

Shrewsbury Diocese JP&SR E-Bulletin – February 2013

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

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

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1. Resources

Available to download: **A Lenten Journey 2013** plus **Stations of the Cross** (including one for Young People)

<http://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/resources/> (scroll partway down to 'Season of Lent')

J&P Calendar for the Year of Faith 11 October 2012 – 24 November 2013

As we move through the Year of Faith the calendar will start at the current time to make dates easier to locate

<http://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/year-of-faith-3/>

2. Petition success!

Thanks to everyone who signed the petition highlighted in the **January e bulletin**. The Department for Education has now confirmed **Mary Seacole's** place as a leading black role model within the national curriculum for history.

3. Enough food for everyone IF

Hunger is the greatest scandal of our age. It kills more people than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. One in eight people on our planet are hungry. Two million children die each year because of malnutrition. Yet we produce enough food to feed everyone. The problem is not a shortage of food. There are deep inequalities and rigged rules in the food system that mean the hungry do not get the food they need to live. The forces keeping people hungry include tax dodging, financial secrecy, land grabs and too little investment in small-scale agriculture. Over 100 organisations have joined together to demand an end to hunger in the **IF** campaign. **In June the G8 Summit comes to Britain**. This is our chance to end the scandal of hunger. Our leaders will listen **if we act together** and **act now**.

Enough Food for Everyone....

IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land, and use the available agricultural land to grow food for people, not bio-fuels for cars.

IF governments keep their promises on aid, invest to stop children dying from malnutrition and help the poorest people feed themselves through investment in small farmers.

IF governments stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.

IF we force governments and investors to be honest and open about the deals they make in the poorest countries that stop people getting enough food.

The more of us involved then the greater the pressure we can put on world leaders to tackle these IFs in 2013.

IF our leaders take action then we can start to have enough food for everyone.

www.enoughfoodif.org

Progressio are asking supporters to **meet their MPs between 15 February and 15 March** to talk about the **IF** asks, ahead of the budget in March.

IF we persuade enough MPs to press the Government to act, we can be the generation to end global hunger by inspiring other nations to do the same. George Osborne can help make this happen:

IF he delivers enough of the right aid to help the poorest families feed themselves.

IF he gets big companies to spill the beans on dodging tax in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.

www.progressio.org.uk/if

Weekly reflections: Daily Bread

To support the **IF** campaign, CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund are producing a series of weekly reflections on the line from the Lord's Prayer *Give us this day our daily bread* www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Theological-reflection

Emmaus Meal

Lent is a time for reflecting not just about our relationship with God, but also about our relationship with others. Sharing a meal is a powerful way of expressing community and of being *in communion* with others. CAFOD has produced a resource based around a meal for use in parishes or any group setting called the **Emmaus Meal**. Reflect on the theme of food, whilst sampling food from other parts of the world, listen to the Gospel story of the road to Emmaus and pray with others www.cafod.org.uk/emmaus

4. The Six Items Lent Challenge

Labour Behind the Label invites you to take part in a clothing fast **starting 13 February**. The **Six Items Challenge** involves a pledge to wear only six main items of clothing for the six weeks of Lent. Participants last year found it a really uplifting and thoughtful experience: *"For me it's the beginning of a new way of life. I have looked at myself and have realised I need to change: change how I choose to spend my money; change where I choose to shop; change how I think about others. My choices have an effect on other people's lives, in a big way."* - Luanna

Labour Behind the Label is currently advocating for compensation for the families and victims of recent garment factory fires in Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as working hard to promote 'living wages' for workers enslaved in a poverty trap, producing clothing for the UK. For further info contact Bee on 0117 944 1700 bee@labourbehindthelabel.org

5. Fairtrade Fortnight 25 February - 10 March

How far will you go for Fairtrade in 2013? is the slogan for this year's **Fairtrade Fortnight**. In 2013 the aim is to take Fairtrade further, and everyone's help is needed to reach more farmers and workers who urgently need a better deal from trade. Why not hold a Coffee Morning serving Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar with local milk and cakes made with local eggs and Fairtrade sugar and chocolate? Or a competition for the best banana cake made with Fairtrade bananas? And for Sunday 3 March perhaps a special service round the Fairtrade and local theme. A display in church for the fortnight is another easy way to promote the theme with lots of material available, free, from the Fairtrade Foundation at www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources

6. Climate Week 4-10 March 2013

Climate Week is the UK's biggest climate change campaign. This year we are calling on **your** congregation to take part on Sunday 10 March as part of your weekly worship. Here is how you can get involved:

- **Walk, bike, or car-share to worship** – use alternative transport to get to Sunday service.
- **Climate Week Swap** – hold an exchange event where everyone brings items such as clothes, books or children's toys that they no longer want to trade for others.
- **Bubble & Squeak** – pass around the recipe on the Climate Week website for a low-carbon Sunday meal.
- **Green Roundtable** – arrange a discussion on ways to lower your church's carbon footprint.

Register your action at www.climateweek.com and be part of a national occasion. For more information call 020 3397 2601 or email info@climateweek.com

7. Schools invited to sign up to Spirit of Romero Day 20 March

A new initiative is encouraging schools and colleges to unite in showing solidarity and support for social justice campaigns, including the current **Food Enough for Everyone IF** campaign. **Just1** has arranged for them to sign up as **Spirit of Romero Schools** and to set aside a few minutes in assembly or classroom on **20 March**, the **Spirit of Romero Day**. Organiser Hugh Gibbons says: "The purpose is to have an opportunity to appreciate, thank and

acclaim the world's 'voices for the voiceless' – the millions of campaigners for social justice, peace, equality, dignity and human rights.”

Schools are also encouraged to support the **End Hunger campaigns** being directed at leaders of the **G8 gathering in June** including the **Food Enough for All IF campaign**, of which CAFOD, SciAF, Trocaire and Progressio and Just1 are members. In the UK, School Councils are invited to write a letter to the Secretary of State for International Development. Hugh says: “Each year, many Catholic schools and colleges pay tribute to the life and legacy of Archbishop Oscar Romero in their own way around the anniversary of his assassination on 24 March. It seemed that getting young people acting in his spirit for social justice would be a good idea all round – especially as a contribution to the **Year of Faith**. You need to be 18 to take part in the formal on-line and paper petitions to the Prime Minister but schools can commend the campaigns to the leaders of governments.”

The first day of Spring, Wednesday **20 March**, has been chosen for the first **Spirit of Romero Day** which falls in the run up to the annual **United Nations Day for the Right to Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims**. The UN has set this for **24 March**, as a tribute to the life and legacy of Romero. Schools are invited to nominate a member of staff or governing body to become a Friend of the ecumenical UK charity **Romero Trust** and to display one of the small wooden Romero Crosses hand-made by family artists in El Salvador. Bishops can play a part too: the Spirit of Romero website has a page showing **Palmaditas en la Espada** – a couple of sentences to give a public pat on the back to schools in dioceses for their support for social justice through the years. Resources including a downloadable slideshow briefing for teachers, the suggested ceremony on Spirit of Romero Day, outline of letters, and sign-up forms are available at: www.just1.org.uk/spiritofromero

8. Pax Christi issues statement on Drones

The British Section of **Pax Christi**, the international Catholic movement for peace, has issued a statement outlining its concerns at the development and use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as **Drones**. Pax Christi is deeply concerned about the rapid growth in the development and use of armed unmanned aerial vehicles. In theory these might possibly be used in a way that conforms to Just War teaching - such as a war declared by legitimate authority, with discrimination between combatants and civilians. However, UAVs are not currently used in this way.

Pax Christi suggests now is the time to challenge their development, before UAV's become enshrined a 'legitimate' weapons system and play a deeper role in the tragedy of warfare. Pax Christi believes that they contravene existing moral and legal codes that govern war and the conduct of war. According to Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi, their low cost, ease of use and minimal military casualty rate make them attractive to politicians. They insulate Western public opinion from the true horrors of modern warfare and the use of drones means that decisions leading towards war and military intervention will be more not less likely. The UK is involved in the development of its own UK-operated systems and has a contract with the Israeli company, Elbit Systems and Thales UK for the Watchkeeper unmanned aerial vehicle due to be operational by the RAF in Spring 2013.

