

Shrewsbury Diocese JPSR E-Bulletin – September 2012

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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- Items for the e-bulletin, diary dates and notice of events to Anne O'Connor anneoc980@hotmail.com

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1. Cardinal Martini

Three weeks before he died on 31 August Cardinal Martini, retired Archbishop of Milan, gave a final interview to Fr Georg Sporschill, a fellow Jesuit. Cardinal Martini read and approved the text. Some extracts follow:

How do you see the situation of the Church?

"The Church is tired in Europe and America. Our culture has aged, our Churches are large, our religious houses are empty and the bureaucracy of the Church climbs higher, our rituals and our clothes are pompous. Do these things express what we are today? We stand there like the rich young man who went away sad when Jesus called him to make him his disciple. I know that we cannot leave it all with ease. But at least we can try to be people who are free and closer to our neighbours. As were Bishop Romero and the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. Where are our heroes to inspire us? For no reason, should we restrict them within the constraints of the institution."

Who can help the Church today?

"Where are the individuals full of generosity like the Good Samaritan? Who has faith like the Roman centurion? Who are enthusiastic as John the Baptist? Who dare to be new as Paul? Who are as faithful as Mary Magdalene? I advise the Pope and to the bishops to seek twelve people who work outside the box to point the way. Men that are close to the poor and are surrounded by young and that experience things in a new way. We need the comparison with men who are passionate so that the spirit can spread everywhere. "

What do you do personally?

"The Church has been left behind for 200 years. Why does she not shake? What are we afraid of? Fear instead of courage? However, the faith is the foundation of the Church. The faith, confidence, courage. I am old and sick, and I depend on the help of others. The good people around me make me feel the love. This love is stronger than the feeling of distrust that I sometimes perceive in to the Church in Europe. Only love conquers fatigue. God is Love. I still have a question for you: what you can do for the Church?"

2. Open Commission Meeting 'The Way Forward'

Open Commission Meeting on 6 Oct 2012 at All Saint's Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale 10.30am – 4pm to plan the way forward for J&P in our diocese facilitated by Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi. Groups are invited to send one or two representatives to the meeting. A buffet lunch will be provided – for catering purposes please let Anne know if you plan to attend anneoc980@hotmail.com

3. CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Harvest is a time to celebrate the gifts of the land and share it with those who do not have enough to eat. 925 million people – one in seven – can't buy or grow enough food for themselves and their families. The CAFOD Harvest Fast is an invitation to us, as followers of Christ, to share what we have with those in our world who suffer most from poverty, fate and misfortune. We are invited to make a place at our tables for those who are without food and consider how we can eat more simply so that others may simply live.

www.cafod.org.uk/Give/Make-a-place-at-your-table

4. Big Fair Bake 24 September – 4 October 2012

Bakers all over the UK are being called on to put their skills to the test and take part in the Fairtrade Foundation's **Big Fair Bake** this autumn. The campaign is being supported by top chefs who have all given recipes inspired by Fairtrade farmers and workers – available online at www.fairtrade.org.uk/bigfairbake

5. Drones Week of Action 6 – 13 October

The **Drones Campaign Network** (DCN) is a UK-based network of organisations, academics and individuals working together to share information and coordinate collective action in relation to military drones (unmanned, electronically controlled aircraft). The Drones Campaign Network in the UK is organising a week of action to protest against the growing use of armed drones from 6 – 13 October 2012. The week coincides with the **International Keep Space for Peace Week** which focuses on the militarization of space.

www.dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com/

6. International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space 6 – 13 October

Satellites are fundamentally the eyes, ears, and even the brains of modern warfare. Satellites capture the visual images of the targets (including individual people) that war makers wish to destroy. Signals satellites pick up voices and other sounds that further identify a target, while the GPS system provides the gunsight or bombsight that directs the bullet or bomb to its destination. The addition of drones and other new age weapons bring us closer to having no human being in the loop at all.

www.cnduk.org/get-involved/events/item/1410-keep-space-for-peace-week-6-13-october

