

Dear friends,

For your attention and action where appropriate: (this information can also be found on our website <http://bit.ly/2udGQts>)

**A Message to The Episcopal Church 79th General Convention from Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Bonnie Anderson and Patti Browning on Justice in the Holy Land
July 3, 2018**

We join together and reach out in love to all who are gathered in Austin for the 79th General Convention. It is the first Convention since our beloved Edmond Browning, 24th Presiding Bishop, departed this life to join in all the company of heaven. We remember his clarion call that this Church of ours is open to all. “There will be no outcasts.”

Over the coming days, the Episcopal Church, meeting as the General Convention, will consider several resolutions related to the urgent situation in Israel and Palestine. We recognize that as the convention considers these resolutions, we must continue the journey of reconciliation with our Jewish sisters and brothers for the centuries of oppressive and anti-Semitic behavior which culminated in our complicity in the Holocaust. At the same time, we must not let those horrific injustices blind us to the injustices perpetrated on the Palestinian people.

Some of the resolutions call for applying economic pressure on Israel to end its 51 year occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza. Specifically, the convention has an opportunity to determine when and how to say no to financial investments that make the Church complicit in the occupation.

The situation on the ground is far worse than we can imagine. Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza live under oppressive, discriminatory Israeli military rule that controls almost every aspect of their lives. They have endured, and continue to endure, the theft of their land for Israeli settlements that have been deemed illegal by the international community, violate longstanding official US policy, and threaten the two-state solution. Families continue to be displaced, and their homes and agricultural lands destroyed to make way for Israeli settlements and walls that divide Palestinians from one another.

The network of military checkpoints that Israel has imposed in the West Bank makes ordinary life impossible for Palestinians, preventing them from traveling from place to place to work, study, access urgently needed medical care, or visit family and friends. When accused of a crime, Palestinians – including children – are tried in Israeli military courts deemed unjust by human rights organizations. Meanwhile, Israeli settlers living illegally nearby on occupied Palestinian land enjoy the rights afforded Israeli citizens, are tried in civilian courts, and can travel about freely.

In the Gaza Strip, 2 million Palestinians have suffered under a cruel and illegal Israeli-led siege for more than a decade, unable to leave the tiny, impoverished territory that has been called the “world’s largest open-air prison.” Over the past few months, some 120 unarmed Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israeli snipers, and thousands more injured, including women, children, a medic, a journalist and a soccer player, during weekly protests calling for their freedom and rights. The Israeli military’s use of deadly violence against unarmed protesters prompted outrage from the international community and human rights groups.

In this inhumane environment of suffering and oppression, the Church finds itself invested in corporations long known to be providing products and services to those responsible for the occupation. This year the Episcopal Church sponsored shareholder resolutions to hold two of those corporations accountable: Caterpillar and Motorola Solutions. But company behavior has long been resistant. Adopting human rights-based investment decisions will ensure that the Church does not profit from the suffering of others. Such action will put us alongside our fellow denominations, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and United Methodists, who have taken actions such as applying investment screens or other economic measures to ensure they, too, don’t profit from the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Just as we rightly hear the cry of migrants seeking shelter and asylum on the borders of the US, so, too, does our conscience demand we campaign to end the detention of children and political prisoners caught in the 51-year-old vice of occupation. There is no escaping that the investment of financial resources in companies that support the infrastructure of this brutal occupation make the Church complicit in the injustices suffered by Palestinians. We offer our unceasing prayer as you discern what Jesus requires in this and all the sad injustices that face us in these times.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu – Cape Town

Canon Bonnie Anderson, DD – 32nd President of the House of Deputies (2006-2012)

Patti Browning, DD – Recipient of Episcopal Peace Fellowship John Nevin Sayre Award for her advocacy on behalf of Palestinian human rights, and spouse of Edmond Browning, 24th Presiding Bishop

World Day of Prayer for the Care Of Creation



Following the example of the Orthodox Church, in 2015 Pope Francis declared September 1 as the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. According to Pope Francis, “This offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvellous works that He has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.” Many resources for Creation Time can be found at

<http://www.columbans.co.uk/justice-peace-jpic-2/creation-time/>

and <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical>

Explore Pope Francis' encyclical in these **animations for children and young people** at

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Care-for-our-common-home>

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-animation>



UN WORLD REFUGEE DAY 20th June 2018

from Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead bishop for migration and refugees of the Catholic Bishops' Conference E&W

"On this World Day for refugees, I call on our society as a whole to reflect on how we can better help refugees, both through welcoming them into our society and communities, and through supporting refugees globally. In his message for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis said "our shared response may be articulated by four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate". A society is judged by how it treats the most vulnerable within it, and in England and Wales we must do more.

