

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

“Summertime and the Living is Easy” or so the song goes. It is certainly a time when the pace of parish life and the work of justice and peace slows a little. Time perhaps to reflect on the successes and frustrations of the previous year.

There are always more challenges and tasks than we can possibly handle but we try to do our best. Here in our parish our justice and peace action group have met regularly. It has been good to have a few new members join us.

Our work has continued with prisoners in Africa, victims of torture and oppression, local refugees and asylum seekers and support for CAFOD's campaigns. We have managed to inform and involve our parish community on these issues.

Much to be glad about and more to do once the summer is over. I hope you enjoy the summer.

Fr.Gerry Murray (Chair)

6th Birmingham Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly

Saturday 16th October 2010

10.30am to 4.30pm

St Peter's Catholic School, Whitefields Road, Solihull, B91 3NZ

“Steering Through the Rapids”

- A Spirituality for Justice and Peace

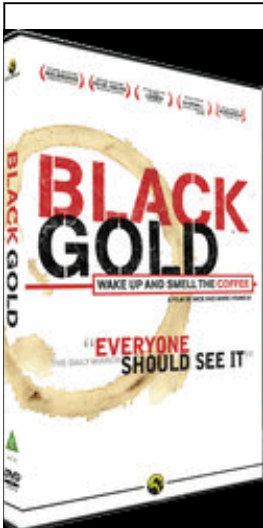
Guest Speaker: John Battle: former Foreign Office Minister

Responders: Fr Paul Nicholson SJ, Jesuit Master of Novices, Harborne
Sr Helen Ryan RSM, The Convent of Mercy, Handsworth

with a choice of Workshops led by Justice & Peace organisations

Cost: £10, low income and students £5

Includes refreshments and sandwich lunch (for those that book in advance)



As westerners revel in designer cappuccinos and lattes, poor Ethiopian coffee growers suffer the bitter taste of injustice. In this eye-opening expose of the multi-billion dollar industry, Black Gold traces one man's fight for a fair price.

Multi-national coffee companies now rule our shopping malls and supermarkets and dominate the industry worth over \$80 billion, making coffee the most valuable trading commodity in the world,

after oil.

But while we continue to pay for our lattes and cappuccinos, the price paid to coffee farmers remains so low that many have been forced to abandon their coffee fields.

Nowhere is this paradox more evident than in Ethiopia, the birthplace of coffee. Tadesse Meskela is one man on a mission to save his 74,000 struggling coffee farmers from bankruptcy. As his farmers strive to harvest some of the highest quality coffee beans on the international market, Tadesse travels the world in an attempt to find buyers willing to pay a fair price.

Against the backdrop of Tadesse's journey to London and Seattle, the enormous power of the multinational players that dominate the world's coffee trade becomes apparent. New York commodity traders, the international coffee exchanges, and the double dealings of trade ministers at the World Trade Organisation reveal the many challenges Tadesse faces in his quest for a long term solution for his farmers.

Could YOU obtain a copy of this film and screen it in your own Parish ? It's only £7.93 from Amazon.

Visit www.blackgoldmovie.com for full details.

Extracts....letter to a young activist from Thomas Merton

Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on, essentially an apostolic work, you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and achieve no result at all, if not perhaps results opposite to what you expect. As you get used to this idea, you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the truth of the work itself. And there, too, a great deal has to be gone through, as gradually as you struggle less and less for an idea, and more and more for specific people. In the end it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything.

You are fed up with words, and I don't blame you. I am nauseated by them sometimes. I am also, to tell the truth, nauseated by ideals and with causes. This sounds like heresy, but I think you will understand what I mean. It is so easy to get engrossed with ideas and slogans and myths that in the end one is left holding the bag, empty, with no trace of meaning left in it. And then the temptation is to yell louder than ever to make the meaning be there again by magic.

The big results are not in your hands or mine, but they suddenly happen, and we can share in them, but there is no point in building our lives on this personal satisfaction, which may be denied us and which after all is not that important.

The next step in the process is for you to see that even your thinking about what you are doing is crucially important. You are probably striving to build an identity for yourself in your work, out of your work and witness. You are using it, so to speak, to protect yourself against nothingness, annihilation. That is not the right use of your work. All the good that you will do will come, not from you, but from the fact that you have allowed yourself, in the obedience of faith, to be used by God's love. Think of this more and gradually you will be freed from the need to prove yourself, and you can be more open to the power that will work through you without your knowing it.

The great thing after all is to live, not to pour out your life in the service of a myth; and we turn the best things into myths. If you can get free from the domination of causes and just serve Christ's truth, you will be able to do more and be less crushed by the inevitable disappointments. Because I see nothing whatever in sight but much disappointment, frustration and confusion.

The real hope then is not something we think we can do, but in God who is making something good out of it in some way we cannot see. If we can do His will, we will be helping in this process. But we will not necessarily know about it beforehand.....

National Justice and Peace Network

Annual Conference 16th to 18th July
 "Our Daily Bread: Food Security,
 People and Planet"

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Places still available: contact NJPN Office:

0207 901 4864 or Email:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

CAFOD: THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

Joe Andrew

The election campaign is now over, but the CAFOD campaigns around issues of climate change, aid and accountable business practices continue!

In May Great Britain witnessed a really historic election - the first Leaders' debates, the first coalition since 1945, the first time Liberals have been in power in peace time for over 70 years, and so on. As the dust settles after all the turmoil, and the true nature of the tasks facing the Coalition becomes clearer with every passing day, most people return to their everyday lives. But CAFOD supporters and all those interested in justice and peace, are very keen to keep the campaign going. The issues around which CAFOD campaigns - the lives of the poorest people in the world - remain of vital significance outside as well as inside the election season. It is vital that we keep the pressure on the new government to deliver on these issues.