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

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Vatican II** and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** Benedict XVI has proclaimed a **Year of Faith** from 11 October 2012 to 24 November 2013. As our contribution to the Year of Faith the Commission for Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility has produced a J&P Calendar. Special days or weeks of prayer and/or action are listed, covering a wide range of topics complete with links for further information. Each date is supported by a scripture verse, quote from Catholic Social Teaching or other eminent source plus prayer or action ideas. The calendar will be subject to regular revisions and additions – please check the website www.jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/year-of-faith-3/

8. World Food Day 16 October *Agricultural Co-operatives – Key to Feeding the World*

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrates World Food Day each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945. ***Agricultural co-operatives – key to feeding the world*** is the theme for 2012, chosen to highlight the role of co-operatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger. Interest in cooperatives and rural organizations is also reflected in the decision of the UN General Assembly to designate 2012 'International Year of Co-operatives.'

www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/

www.greenchristian.org.uk/archives/2518 (for a Harvest Festival Liturgy)

9. Anti-Slavery Day 18 October

Every year an estimated 5000 people are trafficked to the UK. Though many are put into sex work, there are others who are forced into construction work, farm work, domestic service, forced marriages, etc. Most come from Eastern Europe, but they also come from South Asia, South America and West Africa. Globally, 28 million persons live in conditions of slavery with 800,000 new victims every year – source: a book review by Frank Regan of *Slavery as Moral Problem: In the Early Church and Today* by Jennifer A Glancy (review first published in *Renew Issue number 163* and reprinted by kind permission www.ccc4vat2.org.uk)

More info: www.antislavery.org.uk/english/

10. One World Week 21-28 October *Sharing Destiny – Moving Towards One World*

One World Week offers an annual opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to come together to learn about global justice, to spread that learning and to use it to take action for justice locally and globally, by:

- Working together in caring for the earth and its resources
- Taking action for justice, equality, peace and fullness of life for all
- Building relationships of mutual respect that cross boundaries
- Running local events that celebrate the diversity of cultures in our communities

www.oneworldweek.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

20 –22 Peace Day Celebrations in Wrexham. Programme coordinated by Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum, and includes a day for schools at St Christopher's School for which volunteer helpers/contributors are being sought. Further information from Genny Bove, 01978 757489 peacedaywrexham@yahoo.co.uk

21 UN International Day of Peace. With this Day the UN challenges all involved in conflicts to observe a day of ceasefire, and urges all public institutions and civil society to mark the day with peace-related public awareness events. Details www.un.org/en/events/peaceday and www.peaceday.org/resources/

22 Talk on VSO in Sierra Leone by Gail Haddock in the hall at **Shrewsbury URC** 3-5pm. Please give numbers for catering – for more information contact 01743 357975 hhutchings@talktalk.net

24 Tax Justice Bus visits Shrewsbury 5-9pm www.christianaid.org.uk/ActNow/trace-the-tax/tax-justice-tour/background.aspx

25 South Shropshire Interfaith Forum Prof Paul Rogers from Bradford University to speak about **Long Term Global Peace & Security** 7.15pm at the **URC** in **Church Stretton**, concluding with AGM. www.ssif.org.uk

27 Working with the Street Children in Uganda An Audio Visual talk by Detective Constable Anna Rickards and Sir Peter Fahy, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, organised by Our Lady's Justice & Peace Group Stockport. 7.30pm at the Evron Centre 1 Adswood Lane West, Shaw Heath Stockport. SK3 8HT. Please contact Brian Potter 0161 485 8312 BMPotter@talktalk.net to reserve a seat.

