage. Last month the Vatican published a 20 point plan for Governments around the world to try to galvanise their response to an issue seen by the Pope as one of the biggest global challenges of the 21st century (See **ICN** [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33231](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33231) and **download the Vatican document** in full here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OBxRrdhWnBsucODYwYVFsRFk2S2s> ).

Pope Francis says: "The value of each person's safety - rooted in a profound respect for the inalienable rights of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees - should be correctly balanced with national security concerns... by seeking alternative solutions to detention for those who enter a country without authorisation." Pope Francis has consistently made the issue of care for migrants and refugees a priority in his Papacy.

The UK is the only country in Europe which does not have a time limit on immigration detention. Last year, 28,908 people entered detention in the UK.

**Watch the programme on BBC iplayer:** [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b094mhsn/panorama-undercover-britains-immigration-secrets](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b094mhsn/panorama-undercover-britains-immigration-secrets)

**Read more about JRS here:** [www.jrsuk.net](http://www.jrsuk.net)

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33341>

## CHRISTIANS ARRESTED AS THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST THE LONDON ARMS FAIR

8 September 2017: A group of six Christian activists were arrested on Wednesday as they took part in a peaceful demonstration against the London Arms Fair. The group from the anti-Trident nonviolent campaign **Trident Ploughshares** were arrested after blocking the West Gate of the ExCeL Centre in Docklands, ahead of the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) the world's largest arms trade fair, taking place on 12-15 September.

The group lay in the roadway joined to each other with lock-on tubes. Their action prevented traffic carrying materials for DSEI entering the centre for 90 minutes. Those arrested were: Margaret Bremner, 63, from Portobello, Edinburgh, Angie Zelter, 66, from Knighton in Wales, Douglas Shaw, 67, from Biggar, Randel Harford, 27, from Bristol, Barbara Cookson, 66, from Liverpool and Genny Scherel, 71, from London. One of the arrestees, Margaret Bremner, said: "The sale of arms shows that the value of money is being put before people's lives. We must campaign for dignity, respect, peace and justice in our world."

TP's action is one of many being organised by a variety of groups co-ordinated by the **Stop the Arms Fair** that will aim to stop weapons reaching the ExCeL Centre in Docklands from both entrance roads, before the Arms Fair begins. TP's action will highlight the involvement of the world's biggest arms manufacturers in production, operation and maintenance of Britain's nuclear weapons, and the disproportionate influence this gives them over Government policy, and the ability to lobby the Government to promote their military products abroad. BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Babcock, Rolls Royce and Thales have, between them, had hundreds of meetings with the UK Government, which in turn has promoted their products to some of the world's most oppressive regimes.

DSEI, with full UK government support, attracts 1,500 exhibitors and 34,000 arms buyers, many from states currently at war or on the Foreign Office's own list of human rights abusers. At recent DSEIs, campaigners exposed availability of cluster-bombs and near-torture equipment, banned by treaty. Two factors increase concern about DSEI this year: first, that Britain's biggest arms customer, Saudi Arabia, has a lead role in bombing Yemen, causing civilian deaths, famine and an unprecedented cholera epidemic; second, that war and internal conflict are leading causes of the so-called 'refugee crisis'.

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33350>

**For details of forthcoming peace events at the DSEI see:** [www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/](http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/)

**See also: ICN 5/9/2017 No Faith in War prayers outside DSEI Arms Fair** [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33331](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33331)

## IS YOUR PARISH AN ECO CHURCH?

1 September 2017: How can you and your church bring worship truly 'down to earth'? The first ever **Eco Church Conference** takes place next month. Hosted with friends from the Church of England's environmental campaign *Shrinking The Footprint*, this will be a special day for all churches to share and learn together about protecting nature and caring for God's earth as an expression of discipleship and mission.

Delegates will have the opportunity to put practical questions from their churches to our experts and hear the stories of other churches working towards the Eco Church Award. They will present seminars, surgeries and stories. The Southern Conference will take place on 7 October at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London. The Northern Conference will be held on 21 October at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church, Sheffield. Each one-day event will run from 10am–4.30pm.

Eco Church is A Rocha's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to be good news for God's earth. More than 600 churches have registered so far with this project, which offers a free online survey and supporting resources. "Our vision is for churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully," said Nigel Hopper. "This conference will help them make a start."

**Tickets are free and available online for the Southern Conference here:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-south-tickets-36275965389](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-south-tickets-36275965389) **and for the Northern Conference here:** [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-south-tickets-36275965389](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-conference-south-tickets-36275965389)

## 'OUR LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH'

**Martin Davis** 10 September 2017

Writer and theologian Frank Regan gave a talk *on 'Our late great Planet Earth: can we change direction? Explorations and reflections on Laudato Si'* in Cheltenham on Wednesday night.

Frank contrasted the present state of the earth with the associations it has had over the ages. Genesis – God seeing all that he had made and it was very good; "cosmetics" derived from the Greek "cosmos" connoting both beauty and order; the Latin "mundus" connoting clean, and the Slav "mir", harmony. And in Japanese tradition, the Gods took a rainbow and formed it into the earth. But what has become of our good, beautiful, ordered, clean, harmonious, rainbow-shaped earth?

We were reminded that as long ago as 1983, the American Catholic bishops had warned that ours is the first generation since the Book of Genesis with the potential to destroy the entire planet. This warning seems more necessary than ever in the light of present relations between the United States and North Korea.

Yet the need for a change of direction, which underpins Pope Francis' 2015 letter *Laudato Si'* (addressed "to all people of good will"), comes not from any specific confrontation of world leaders, but from long-term ecological concerns. Pope Francis' experience as bishop in Argentina convinced him of the need for a theology "del pueblo" – of the people – and specifically for the Church being a Church for the poor.

A world where 7,000 die of hunger or hunger-connected disease every day should make us question the relationship between the poor and the earth, from which we all feed. That earth, and we have only the one, is being depleted, damaged, exploited and degraded. When 80% of the world's resources are consumed North of the Equator, how do we stand in regard to "Thou shalt not kill"?

Pope Francis' stress is on the earth as our sister: we are family. When she is whole, so are we. When wounded, we likewise. It is for this reason he addressed *Laudato Si'*, not just to Catholics, but to "all". And his call is for structural change: he cited Francis of Assisi embracing a radical poverty – "preach the Gospel [by your life], and if necessary use words".

Nietzsche sees gravitas in the churches – gravity, pulling us downwards. We need to rediscover a God of the dance- to celebrate creation - which is different from "nature". "The word creation has a broader meaning than nature, for it has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion." (#76 LS)

Frank spoke about our destiny being a divine life. Of God becoming human so the human might become divine. That we are slowly ascending, known and loved by God from the womb, as with all creation. Our soul is the relationship between God and ourselves. We are temples, open 24 hours, of prayer of the spirit. Creation is a spin-off from the relationship of the Trinity.

Asked what was there to be positive about, Frank reminded us that even in the midst of the Black Death, Mother Julian was able to write "All manner of things shall be well." Our vocation is to follow Christ, to redouble our efforts to "Do this in memory of me", since that memory is fading.

Frank spoke of there being echoes today of Noah – violence upon the earth, Noah being the saving figure. We have to build a Church that will be a saving space, and need to respond to our situation, be that one just person, in the space we occupy. The glory of God is to be seen in the person fully alive. And in right relationship with others. Making the sign of peace.

• Martin Davis is a convener with Cheltenham Green Christian.