For CAFOD the election campaign was a clear success, with nearly 2000 supporters taking action, from meeting their candidates to emailing Sky TV with climate change questions for the leaders' debate. This is a great result - and CAFOD thanks all its supporters for their great efforts!

Now, we have a new government and it faces huge choices and challenges. While the global economic crisis affects us all, it is hitting our neighbours living in the world's poorest countries hardest. The UK can make a difference to poor communities by tackling dangerous climate change, maintaining life-saving aid and harnessing the power of business to benefit people and the environment.

Let's remind ourselves of the background to these campaign issues. Last year CAFOD supporters joined millions of people around the world calling for climate justice; the meetings in Copenhagen did not produce the deal the world's poor so urgently need. We must keep up the pressure this year by asking

the new coalition government to keep pushing for a fair climate change deal at the UN.

Against the background of these ongoing crucial concerns, we need to show the Prime Minister and the new coalition government that we expect them to act on poverty in several key ways. The first of these, as already noted, is to get the fair climate change deal at the United Nations. Secondly, all three main political parties said in their election manifestos that they are committed to spending 0.7 per cent of national income on aid by 2013, but we need to make sure that the new government honours this commitment, and that money is directed at reaching the poorest. And finally, we need to build on the success of CAFOD's *Unearth Justice* campaign and make sure that the new coalition government acts to ensure that businesses are accountable to the people in poor countries who are affected by their operations, such as mining.

CAFOD is planning several strategies to keep up the pressure on the new government. We're aiming to collect more than 10,000 of the new Act on Poverty cards and messages for No.10 by 10.10.10. Shortly after that, CAFOD will be working with the Stop Climate Chaos coalition on a climate change lobby of the new parliament on 20th October.

As ever, anyone interested in getting involved will find that CAFOD is not short of materials! The campaigns kits will include a briefing on each subject (climate change, aid and business), newsletter announcements and prayers of intercession, as well as suggested activities for rolling out the campaign. Cards and campaigns kits can be obtained from campaign@cafod.org.uk or 020 7095 5692; as ever the Diocesan office (01922 722 944) will be happy to help.

For the sake of our poorest brothers and sisters in the developing world, we must remind our political leaders that the election campaign may be at an end, but these more fundamental campaigning issues are certainly not over!

"Facing the Future": A one-day Conference on Catholic Social Teaching for Theology Students and Lecturers and those actively involved in the Church's Social Apostolate.

Guest speakers. Including the launch of "Virtual Plater" an on-line CST Resource.

Saturday 17th July 2010, 10:30 am - 4:30pm

Heythrop College - Kensington Square, London, W8 5HN

A collaboration between Heythrop College (London), Leeds Trinity University College (Leeds), Liverpool Hope University (Liverpool), Newman University College (Birmingham), St. Mary's University College (London). A project funded by the Plater Trust.

The cost for the day is £10 including lunch. Places are limited so you must book in advance.

Details : Jan Hodgkins 0121 483 2283 or Email j.hodgkins@newman.ac.uk

Diary Dates

June

19th-27th Campaign Against the Arms Trade STOP Week
www.caat.org.uk / 0207 281 0297
Em:enquiries@caat.org.uk

26th & 27th UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
Please refer to the attached sheet inviting prayers for these victims.
ACAT(UK) tel. 01752 843417
Email: uk.acat@gmail.com

27th "The Light of the World" Event
Aid to the Church in Need, at The Oratory, Hagley Road, Edgbaston
From 2pm. Talks on Christianity & Islam & the Middle East, Haiti, Ukraine & Pakistan.
Concludes with Mass at 5.30pm.

30th "A Just Peace for Palestine" talk
by Ann Farr, Pax Christi. 7.30pm.
St Peter's J&P Group, Community Centre, Bromsgrove.

July

6th-11th "Human Dignity in a Changing Europe" Study Assembly
St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

10th Public Lecture by John Bruton,
Former Irish Taoiseach
See attached/enclosed sheets.

11th Sea Sunday
www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
tel. 0207 012 8602

16th-18th NJPN Annual Conference, "Our Daily Bread - Food Security, People and Planet",
See page 2 for booking details.

17th "Facing the Future" one-day Conference, Heythrop College
on Catholic Social Teaching
Details: Jan Hodgkins at Newman:
Tel: 0121 483 2283 or
Email j.hodgkins@newman.ac.uk

23rd - 27th Peace News Summer Camp
Oxfordshire www.peacenews.info

Aug.

6th & 9th Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima & Nagasaki
www.paxchristi.org.uk
www.cnduk.org

Aug.(cont.)

27th - Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival, Cheltenham Racecourse
Email: info@greenbelt.org.uk

Sept.

11th Movement for the Abolition of War
Annual General Meeting, London
www.abolishwar.org.uk or tel. 01908 511948

12th Racial Justice Sunday
www.carj.org.uk or tel.0208 802 8080

16th-19th Papal Visit to the UK

Oct.

1st CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

16th Birmingham J&P Annual Assembly

17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

The Birmingham Justice and Peace Newsletter is sent to everyone on our mailing list free of charge. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please send your address, including EMail details, to the Administrator.

Also, if you have an event you would like advertised in the Autumn newsletter please send details to:

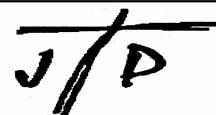
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Autumn 2010 Edition: Last date for entries 1st August.

More information about the Commission can be found on our website: www.birminghamjandp.org.uk

The views expressed in this newsletter are the views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission or the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

**The Birmingham
Diocesan Justice and
Peace Commission
website.**



Birmingham Diocese

For information on the J&P calendar and links to J&P organisations....

For downloads from the J&P Resource Pack and much more...

www.birminghamjandp.org.uk