27 World Tourism Day <http://wtd.unwto.org/>

28 Conference Tackling Fuel Poverty in Shropshire 9am-1pm at **Craven Arms Community Centre** hosted by Shropshire RCC. Philip Dunne MP will open the conference and other speakers will include: Paul Sutton Executive Director Shropshire Housing Group; Dr Kevin Lewis Director of preventative health programmes (public health); Graham Whitham - Poverty policy advisor Save The Children; Samantha Nicklin Campaigns Manager Age UK; Julia Baron CEO Shropshire RCC and Jon Cooke Volunteer Affordable Warmth Forum. The conference will look at the problem of fuel poverty both locally and nationally and how it affects the lives of families and individuals. Free of charge but booking essential – email clive.leworthy@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

29 Ceilidh at Belmont Community Hall, New Street, Wellington, TF1 1LU 7.30-10.30pm. A fundraising event to support the work of providing housing and support to the homeless young people and families of Telford & Wrekin. Tickets £8 available from Telford Christian Council, Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford, TF3 4HS 01952 291904 or email: kaybennett@telfordchristiancouncil.co.uk

30 Salford Diocesan Assembly Holy Cross College, Bury from 1pm-5.30pm (Registration 12-1pm, tea and coffee available – please bring a packed lunch). Theme: **“Good News to the Poor –are we?”** with main speaker Fr Tom Cullinan. Workshops and closing Mass. All welcome. Further enquiries from Joan on 0161 708 5588 (please ring before 8pm) or email joan.sweeney9@ntlworld.com

OCTOBER

2 International Day of Nonviolence. Consider organising a liturgy/exhibition/celebration of nonviolence. Pax Christi resources www.paxchristi.org.uk/pubs1.php#nonviolence

4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi who was declared the patron saint of ecology by Pope John Paul II

5 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (see item 3 above) www.cafod.org.uk/Give/Make-a-place-at-your-table

6 Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Commission Meeting to plan *The Way Forward* at **All Saint's Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale** 10.30am-4pm (see item 2 above) Contact anneoc980@hotmail.com

6-13 Drones Week of Action (see item 5 above) www.dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com/

6-13 International Week of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space (see item 6 above) www.cnduk.org/get-involved/events/item/1410-keep-space-for-peace-week-6-13-october

7 Chester Marathon. CWDF (Chester World Development Forum) member Heather Lannin is running and seeking sponsorship for children's projects in Sierra Leone. Contact 0784 062 1878.

11 Start of Year of Faith (see item 7 above)

13 Dementia Care Workshop for Carers, Churches and the Community 11am-3pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge SK6 5BB. More details from Rev Graham Hawley 0161 449 5647 the.hawleys@virgin.net

13 Tax Justice Bus visits Chester 7pm St Mary's on the Hill. Contact Richard Johnson 01244 383 488 www.act.christianaid.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=48&ea.campaign.id=15246

14-20 National Ethical Investment Week – focus on green and ethical savings, investments and other financial products. Now in its fifth year, NEIW's 2012 Churches' Action Guide offers practical information to help raise awareness and worship materials www.neiw.org/church-guide

16 World Food Day (see item 8 above) www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/

18 Anti-Slavery Day (see item 9 above) www.antislavery.org.uk/english/

21-28 One World Week *Sharing Destiny – Moving Towards One World* (see item 10 above) www.oneworldweek.org

21-28 Week of Prayer for World Peace www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com

NOVEMBER

3 Presentations on planning visits to the Holy Land 10am-4pm at St Thera's Social Club, College Rd, Upholland WN8 0PY. Cost £5. Drinks provided but bring packed lunch. Organised by Friends of Sabeel UK in the North West. To register email logan-j@btconnect.com

8 Menorah Synagogue's Christian and Jewish Holocaust Study Day 2012 9.30am-1pm. All welcome. Advanced booking required. Contact Eric Roth, Menorah Synagogue, Sharston 0161 485 6051 eric@roth.me.uk

9 & 10 Annual National Peace History Conference *From Local to Global: The north's role in peace and co-operation* Pre-conference events on the evening of **Friday 9 November** at the **Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS** followed by Conference on **Saturday 10 November** 9.30am-5pm **The People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER** Organised by the Movement for the Abolition of War – for full programme see www.gmdcnd.org.uk

12 Chester World Development Forum meeting 6.45 for 7pm at St Peter's Centre, The Cross, Chester. Speaker: Ann Herson about life and work in the favelas of Sao Paulo.

23 Talk by Stephen O'Brien MP, formerly Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for International Development. 7.30pm in Best Building, University of Chester.