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33368>

## IMPORTANT - Please help to Save The #ClassOf2018 - our new campaign for #WSPD and beyond

Over 200 schoolchildren are lost to suicide every year in the UK. Despite this, there is currently very little guidance for schools and colleges on how to prevent suicide and support those affected by it. While there have been moves to prioritise the mental wellbeing of children in schools, far fewer people are talking about suicide prevention. This must change if we are to reduce the number of suicides by children. We need to raise awareness of the scale of suicide in schoolchildren and build suicide-safer schools.

**PAPYRUS** has developed a new suicide prevention guide for teachers and school staff, '*Building suicide-safer schools and colleges*'. It aims to equip teachers and staff with the skills and knowledge necessary to support schoolchildren who may be having suicidal thoughts. It's free to download on the PAPYRUS website. But we need everyone's help. This is not just about schools. It's about children. Everyone's children and grandchildren. You can help PAPYRUS in its campaign. Please do at least one of these if you can.

- Watch our campaign film on YouTube: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Mnud9Tw4uYg>
- Download our suicide prevention guide for teachers and school staff: ***Building suicide-safer schools and colleges***
- Update your Facebook or Twitter profile picture with our campaign frame
- Download our campaign materials and share them on social media in the run up to and on World Suicide Prevention Day
- Join the conversation online and tell us why and how you plan to help ***Save The #ClassOf2018***
- Donate to PAPYRUS: text POPY17 followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70070
- You can also read our press release here: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/news/item/save-the-classof2018>
- Find out more about the campaign here: <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/about/our-campaigns/save-the-classof2018#campaignfilm>

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people under 35 in the UK. We believe many young suicides can be prevented. You can contact **HOPELineUK for suicide prevention advice** (confidential phone: 0800 068 41 41, text: 077 86 20 9697 or email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org))

**Ged Flynn, Chief Executive PAPYRUS** [ged.flynn@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:ged.flynn@papyrus-uk.org)

## ACTA APPEAL FOR THE 1998 MASS TRANSLATION

**Jean Riordan** 20 September 2017

We had wonderful news about Pope Francis statement on the English Liturgy and the translation of the Mass last week.

Please consider writing to the Cardinal, the Bishops and the Bishop's Conference about it. If you are too busy to send separate emails, one email copied to all the addresses bcc would be helpful. No need to write a long letter- even just a few sentences will help!

Pope Francis has decentralised authority over the English translation of the liturgy from the Vatican to the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. In 1998 every Bishop's Conference of the English speaking world collegially approved an English translation of the Mass, after 17 years of intense international study by ICEL. As you know, that body of ICEL was disbanded. After only four years, the newly formed ICEL introduced the 2010 translation, which has not been received well by many. We want to ask our own diocesan bishops and the whole Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, meeting in Leeds in mid-November, to discuss introducing the 1998 Liturgy which they themselves had chosen, as soon as possible.

**Find the address of your local bishops here:** [www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/The-Bishops/Diocesan-Bishops-of-England-and-Wales](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/The-Bishops/Diocesan-Bishops-of-England-and-Wales)

For the Bishop's Conference, we are advised to send our email to Fr Paul Gunter [paul.gunter@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:paul.gunter@cbcew.org.uk) (Secretary for the Department for Christian Life and Worship) and ask his Department to add it as an item for full discussion on the Agenda of the Plenary Assembly of Bishops. It has to be proposed by this Department first for the Bishops' Conference to discuss it together.

ACTA has been campaigning for years for the adoption of the 1998 translation - this is our chance - please help if you can NOW! I've attached a really simple specimen as an illustration of how brief the letter could be - it doesn't have to go into the technicalities. ACTA Leadership will of course be writing on behalf of us all but naturally it's the personal letters that count most with our Bishops.\*

**You can see the 1998 translation on the ACTA website:** [www.acalltoaction.org.uk](http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk)

God bless and love, Jean (Birmingham Diocesan Area Coordinator) on behalf of the National Leadership Team.

### SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Archbishop Bernard,

My family and I were very pleased when Pope Francis changed the rules so local Bishops can choose their own translation for the Mass. I hope you and the other Bishops will be discussing this at your meeting in November. We hope you'll decide to adopt the translation made in 1998 on our behalf. I've seen the difference between that one and the one that we're using at the moment and the 1998 translation is much more understandable. The language is clearer.

Yours sincerely,

\* if you have time, please compose your own letter – this will have greater impact [Ed.]

## BISHOP MOTH WELCOMES REPORT ON SUPPORTING PRISONERS' FAMILY TIES

17 August 2017: **The lead Catholic Bishop for prisons has welcomed the publication of Lord Farmer's report on the importance of strengthening prisoners' family ties.** This landmark report highlights the vital position of families in supporting people's rehabilitation. It outlines practical recommendations in areas including family visits, video communications, and parenting classes.

Responding to the report, Bishop Richard Moth said: "As the lead Catholic Bishop for prisons, I strongly welcome Lord Farmer's report, which highlights clearly the central role that families can play in helping prisoners to turn their lives around and making our society safer. It is also encouraging that this report recognises the importance of supporting families themselves, including the great number of children with a parent in prison, who are all too often the forgotten victims of crime."

I hope that the government will begin implementing the report's recommendations as a matter of priority. The Catholic community will, of course, continue to play our part and I am grateful to Lord Farmer for recognising the contribution of faith groups. We know that around one in four Catholic prisoners have received direct support from a chaplain concerning family issues, while charities and volunteers linked to the Church provide invaluable support both inside and outside the prison gates."

**For more information about the Church's work on prison reform see:** [cbcew.org.uk/Advocacy-Prisons](http://cbcew.org.uk/Advocacy-Prisons)

**For more information on the work of Pact including parish support and volunteering opportunities see:** [prisonadvice.org.uk](http://prisonadvice.org.uk)

**To read Lord Farmer's report see:** [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/636619/farmer-review-report.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/636619/farmer-review-report.pdf)

**See also: ICN 10 August 2017 - Michael Palin presents animated website for prisoners' children**

[www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33162](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33162)

**Source:** [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33207](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33207)

## OBITUARIES

### REFLECTION: THE GIFT OF TWO CARDINALS - TO DIE A GOOD DEATH

**Fr Robin Gibbons** 2 September 2017

Last year (2016) when he spoke on BBC Radio 2's *Pause for Thought*, on the eve of Remembrance Day, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor focused on the theme of a "good death". He was quoted as saying: "In spite of all our weaknesses and failures, God loves us and so death must be of a piece with life. With the help of God I hope I will be able to face it, not with fear but with hope and confidence as being in the hands of God."

This teaching is something that we desperately need in our 21st century, where death is for so many, the ultimate horror to be avoided and resisted at all costs. Yet the Church has always placed death into its true context, Christ's own passion and death give meaning to the resurrection. By accepting death, not running away from it Jesus teaches us to trust that this is not our total end. In Luke's gospel his last recorded words before his death have been used as a prayer by Christians ever since: Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. (Lk 23:46) This isn't a denial of death but the opening of its door, beyond it is the hope and trust that the God of all things greets us with open arms.

In the same broadcast Cardinal Cormac went on to say this: "I think, quite simply, that the way to have a good death is to try to live a good life." That is a very Catholic saying; for our life and death are intertwined, not separate acts. St Benedict in his *Rule* asks his disciples to use the instruments of good works (Chapter 4) - one of them is to keep death daily before one's eyes. This isn't morbidity nor a flight from reality but something the aged Simeon understood when he held the Christ Child in his arms and saw in that baby new life, new hope, salvation dawning. At his ending he could say in loving acceptance as hope to do: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. (Lk 2: 29-32)

Peace, rest, homeward bound!