As Catholics, we should welcome refugees into our communities, reaching out to the most vulnerable groups through the community sponsorship scheme for Syrian refugees. We should also keep refugees in our prayers, and look on practical ways to help. Our society must be mindful of the challenges and abuses refugees face, and look to protect them. Currently, in England and Wales refugees and asylum seekers can be indefinitely detained, often made destitute, and face unprecedented levels of hate crime.

Refugees and asylum seekers must be integrated and their cause promoted so they can flourish and contribute to our society. We must recognise the value and gifts that they bring - instead many currently face barriers to work, effectively barring them from our society.

Refugees abroad, and the organisations that care for them, also need support, and I commend the work done to support those groups. In his message on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis stated that "Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age." I hope that we will continue to see Christ in the refugees we welcome and support." www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Subjects/Refugees-and-Migrants <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35122>

New app for Drivers to help combat Modern Slavery in Hand Car Washes

Drivers are being encouraged to join an unprecedented national information-gathering campaign launched by the Catholic Church and the Church of England, aimed at eradicating modern slavery in hand car washes. Anti-slavery campaigners and other key agencies, including the police and councils, are backing the Safe Car Wash App, launched by The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's campaign against modern slavery, and the Santa Marta Group, the Catholic Church's anti-slavery project.



The Safe Car Wash app can be downloaded for free on to Apple and Android devices. Users can open the app when they are at the car wash and pinpoint their exact location using GPS. They will be taken through a series of indicators of modern slavery ranging from practical details – whether workers have suitable protective clothing - to behavioural clues - whether they appear withdrawn. If the answers indicate a high likelihood, users will be directed to the Modern Slavery Helpline. Data from the app will be anonymised and shared with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

Clergy will also be asked to raise awareness of the campaign in sermons and Sunday School lessons and hold events to publicise the app.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: "I welcome this very helpful and timely initiative in an area of real exploitation. As we learn to see this example of forced labour and modern slavery in our midst, we will also become more aware of the presence of this evil scourge in other sectors in our neighbourhood."

Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner said: "The value of this app is that in addition to immeasurably improving the lives of victims of modern slavery being cruelly exploited in car washes today, it also empowers a community to act."

The App is also endorsed by the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Local Government Association and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. **Details on how to download the app can be found here:** www.theclewerinitiative.org/safecarwash

Read more at <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35017>

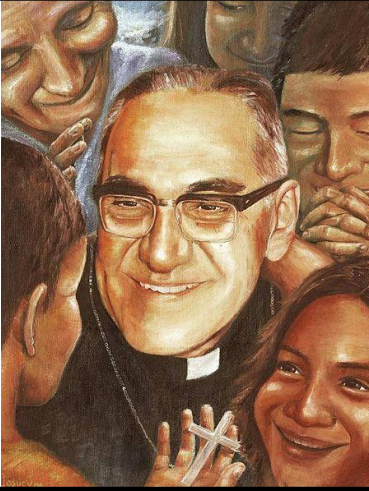
To help you keep abreast of what is going on in the dioceses our Website is updated on a regularly. We also now have a twitter account so please follow us.

With best wishes as always,

Janet Vaughan

Administrator, on behalf of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission

[Follow us on Twitter Birmingham J&P @BhamJandP](#)



“ We know that every effort to **better society**, especially when injustice and sin are so ingrained, is an effort that **God blesses**, that **God wants**, that **God demands of us.**”

The Archbishop
Romero Trust

Canonisation Archbishop Oscar Romero in Rome 14th October 2018

For information resources and reflections www.romerotrusted.org.uk

Romero News <http://www.romerotrusted.org.uk/news/saints-together-romero-news-22>