Pax Christi is a member of the **Drone Campaign network** which is already campaigning for an end to the secrecy surrounding the use of British drones in Afghanistan in order to encourage proper public debate. This should include the reasons for individual drone strikes and the number of people killed. The full statement can be read at: <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/documents/Security/Drones%20final%20edited.pdf>

9. 19 May–20 July Pilgrimage for Peace and Economic Justice

Iona to London: Beginning on Iona at Pentecost finishing at the Palace of Westminster in London: an act of witness and communal celebration drawing strength and inspiration from historic centres of prayer along the way. As the Pilgrimage makes its way southwards, there will be numerous opportunities for local churches and other groups along the route to promote discussion in the news media about the justification for the renewal of Trident, and related wider issues of social and economic justice.

www.justpeacepilgrimage

10. National Justice and Peace Network 35th Annual Conference 19-21 July

This year's theme for the **NJPN Conference** is **Breaking Open the Word** (see attached flyer). The Shrewsbury Diocese JP&SR Commission may be able to offer a bursary for a family or individuals to attend. Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please contact Tony Walsh, 54 Underwood Drive, Ellesmere Port CH65 9BL tonywash3@btinternet.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

20 Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12.00 – 1.30pm at the Welsh Church, St John Street, Chester

22 CAFOD Lent Fast Day

23 Christian Aid's Big Coffee Morning 10.00 -12.00 at Hoole URC

25 Feb–10 March Fairtrade Fortnight *How far will you go for Fairtrade in 2013?* www.fairtrade.org.uk
Chester area - Visit of Gerardo Arias Camacho, a **coffee farmer from Costa Rica** from **1-5 March** arranged by the Cheshire West and Chester Fairtrade Group. Further information and itinerary from Ashley Jones, 01244 972435 ashley.jones@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

27 Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12.00 – 1.30pm at the Welsh Church, St John Street, Chester

MARCH

1-4 Seeds of Liberation Student Christian Movement's annual conference in **Manchester** exploring the Gospel of peace and justice including **VI Form Study Day 1 March** www.movement.org.uk/seedsofliberation

5 Big Boys Gone Bananas 90 minute documentary film showing how a multinational will stop at nothing to get its way. 7.30pm at Grosvenor Museum, Chester. Contact 01829 770847

6 Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12.00 – 1.30pm, Welsh Church, St John Street Chester

6 Arms, Conflict and Peace Building in Africa Conference at the **University of Chester** to mark the 50th anniversary of the African Studies Association. Led by three speakers drawn from academia and the NGO sector. 1.30-5.00pm in Best Building, University of Chester. Free of charge, open to staff, students and the public.

8 Fairtrade Wine Tasting 7-9pm at **HQ Offices, Chester £6 entrance**. Contact Ashley Jones 01244 972435

11 Chester World Development Forum meeting 6.45 for 7.00pm at St Peter's Centre, The Cross, **Chester**. Speaker: **Linda Tiongco** giving us an update on Romy Tiongco's work and campaigns in The Philippines, and on Christian Aid's current and forthcoming activities at home and abroad.

13 Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12.00 – 1.30pm, Welsh Church, St John Street Chester

19 Talk on Oscar Romero by **Marie Dennis, Co President of Pax Christi International** in **Wrexham Cathedral** at 7.30pm. Marie has been to many areas of conflict around the world, including Egypt, Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq and Palestine-Israel. Until recently she was director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Washington. Details Maria Pizzoni pizzoni@btinternet.com

20 Christian Aid Lent Lunch 12.00 – 1.30pm, Welsh Church, St John Street Chester

20 Spirit of Romero Day (see item 7)

23-26 Talks on Oscar Romero by **Fr Michael Campbell Johnston SJ** in Wrexham Diocese. Fr Michael has been involved in social justice for many years, has worked in and visited many countries and founded the Jesuit Refugee Service. He knew Romero before and whilst he was Archbishop in El Salvador. Full itinerary from Maria Pizzoni pizzoni@btinternet.com

24 Anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero www.romerotrue.org.uk

APRIL

18 Heald Green Churches Together Justice & Peace Group are organizing a talk to be given by **Niall Cooper, National Coordinator of Church Action on Poverty: Closing the Gap: Tackling Poverty in an Age of Austerity** at Christ Church Hall, Finney Lane, Heald Green, SK8 3DY 7.30 pm. All welcome.