Now Cardinal Cormac is gone, dying surrounded by family and friends on Friday, 1 September, 2017, but his going from us, like that of his much loved predecessor Cardinal George-Basil Hume, also hands on a ministry of compassion and care. If you are called to be a pastor for the flock of Christ then your teaching carries on right to the end. His own words just before he died written to the Diocese are simple, short and very apt. They are also hopeful words for anybody facing serious illness and death, picking up again those simple words of Jesus.

"At this time, the words I pray every night are never far from my thoughts: 'Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit'. Please tell them that I am at peace and have no fear of what is to come. I have received many blessings in my life, especially from my family and friends. Above all, as I now commend myself to the loving mercy of God, I ask them all to pray for me as I remember and pray for them." This is also the faith we believe in, those words of our creed and of the Eucharistic Prayer where we remind ourselves that the great communion of saints, the living and the dead are interceding for one another and belong as one.

As with Cardinal Cormac, so his predecessor Cardinal Hume handed on some helpful words for our own acceptance of death. Bishop John Crowley, who knew him well, preached the homily at his funeral (Friday, 25 June, 1999) in which he used Basil Hume's own insights and thoughts. One of the most profound sections of the homily was the Cardinals own meditation on the *Our Father*, which he had reflected on during his last few days on earth. I'll let Bishop John speak:

"In those last days here on earth he came to a fresh understanding of *Our Father*. 'It was' he said, 'like discovering its inner meaning for the very first time. It's only now that I begin to glimpse how everything we need is right there in the Lord's Prayer'. In the presence of a friend he then prayed the first three phrases of the *Our Father*, adding to each phrase a tiny commentary of his own. Sitting there and listening was somehow to understand afresh all that he stood for, to see again with great clarity why we admired him so much and loved him so deeply.

"*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name*' - 'to sing the praises of God, it is that for which we were made, and it is that which will be, for all eternity, our greatest joy'.

"*Thy Kingdom come*' - 'the Gospel values of Jesus, justice, love and peace, embraced throughout the whole world and in all their fullness'.

"*Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*' - 'that's the only thing which really matters. What God wants for us is what is best for us'.

"In those final weeks, curtain up or curtain down, the Cardinal's one prayer was simply this: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'.

What comes through both these pastors' words is a profound acceptance and sense that death is something we live each day, not as an enemy but as a friend. Both turn to that simple prayer of Christ, one we can make our own. Both help us accept that all our lives are full of small deaths, small crosses borne on our shoulders but that to die a good death is to live as fully as we can and as both say, to do it with joy. Thank you both for this gift to help so many who struggle to deal with death.

From St Francis Cantic of all creatures: *Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape.*

**See also: Obituary: Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor:** [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33303](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33303)

and **Message from Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor:** [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33301](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33301)

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33308>

## **FUNERAL HOMILY: 'CARDINAL CORMAC WAS A PRIEST TO HIS FINGERTIPS'**

13 September 2017

The Most Revd George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff, preached the homily at the Funeral Mass of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor in Westminster Cathedral today. One of Cardinal Cormac's auxiliary bishops serving the diocese of Westminster in the early 2000s, Archbishop Stack praised the late Cardinal and the ease with which he lived his vocational calling: "He was comfortable in his own skin. He was aware of his failings, yet supremely confident in his calling. He was a gifted man who would have made a success of whatever career he chose. Medicine or music - maybe even golf or perhaps rugby like his brother! Yet from an early age he was convinced he should be a priest, like his two other brothers."

Archbishop Stack lauded how Cardinal Cormac put his skills at the service of the Church and society at large - his heart for Christian unity most apparent: "He was able to reach out in meaningful and constructive ways to other churches. His membership and scholarly contribution to the conclusions of the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission. Much to his delight the fruits of his work were captured this year in the publication of all five ARCIC documents in one volume. His conviction that unity of mind and heart amongst the followers of Christ were not optional extras but sorely needed in a fragmented world."

Cardinal Cormac was often seen as a genial, friendly man. Archbishop Stack reflects further: "His gift of hospitality. He took the words of Jesus seriously 'Love one another as I have loved you'. These gifts, and the generous way he used them, were expressive of the fact that he liked people and liked being with them. He drew the best from others and gave them nothing but the best of himself in return. But his was not superficial friendliness. He was convinced that people could and should share their faith and learn from the life experiences of others."

The homily also focused on where the Cardinal is to be buried - beneath the tenth Station of the Cross in the Cathedral. Archbishop Stack believes this shows us something of Cardinal Cormac's humility: "This Station has a special lesson to teach us. Jesus is stripped of his garments. Our faith and devotion teach us that the seamless robe of his revelation of divine love, the integrity and compassion of Jesus, is torn away. The Jesus who stands before us naked and unashamed calls us to pay more attention to who we are rather than what we have so cunningly conspired to be."

"Cormac knew well what it was like to have judgments questioned, decisions criticised, mistakes analysed. That 'stripping away' could easily have made him angry and cynical, causing him to retreat from the public arena. Yet he acknowledged his mistakes. He made no excuses. He said the most difficult words of all. "I'm sorry". He learned a huge lesson and proceeded to establish the most robust safeguarding mechanism possible, a model for other institutions. Humility and action were part of the robe that he wore."

Shortly before he died, the Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney sent a final text message to his wife. It contained just two words. *Noli timere*. Do not be afraid. The same words were on the lips and in the heart of Cardinal Cormac when he wrote his final letter to the clergy and laity of the Diocese, "Please tell them that I am at peace, and have no fear of what is to come".

**See also: More than 1,200 attend funeral of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor** [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33391](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33391)

**Read the full text of the homily here:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33390>

## PUBLIC REASONING AND THE PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL – MALCOLM MCINTOSH

Andrew Crane 21 June 2017

In our post-truth times, we are in need, more than ever, of public intellectuals. Sadly, we recently lost one of our own most spirited and courageous free thinkers in the business and society field, Malcolm McIntosh, a Senior Visiting Fellow at the (Bath University) School of Management. Malcolm passed away on 7 June 2017 after a long battle with cancer.

In this extract from his forthcoming book, *In Search of the Good Society*, he speaks of the need for elites such as academics and other experts to re-engage meaningfully with society in order to address the world's most pressing social and environmental problems. We shall greatly miss not having Malcolm with us on that journey, but his words shall remain a touchstone.

"We have challenges that must be considered carefully and tackled with quiet and earnest intent: reforming the global financial system to bring it back within our control; developing economies that nurture, rather than destroy our natural capital; managing the development of biotechnology such that it provides solutions, and does not create problems; keeping control of AI, such that, as with the development of writing and printing, we know where we are going and have some control; and, turning our media tech companies into responsible publishers so that they are subject to the sort of social controls that govern our print media and libel laws.

If democracy is to work, and be more of a viable option for the 50% who don't currently have it, it must be based on what Edmund Burke, and more recently Amartya Sen, call 'public reasoning'. Burke said that 'the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing' - and in this time fake news and 'alternative facts'.

This requires the empowerment of what Pierre Bourdieu, and more recently Edward Said, call 'the public intellectual' who through clear public engagement restore the role of the expert and dispel the propagandists that populated the Nazi regime and drive the Trump administration and the Brexiters. Those who voted nihilistically against those they thought to be the elite, who were the elite, must be engaged so that they can see the wholeness of society, both locally and globally, or we are doomed. Rather than coasting on our laurels we must reengage with everyone, everywhere. We must win the argument with reason.

This 'high-opportunity, high-risk' society is open to everyone, but also only those who have access to education and free information. As Antony Giddens says: 'knowledge and innovation always cut both ways'. The future does not lie with nativism or isolationism. Indeed such moves defy the tide of history, the interdependent nature of all our lives, what we now know about the science of the planet, and what Karl Jung called our collective unconscious which holds the soul of humanity. At the heart of the good society should be an understanding of what Jung called instinct, for these aspects are central to what it means to be human: hunger, sexuality, activity, reflection, and creativity. And I count both art and science as forms of creativity.

Globalisation, like trade and capitalism, its bedfellows, is not dead, it just needs reforming. This is not a binary, it has to be nuanced. A balance must be found on a global basis to forge what Sen calls a 'democratic global state' through public reasoning. The forces of financialisation, social media and consumption are out of control and have formed a model of AI such that we are beholden to their algorithmic vicissitudes. As Angus Deaton, 2016 Nobel prize winning economist, has said: 'I don't think globalisation is anywhere near the threat that robots are . . . globalisation for me seems to be not first-order harm and I find it very hard not to think about the billion people who have been pulled out of poverty as a result'.

Deaton and his wife Anne Case have explained through enormously useful and detailed megadata trawling both the Brexit and the Trump votes: the ruling elites have been completely out of touch with white working class people. For instance, Deaton and Case highlighted the fact that the only demographic group to decline over the last fifteen years in America, because of 'deaths of despair', were white, poorly educated, working class men.

This is the same group that in the UK and the US have not only seen zero social mobility, but where the bottom 10% have gone backwards – they are poorer now than they were before. In the US they are now in the same position as the African-American population have always been. Just as it took the *Babbage Report* in the village of Haworth in Yorkshire a hundred years ago to highlight the appalling toll of poor sewage and the need for clean water so this may be a time for the elites, that's you and me, to take a look at what really matters for everyone – at the top and the bottom of society. China and parts of Africa continue to pull people up over the poverty line, while the UK, the USA and India continue to oppress working people. Japan and most of Scandinavia have virtually eliminated extreme poverty, while parts of Europe, such as the UK, seem to lack empathy for those who suffer most. In the UK this group voted for Brexit, and in the USA for Trump. In both cases fear and ignorance triumphed. The answer is not xenophobia led by elitists (Trump and the Brexit leadership - Gove, Johnson and Farage – all of whom are rich with elite backgrounds). And the groups that voted for Trump and Brexit shot themselves in the foot, like turkeys voting for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

It is not too late. All the statistics prove that globally we have made good progress over the last seventy years and we will look back and see that 2016 was a moment to take a deep breath and ask what went wrong, and then move forward again. The megalomaniacs, the greedy, those lacking in empathy and many corporate interests will always try to take over, but just as meerkats and bonobos run on co-operation so the best of humanity has been when we collaborate and co-operate. We must work for a feminised future not an avaricious masculine past. The future is liberal, collective and progressive but it requires us not to walk past on the other side or hide in a dark room listening to Beethoven with our headphones on until the world blows over. Art may be the best way forward, for it is through artistic expression in different dimensions that we can see the world afresh."

• *In Search of the Good Society* by Malcolm McIntosh, which will be published by Routledge on 26 October 2017.

Source: <http://blogs.bath.ac.uk/business-and-society/2017/06/21/public-reasoning-public-intellectual/>

'Have fun and laugh. I had a ball. Sorry to go early. Laugh a lot, it oxygenizes the brain just as well as yoga.' **Malcolm McIntosh**

Malcolm McIntosh's words, quoted in an announcement of his passing on June 7, 2017, sent out by his family, epitomize how he lived his life. I first met Malcolm in the late 1990s when he was forwarding the then-new conversation about corporate citizenship through conferences and a centre at the University of Warwick and later at Coventry. He came to academia non-traditionally, through careers in TV production and journalism with the BBC, with a PhD and lifelong interest in peace research that spread out to understanding corporate responsibility and citizenship and, more recently, political economy.

In the early 2000s, he founded the ***Journal of Corporate Citizenship*** and served as its editor multiple times over the years, including several stints as part of team of guest editors, guiding it to be an outlet for big ideas that bridge from theory to practice, from empiricism to thought leadership. He was the founding director and Professor at Griffith University's Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainable Enterprise in, Brisbane, Australia, where he served for five years.

Malcolm was a wonderful thinker, a polymath who followed his own path towards making the world a better place. A global citizen of the first order, there was little that he didn't know about - from music to philosophy to sustainability to how the world actually works. He was a true intellectual shaman, and a serial social entrepreneur, who was always thinking forward to the next big thing that could serve - or perhaps save - the world. He was a pioneer in the conversation about corporate citizenship, political economy, sustainability, and human rights, who pulled few punches in telling it like he saw it, yet always did so with the most amazing sense of human and personal insight.

Malcolm fully embodied the three tasks of the intellectual shaman: healing, connecting, and sensemaking the service of a better world. As a healer, he was profoundly concerned about the state of the world, ecological, politically, and socially, and worked tirelessly to make a difference through his teaching, writing, and consulting. As a connector and global citizen, he bridged boundaries of all sort, bringing people together in conversations and convenings that informed and enlightened. As a sensemaker and prolific author of more than 25 books and numerous articles, he engaged ideas and shared his insights as a public intellectual. And all of this work aimed at making the world a better place for all.

Malcolm recognized early on the potential of the UN's Global Compact and, later, the Principles for Responsible Management Education, as levers for positive change in the world, engaging with those initiatives in a variety of ways. He always 'thought forward,' systemically, and with a keen sense of the need to bring about change in the world for the better. He brought many of his ideas to fruition in two of his last books ***Thinking the Twenty-First Century***, and ***The Good Society***, which will be published posthumously [see previous article -Ed.]

What I will most remember about him, I suspect, is his spirit, his sense of life, his philosophy that we should, as his website says, 'Love life, love the plant.' Most of all I will remember his sense of humour, his prototypical intelligent British wit, his ability to laugh at his own situation, including facing his illness over the last years of his life. He was not afraid to die and he approached that possibility with the same wit he approached everything else. He was not afraid to die because he lived fully and enjoyed every minute of it, including his long marriage to Lou and his wonderful daughters Cleo and Sophie, the work that he did, and his many, many friends around the world. I will miss his spirit, his energy, and his healing presence in our world and also know that the good work that he did will live on.

**Sandra Waddock**, Boston College, June 2017 <http://www.bos-cbscsr.dk/2017/06/28/tribute-malcolm-mcintosh/>

## COLUMBANS LAUNCH YOUNG JOURNALIST COMPETITION

The Missionary Society of St Columban is inviting young people to enter a journalism competition, an initiative to mark their centenary. Students aged 15-18, who are budding journalists, are asked to write an article or make a video report that informs, challenges and raises important issues on the topic: ***'Migrants are our Neighbours'***. Teachers and parents are asked to alert young people to this opportunity.

Two separate strands will be held, one for students in Ireland and one for students in England, Scotland, and Wales. Each has two categories, writing and video, and the closing date for entries is 8 Feb 2018. Leading journalists in Ireland and Britain will be judging the entries. The winning articles and videos will be announced in Columban media on 15 March 2018. There are cash prizes.

The objective is to encourage students to use their journalistic writing and mobile skills to look at a topical issue which is relevant to Catholic Social Teaching and resonates with Columban mission. Since 2000 the Missionary Society of St. Columban has committed itself in a special way to continue accompanying and defending the rights of migrants, and to address the underlying causes of the migration of peoples. Pope Francis underlines Church teaching about welcoming the stranger when he says: "We have a duty toward our brothers and sisters who, for various reasons, have been forced to leave their homeland: a duty of justice, of civility and of solidarity."

Migrant and interfaith work has been a Columban priority in all 16 countries where the Columbans work. In Ireland, the Columbans run a 'Columban Centre' in Dublin which welcomes asylum seekers and provides English classes. Also, Columban Fr Bobby Gilmore was a founder member and is on the board of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland. In England, Columbans have engaged with immigrant communities, and helped to run a house of sanctuary in Birmingham, called Fatima House, for women asylum seekers. Columbans have participated in ***'Welcome the Stranger' Walks of Witness*** in London and Birmingham and there is a long-standing ministry to domestic workers.

**Details on the competition website:** [www.columbancompetition.com](http://www.columbancompetition.com)

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33463>

## RESOURCES

### BOOK: *RECLAIMING THE COMMON GOOD*

This new book explores what part Christians can play in building a better future of hope, peace, equality and justice. After decades of political consensus, we are entering a time in which everything about the way we live today, and about how our society and communities are structured, is up for discussion. Many people are feeling empowered to ask: What kind of world do we want to live in? One that works for a few, or one that works for the common good?

*Reclaiming the Common Good* is a collection of essays which consider themes which could be regarded as "signs of our times". Beginning with an explanation of the history and meaning of the term 'common good', it explores how the sense of working for this ideal has been lost. Focusing, biblically, on issues such as welfare, austerity, migration, environment, peace and justice, it provides a compellingly fresh and insightful analysis on the state of the UK and the world today, and offers a realistic vision of how it could be better. This vision is rooted in the idea of a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem, as suggested in the book of Revelation.

"The idea for the book came from a conversation about how our political leaders seem to be losing a sense of working for the common good", explains editor Virginia Moffatt; "The book is for Christians who care about the world they live in, regardless of political persuasion but also non-Christians who would be willing to read the perspectives and use them to advocate for change – and of course politicians and all political parties".

This collection has been compiled and edited by Virginia Moffatt, a writer, community activist and former Chief Operating Officer of the belief and values think-tank, Ekklesia. Its other contributors are: Dr Patrick Riordan SJ, John Moffatt SJ, Simon Barrow, Bernadette Meaden, Dr Simon Duffy, Rev Vaughan Jones, Savitri Hensman, Ellen Teague, Edward P Echlin, Henrietta Cullinan, Susan Clarkson and Rev Dr Simon Woodman.

*Reclaiming the Common Good - How Christians can help rebuild our broken world*, published by Darton, Longman & Todd. **For more information see:** <http://dltbooks.com/titles/2205-9780232533156-reclaiming-the-common-good>

### HOPE IN ACTION - NEW BOOK BY CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS

*Hope in Action - Reaching out to a World in Need* by Cardinal Vincent Nichols, is published by SPCK on 3 September. *Hope in Action* is based on various talks, lectures and broadcasts given by Cardinal Nichols between June 2015 and March 2017. In this inspiring and practical book, the Cardinal explores what we mean by Christian hope, what it means to be a disciple of mission, the importance of mercy, and how we can put our Christian hope into action to make a difference in our world today.

The Cardinal begins by his understanding of what hope is (as opposed to optimism): a vision that fires our imagination and passion, bringing together our understanding and our will, and moving us to do something to make a difference. There are 'fragments of hope' all around us, he writes, which encourage us along the way and direct us towards God, whose never-ending mercy is our ultimate reason for hope. As missionary disciples, we are in the *communio* of Jesus and we are sent to 'our colleagues, the curious and those who cry from the heart' to 'proclaim the gospel in a world that cries out for the hope it offers'. 'Jesus is the face of God's mercy,' the Cardinal writes. 'But we are to be the hands, voices and actions of that mercy in the flesh of our world today.'

In the second part of *Hope in Action*, the Cardinal explores what this means practically in a number of key campaigns and movements: ending sexual violence and abuse, ending human trafficking and slavery, offering hope for prisoners, and resisting religious extremism. Drawing on Pope Francis' call to 'help those who have fallen to get back up', he looks at how we can offer hope and promise to enable those who have suffered – and those who have committed offences - to start to build better lives. Each chapter includes questions for reflection or discussion at the end, encouraging the reader to engage more deeply with the text and the issues it raises. In a moving Epilogue, the Cardinal writes of the power of weeping as a true sign of what makes us human – whether tears of grief, pain, rage, regret, repentance or joy. 'Our tears', he concludes, 'must move us to act in ways that will help to heal these wounds in the body of humanity.'

Cardinal Nichols says: 'I feel that we are at a crucial moment. It seems as though a fairly long winter is slowly beginning to thaw, a winter in which there was a great opposition to the things of faith... But now I sense something of an opportunity... a more evident uncertainty in our society about how we should go about things, a troubled sense that all is far from well... There are indeed moments in which the small print of the messages of hope seemingly disappears from sight... Ours is surely the task of keeping alive these rumours of hope... and of knitting them together so that the far horizons of an eternal hope may never be lost to our sight... My hope is that this book... will encourage you to be strong in your faith and in the works of mercy that spring from it... We must strive to bring God's hope and mercy to the world. For this is our calling, our God-given wisdom.'

### 'A CHURCH OF THE POOR' NEW RADIO SERIES

One of the first things Pope Francis said was that he wanted a '*Poor Church for the Poor*' and he has introduced an annual World Day of the Poor every November. **Heaven's Road Catholic Radio** is producing a new series of programmes to highlight the projects that various Catholic people, charities, and parishes are running to help the disadvantaged, both in the UK and overseas. Hopefully, these programmes will inspire others either to get involved in helping organisations or even start their own project.

The programmes will be broadcast <http://www.heavensroadfm.com/listen-now/> from Sunday 1 October - see our weekly schedule for more information. It's not too late to be included, if you've a story to tell about a project helping the disadvantaged, please email [admin@heavensroadfm.com](mailto:admin@heavensroadfm.com)

## FAIRTRADE SCHOOLS NEWS

**New resource for 7-11 year-olds: *Patrick's Virtual Visit*** – Patrick is a tea farmer who visited the UK during Fair Trade Fortnight, speaking in a number of schools about tea and the difference Fairtrade makes to his community. **Download at:**

[http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resource/patricks-virtual-visit/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\\_campaign=Schools+Jan+2017+4&utm\\_content=EC+Virtual+Visit](http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resource/patricks-virtual-visit/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=Schools+Jan+2017+4&utm_content=EC+Virtual+Visit)

There are supporting notes and resources for teachers plus worksheets, a Negotiating Game (a group activity to show the power of working together), a Consumer Power activity to show how we can make a difference with our shopping choices and discussion ideas to look at where our purchases come from. **More info:** [schools@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:schools@fairtrade.org.uk)

## PAX CHRISTI SCHOOLS RESOURCES

**New A-level Religious Studies Lesson *Pacifism: Practice and Practicality***

By examining the lives of Christian men and women who have resisted war and violence this lesson explores pacifism in its various forms. It examines their motivation, the effectiveness of their actions, and the limits to their pacifism. This lesson will enable students to understand different concepts of pacifism and the practicality of them. This, the second in our series of A-level lessons, has been jointly produced by Pax Christi and Quakers in Britain and is available on our website [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

• **PEACE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS** – bookings now being taken. Contact Matt: [education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk)

## WHITE POPPIES FOR SCHOOLS

The **Peace Pledge Union (PPU)** and **ForcesWatch** are launching a new project called ***White Poppies for Schools***. With Remembrance Day (11 November) coming up this coming Autumn term, we've been thinking about ways to introduce more schools to the white poppy's message of a commitment to peace. ForcesWatch last year wrote a resource for teachers called ***'Rethinking Remembrance Day in Schools'***, which explores how remembrance can be used to encourage critical thinking and foster a culture of peace, rather than sanitising, simplifying or even glorifying war. We received very positive feedback from teachers on this resource, and we would like to reach more with it this year. With this new project, the Peace Pledge Union and ForcesWatch will work with local groups around the UK to provide schools with a **White Poppies for Schools Pack**. The pack includes 100 White Poppies in a display box, plus an information pack with 10 White Poppy information leaflets and 10 ***Rethinking Remembrance Day*** resources. Purchased from PPU for £60 (incl. postage).

As small organisations we are unable to give these packs to schools for free - and many schools will not be able to purchase them themselves. So we're reaching out to local organisations or groups committed to peace, and campaigning against militarism and war, to gift a pack to a nearby school. If you want to purchase one pack but give to more than one school, we can include more Information Packs at no higher cost, and you can distribute the white poppies and packs between more than one school. To buy a smaller number of White Poppies for a smaller cost along with the pack, get in touch with us and we'll let you know the option. It would be helpful to have orders placed with us by 20 October. **Contact:** Rhianna at [education@forceswatch.net](mailto:education@forceswatch.net) or Sophie at [development@ppu.org.uk](mailto:development@ppu.org.uk) or go to the website: <https://www.forceswatch.net/resources/white-poppies-schools>

## CONFLICT AND ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES

Compiled by **Ellen Teague** September 2017

### Conflict and Climate Change

• **DVD – *Conflict and Climate Change*** <https://www.kevinmayhew.com/conflict-and-climate-change-book-and-dvd.html>

• ***The rough guide to climate change and conflict*** – CAFOD

<https://caford.org.uk/content/download/2995/21682/file/climatechangeandconflict.pdf>

• ***Taken by Storm: Responding to the impacts of climate change***

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/taken-by-storm-climate-change-report-march-2014.pdf>

• **Tearfund** calls climate change a wake-up call <https://www.premier.org.uk/News/World/UN-report-shows-world-hunger-on-the-rise-Christian-charity-calls-it-a-climate-change-wakeup-call>

• ***Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence***

<https://www.amazon.com/Tropic-Chaos-Climate-Geography-Violence/dp/1568587295>

### Water Wars

• ***The world will soon be at war over water***

<http://www.newsweek.com/2015/05/01/world-will-soon-be-war-over-water-324328.html>

• ***Vocation for Justice – Columbans*** – issue on **Water**

[http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=13&ved=0ahUKewib07altKnWAhVMa1AKHWnsAHoQFghqMAw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.columbans.co.uk%2F%3Fdl\\_id%3D215&usq=AFQjCNGVFuz2CRM-NMMFhdGQGuJm56kPpw](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=13&ved=0ahUKewib07altKnWAhVMa1AKHWnsAHoQFghqMAw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.columbans.co.uk%2F%3Fdl_id%3D215&usq=AFQjCNGVFuz2CRM-NMMFhdGQGuJm56kPpw)

• ***Water and Conflict*** – Catholic Relief Services

<https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/research-publications/water-and-conflict>

### Mining and Conflict

• ***Conflict and the Colombian mining boom*** – CAFOD

<https://caford.org.uk/News/Press-centre/Press-releases/Colombia-mining-report>

• **London Mining Network** <http://londonminingnetwork.org/>

• **Churches and Mining Network calls for building alternatives to extractivism**

<http://www.cidse.org/articles/business-and-human-rights/extractive-industries-in-latin-america/churches-and-mining-network-calls-for-building-alternatives-to-extractivism.html>

### Resources wasted by arms trading and conflict

• **Pax Christi** to mark **Global Day of Action on military spending** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/27173>

• ***No Faith in War prayers*** outside DSEI Arms Fair <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33331>

• **UK ministers attend weapons fair but ignore UN event on illicit arms trade** <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/sep/12/uk-condemned-ministers-attend-weapons-fair-but-ignore-un-arms-trade-treaty-conference-geneva>

## ROMERO PILGRIMAGE WALK

**Maureen Thompson** from the **Diocese of Portsmouth Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Team** has prepared an comprehensive liturgy for a **Romero Pilgrimage Walk** with readings, reflection and action ideas which can be easily adapted for local needs.

- Reflections are from Prayer in memory of Oscar Romero (1917–1980) called ***A Future Not Our Own*** - prayer composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw
- Memories are from the book ***Monseñor Romero: Memories in Mosaic*** by Maria Lopez Vigil
- Information from Romero Trust <http://romerotrue.org.uk/>

The liturgy is available on request at [jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jpsr@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Maureen has kindly also sent a shorter version which can be used as stations within a church for those who do not wish to walk. This follows below but do please contact her for the full version – highly recommended. Maureen has asked for feedback if you make use of the liturgy.

**SHORT VERSION:** 100 years after the birth of Archbishop Oscar Romero we gather as pilgrims to travel together:

“Let us not forget: we are a pilgrim church, subject to misunderstanding, to persecution, but a church that walks serene, because it bears the force of love.” — **Oscar Romero, *The Violence of Love***

By reflecting on The Archbishop’s story, we will focus on our own faith journeys as people of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we ask for your blessing on this journey today. Let it strengthen us recognising our poverty of spirit, our grief, our humility, our desire to do good and our need for your mercy. Let it encourage us to be your disciples acting as comforters, advocates for righteousness, offering reconciliation and peace. Give us wisdom to speak out for your names sake even when we are ridiculed and persecuted. May the courage of Oscar Romero inspire us to work with integrity for an end to violence and poverty. Amen.

**Station 1: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven***

**Response is:** *Blessed Oscar Romero, pray with us*

**Reflection - A Future not our Own:** It helps now and then, to step back and take the long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

**Action for the Future:** sign up to CAFOD ***Power to be*** campaign

**Station 2: *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted***

**Reflection:** We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise. Nothing is complete, which is another way of saying the kingdom is beyond us.

**Action for the Future:** light a candle in remembrance, donate to a charity

**Station 3: *Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth***

**Reflection:** No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church’s mission. No set of goals and objectives include everything.

**Action for the Future:** Live simply, consume less, reuse and recycle more

**Station 4: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness sake for they shall be filled***

**Reflection:** This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

**Action for the Future:** Write to a persecuted Christian (Action by Christians Against Torture) [acatuk.org.uk](http://acatuk.org.uk)

**Station 5: *Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy***

**Reflection:** We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

**Action for the Future:** Consider visiting in hospital, in prison or in the community

**Station 6: *Blessed are the pure in Heart for they shall see God***

**Reflection:** It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

**Action for the Future:** look for ways to reach out to the vulnerable

**Station 7: *Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God***

**Reflection:** We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

**Action for the Future:** Volunteer to get involved in a Caritas project – try to see the Rise Theatre Company’s *Romero* play

**Station 8: *Blessed are those persecuted for doing right for the kingdom of God is theirs***

**Response is:** *Blessed Oscar Romero pray with us*

Our Father ...

**Reflection:** We are prophets of a future not our own

**Action for the Future:** Complete a CAFOD commitment card

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### JOURNEY TO JUSTICE – A CAFOD RETREAT

This provides the opportunity to explore how Romero's life and faith can inspire and challenge us and transform our world. Take time to reflect on your own journey of transformation, and be inspired and enriched by stories of those who continue to speak out for justice today. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are already involved with CAFOD's campaigns. The retreat is free of charge and is being held on days (10am-4pm) around the country between Nov 4 and Dec 2 including:

**Sat 4 November** - Bamford Quaker Centre, Bamford, S33 0DA in the diocese of Hallam.

**Sat 11 November** - Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Leeds LS6 2BX.

**Sat 18 November** - Birmingham, Columbans Centre, Blythe Hall, Knowle, Solihull B93 9AB.

also at - Salford, Wardley Hall, Worsley, Manchester, Lancashire, M28 2RL.

**More details and to register:** <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events>

## OCTOBER

**3 CWDF Forum meets Chris Matheson MP** 7-9pm, Best Building, University of Chester. An informal meeting with Chris Matheson, the re-elected Chester MP, 4 months after the 2017 General Election. A Q&A session on a range of development issues in these very unpredictable times. Arranged in association with the University's International Development Society.

**4 Songs we remember Dementia Friendly Sing-a-long** St Thomas Canterbury Church L22 1RD 1.45-2.45 every fortnight.

**5 University of Liverpool Nonviolence Works! Seminar.** Pope Francis has called nonviolence 'a style of politics for peace'. Come and explore what that might mean in practice building on the work of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and the Vatican. Open event organised by Pax Christi and University co-hosts. Details: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

**6 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** inspired by the Oscar Romero prayer, which you will find in your Fast Day pack. "We plant the seeds," the prayer says, "that one day will grow": a perfect picture of both our work and also of each donation, given in faith. The Fast Day pack features Endelmira, a farmer in El Salvador, as she works to grow a harvest from good, local seed given to her by CAFOD's local partner. This strong, native seed means Endelmira can resist having to buy weak, commercial seed that won't let her grow a second harvest with its yield. So, we and Endelmira are fighting for God's natural abundance - the fertility of a seed - for her and for her children, and for future generations. [www.cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Harvest-Fast-Day](http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Harvest-Fast-Day)

**7 Be My Guest: Cumbria Church Leaders in conversation** 10am-4pm St Mary's Church & Ambleside Church Centre, Ambleside LA22 9DH. Keynote Speaker Rev Terrie Robinson Director for Women in Church and Society, the Anglican Communion. A day to learn and question, explore perception and share stories, support and challenge Workshops on: Domestic abuse, Gender justice, Gender and the local church, Expectations in maleness, Trans and the Church. Cost: £12 (notify us if reduced rate needed). Book by email: [lkctic@yahoo.com](mailto:lkctic@yahoo.com) or call Helen on 07503 931196

**8-15 Prison Sunday & Prisons Week.** For forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons. Please pray each day during Prisons Week, but also ask yourself whether there is one thing that you as an individual, or as a church, can do to help any of those people that you are praying for. For more information and for prayers for Prison Week please visit [www.prisonweek.org](http://www.prisonweek.org)

**8-16 Week of Prayer for World Peace**, an interfaith initiative each year offering material that can be used by all faiths together. Themes for the days this year include: world leaders, the environment, refugees and victims of war, the animal kingdom and child soldiers [www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com/download/wpwp.leaflet.2017.pdf](http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com/download/wpwp.leaflet.2017.pdf)

**9 Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) NW** Lancaster University Catholic Chaplaincy LA1 4YW, 7.30-9pm. Please join us to learn more about the lives of Christians in Northern Nigeria and the situation for Iraq's Christian community and how you can help rebuild villages and lives in the Nineveh Plains. Invited speakers: Bishop Matthew Kukah of the Diocese of Sokoto in Nigeria, Fr Salar Boudagh, a young priest from Iraq, and Stephen Rasche, Counsel and Aid programme coordinator for the Chaldean Archdiocese of Erbil. Entrance is free; a retiring collection will be taken for ACN's work in Nigeria and Iraq. ACN literature and trading items will be available. For more info contact Caroline or Bridget at ACN NW: 01524 388739 or [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org)

**10 ACN event** – details as above (9 Oct) Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TQ, 7.30-9pm

**9 ACN Q&As for NW Secondary Schools** Church of the Holy Name, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PG, 11am-12.30pm and **10** Corpus Christi Catholic High School, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8QY, 11am-12.30pm. A great chance for pupils at your secondary school to find out what life is like for young Christians in Northern Nigeria and Iraq today and to put their questions to Bishop Matthew Kukah of the Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria, Fr Salar Boudagh, a young Iraqi priest, and Stephen Rasche who has helped to organise camps and emergency aid in Erbil for Christians forced to flee the Nineveh Plains. To register your school or to find out more, please contact Bridget at ACN NW: 01524 388739; [bridget.huddleston@acnuk.org](mailto:bridget.huddleston@acnuk.org)

**10 The Play Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador** St Wilfred's Pastoral Centre, Mayfield Drive, Widnes, WA8 8PR. 7.30pm Tickets from Animate Youth Ministries 01744 740460 email: [admin@animateyouth.co.uk](mailto:admin@animateyouth.co.uk)

**10 Challenges of Developing Business in Bhutan** 7.30-9pm, Best Building, University of Chester. A talk by William Tacon about his work with the Loden Foundation – an organisation dedicated to fostering an enlightened and happy society in Bhutan through promotion of education, learning and entrepreneurship among the Bhutanese children and young adults.

**11 Remembrance Day White Poppies for Peace** <https://www.forceswatch.net/resources/white-poppies-schools> Contacts for schools campaign: Rhianna at [education@forceswatch.net](mailto:education@forceswatch.net) and Sophie at [development@ppu.org.uk](mailto:development@ppu.org.uk)

**14 & 15 Come & See 2017** with Timothy Radcliffe OP at Christ The King School Southport. Workshops by Steve Atherton, Fiona Castle, Dermott Donnelly and more.... Music by Jo Boyce and friends, also Mime artist Steve Murray and Margaret Duncan. For more info about our events see [www.irenaeus.co.uk](http://www.irenaeus.co.uk) the Irenaeus Project 0151 949 1199 or email [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

**17 End Hunger's national conference** Westminster Central Hall. Sessions will include: Tackling childhood hunger/365-day food provision for young people; Preventing destitution/reforming Universal Credit and sanctions; Measuring the scale of household food insecurity in the UK; Who is responsible for ending hunger in the UK? There will be workshops on: How to build a local End Hunger campaign; How to build a positive engagement with your MP; Developing a local food poverty profile; How to successfully engage with the media; How to engage people with experience of food poverty in the campaign. Sign up here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/end-hunger-uk-national-campaign-conference-tickets-36863521786>

**20 The Balfour Project.** Talk David Cronin, journalist and author of a book about the Balfour Declaration preceded by the film *The Balfour Project* which marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the declaration. Meeting arranged by Chester Friends of Palestine, details of venue and timings to be advised. [www.chesterwdf.org.uk](http://www.chesterwdf.org.uk) For background see: [www.balfourproject.org](http://www.balfourproject.org)

**21 Britain and Palestine 1917-2017: One hundred years of broken promises conference** 10am – 4.15pm Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3B. Speakers include : Ian Pappe: Israeli citizen, historian, Professor at Exeter University, Director of the European Centre for Palestine Studies, author of many books on Palestine. Ben Jamal: British-born Palestinian, Director of Palestine Solidarity Campaign David Cronin: Journalist, Deputy Editor of Electronic Intifada and author of several books on Israel/Palestine. Coffee, tea, biscuits and lunch provided. Please book free tickets by sending an email directly to LFOP at [liverpoolfopal@gmail.com](mailto:liverpoolfopal@gmail.com) and **not** through Eventbrite as previously stated. Bookings must be done individually as we cannot accept group bookings. Info: [www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/events](http://www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/events) [www.liverpoolfriendsofpalestine.co.uk/](http://www.liverpoolfriendsofpalestine.co.uk/) 0151 709 2447

**21 ACTA National Conference** the Quaker Priory Rooms conference centre, Bull Street, Birmingham. A light lunch with soft drinks is included. Cost is £20. Book online at [acalltoaction.org.uk](http://acalltoaction.org.uk) or send a cheque to the ACTA Hon. Treasurer: Ken Holden, 67, Menlove Avenue, Liverpool, L18 2EH. Info: Co-ordinator [mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjriordan@hotmail.co.uk) or Treasurer [k.holden67@btinternet.com](mailto:k.holden67@btinternet.com)

**22-29 One World Week** This year's theme is **Good Neighbours: My World Depends On Us** OWW invites you to explore how we can become good neighbours locally and globally. [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

**28** Awareness-raising event about modern slavery St Asaph Cathedral, High St, Asaph, Denbighshire, N Wales LL17 0RD. Free to attend but please book a ticket to help organisers know about numbers coming. See: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/modern-slavery-awareness-event-tickets-35385078723> and also <https://www.facebook.com/events/435620243491010> Mick Duthie of Santa Marta Group will be there. He is keen to promote the event in October, and anything else that the Catholic Community in North Wales can do to get involved in the fight against modern slavery.

**29** Deborah and Patrick Darnes will be leafleting about the **Balfour Declaration Anniversary** outside Manchester Cathedral services. Please contact them at [darnes@talktalk.net](mailto:darnes@talktalk.net) if you can help with this.

## NOVEMBER

**2 100 year anniversary of the signing of the Balfour Declaration.**

**2 Amos Trust Walk** began earlier in the summer and will reach Jerusalem on 2 November to mark the signing of the Balfour Declaration. At least 3 people from the NW are taking part in this walk. We hope they will be sharing with us on the morning of our Advent Reflection Day on 2 December, and they may be available as local speakers for your group [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com)

**3 Luv Esther** musical 7pm, the Salvation Army Centre, Oakengates, Lion Street, Telford TF2 6AZ. Esther was a refugee, a stranger in a strange land. She takes her life in her hands and pleads for the lives of her people. Collection will be taken for agencies working with refugees. Tickets available for the Telford Christians Together Office at Meeting Point House or Admaston House or by emailing [luvesthertelford@gmail.com](mailto:luvesthertelford@gmail.com) Further details [www.facebook.com/LEuktour](http://www.facebook.com/LEuktour) or call Martin 07905221392

**9 The Alf Keeling Memorial Lecture *Science and Spirituality*** by Dr Girdari Lai Bhan, Retired Consultant Physician, Hindu Representative at Greater Manchester Faith Community Leaders Group, 7.30-9.30pm St Ambrose Preparatory School Hall, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns WA15 0HE. All welcome. Light refreshments. Organised by Altrincham Interfaith Group [cjpjones@gmail.com](mailto:cjpjones@gmail.com)

**15 Balfour, May and the "wrong kind of Jews"** 7pm Cornerstone, Dalton Square, Lancaster LA1 1PX. Speaker Robert Cohen Voices from the Margins

**18 Joy in Enough Conference** Sheffield <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/> The website provides details of Road shows, the excellent '*Green Christian*' magazine, ecumenical events and resources.

**18 Listening to voices from the margins Church Action on Poverty annual conference** St Mary's Conference Centre Sheffield 10am-4pm. Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked, and gave them hope. Our churches are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change. Too often, we see people in poverty as a problem to be fixed, not as unique human beings made in the image of God. Our '*Church of the Poor*' project explores how we can build what Pope Francis has called "a poor church that is for the poor". At the conference we'll share stories of the transformation that takes place when churches truly value, listen and include people in poverty. Prayers and shared worship; roundtable conversations and discussions; speakers; panel discussions. You can order your ticket using the link below, or call us on 0161 872 9294. [http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/conference/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\\_campaign=voicesfromthemargins&utm\\_content=2017+09+04+Annual+conference+invitation](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/conference/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=voicesfromthemargins&utm_content=2017+09+04+Annual+conference+invitation)

**18 Romero: Journey to Justice CAFOD retreat** Wardley Hall, 43 Wardley Hall Lane, Worsley, M28 2RL, 10am-4pm, to explore how Romero's life and faith can inspire and challenge us and transform our world. Listening to the poor, reflecting on the Scriptures and engaging with political realities transformed Oscar Romero into one of the Church's most respected and inspirational figures. His legacy of radical love lives on 100 years after his birth. You don't have to be a CAFOD volunteer to take part, so please invite friends or others in your parish to come along too. The retreat is free but please book in advance here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journey-to-justice-a-cafod-retreat-tickets-35696994672> Please bring savoury vegetarian food to share for lunch.

**18 ACN NW Benefactors' Weekend** Holy Mass and prayers before the ONE NIGHT Icon, Church of the Holy Name Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PG, 2-4pm

and **19 'A Star of Hope in the East? Rebuilding faith after suffering—in the Middle East and Eastern Europe'**, a talk by Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director of ACN UK, Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Michael, Workington CA14 3EP, 2-4pm. All are welcome to these events. Entrance is free; retiring collections for ACN's work around the world. Cards, gifts and ACN literature available; receptions follow each event. More info from Caroline or Bridget at ACN NW: 01524 388739 or [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org)

**25 Stockport Annual Fairtrade Fair** The Guildhall 169 Wellington Rd South, Stockport SK1 3UA 10.30-3.30.

**25 CAFOD Lancaster Annual Memorial Mass** 6pm St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church, Bonds Lane, Garstang PR3 1ZB

**25 CAFOD Liverpool Diocesan Memorial Mass** 5.30pm Sacred Heart Ainsdale, Sacred Heart, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 3BP

**25 NJPN Open Networking Day** St Thomas More, Henry Rd, London N4 2LH, 10.30am-4pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Contact: NJPN 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) 020 7901 4864

## DECEMBER

**2 Advent Reflection Day** Altrincham URC, Trinity Hale gathering for coffee/tea from 10 - 10.30am. The day will include reports from the Amos Trust Walk to Jerusalem, discussion about the Friends of Sabeel UK merger with Kairos Britain, and the latest plans for taking the new organisation forward into 2018. We will also share in worship together, and times of chat, discussion and networking. We will be ordering a buffet for lunch, so please let Deborah Darnes [darnes@talktalk.net](mailto:darnes@talktalk.net) know if you intend coming, to ensure our order is accurate. The buffet will cost @£5, but we also need to cover the cost of hiring the premises. There will be a donation bowl available on the day to defray these expenses. Details: John Logan [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com)

**13 CAFOD Carols** St Teresa's, College Rd, Upholland, Nr Wigan WN8 0PY

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://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 0207 901 4864 [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

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