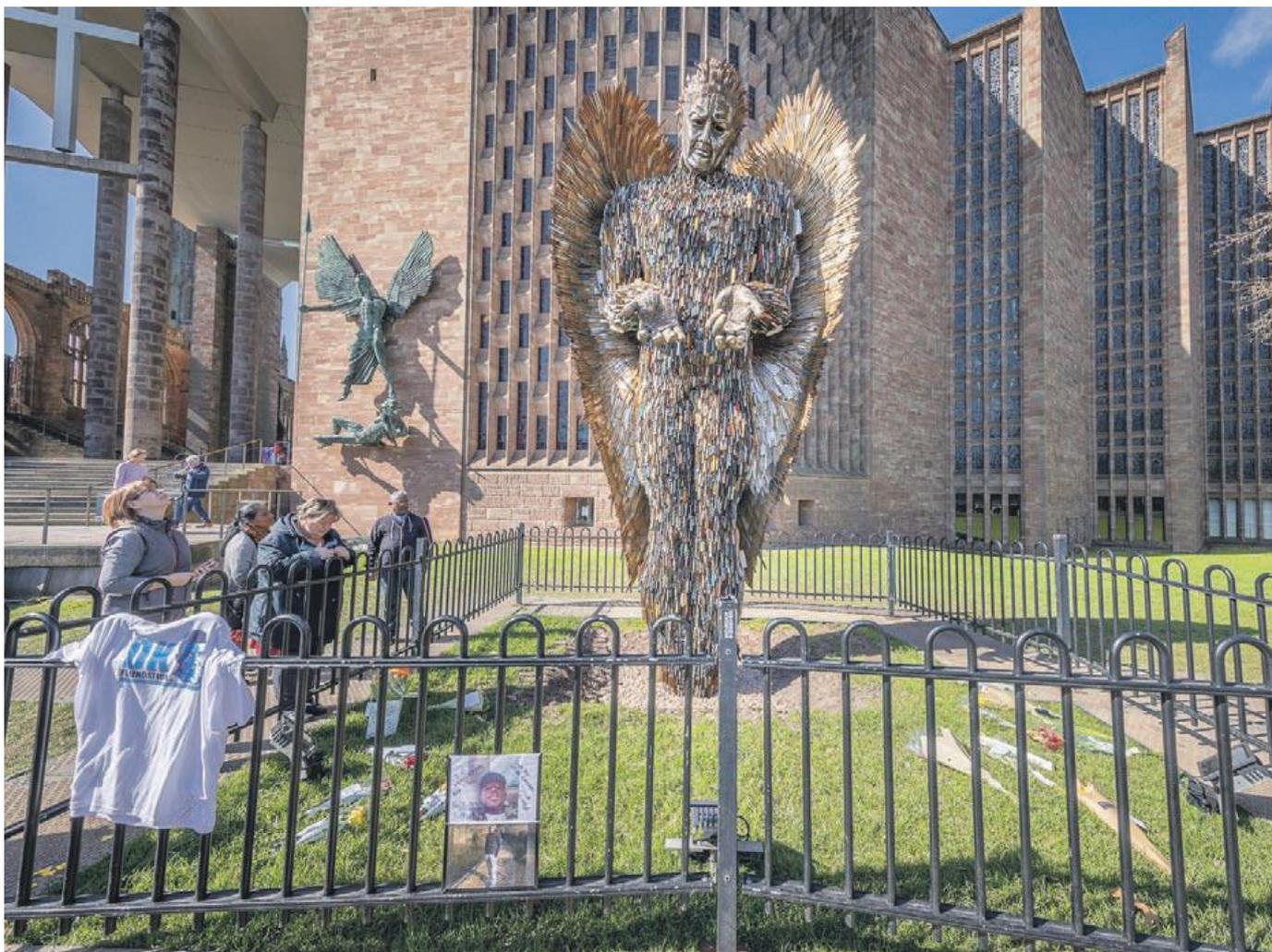


Dear friends,

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



Coventry: In 2014 British Ironwork Centre began a new campaign, which would not only highlight a national issue but tackle it through their passion for art. This became known as the Knife Angel. Under the banner **"Save a Life, Surrender your Knife"** the Centre sought permission from the Home Office to work with all 43 UK Police Forces to retrieve knives from the streets of the UK, by providing knife banks to educate and raise awareness of the horrors of knife crime. The Knife Angel is a 27ft high sculpture, which Alfie has designed and is creating single-handedly with 100,000 knives surrendered and collected in nationwide amnesties in 2015/2016. The statue was unveiled in 2017 and arrived in Coventry on 14th March where it will remain until 23rd April. The sculpture can be found in the grounds of Coventry Cathedral. It is the first time on display in the Midlands as part of a UK tour having previously toured to Liverpool and Hull. The Knife Angel stands in the shadow of Coventry Cathedral a representation of the city's unified determination to address knife crime and in doing so cement its reputation as a city of peace and reconciliation. The decision to bring the Knife Angel to Coventry has been supported by the Coventry City of Culture Trust, Coventry Cathedral, Coventry City Council, Coventry Police and the European City of Sport 2019 initiative. Looking at the knives you cannot avoid feeling fearful for your life and for the lives of your loved ones, since many of those knives took away someone's life or at least they were seized by police before somebody lost it. The arrival could not be any more timely, as the city comes together to tackle knife crime - with a spate of incidents involving knives in recent times. There was service last Saturday led by Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry who welcomed leaders of many of the faiths in Coventry. Please pray for the victims of knife crime. Canon Tom Farrell, Dean of Coventry, said that he welcomed the Church's involvement and hoped that schools and parishes could share the message with their young people.

The Catholic Universe 27th March 2019 Photograph: © Con McHugh

The Justice and Peace Retreat on 16th March was well attended.

The theme was the passion of Christ, and the passion of the earth.

Fr Martin Newell CP gave two very deep and inspirational talks. The first one was on the Passion of Jesus the second was based on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which is a profound invitation to everyone on the planet to care for our common home.

The Passion of Jesus is the most overwhelming work of God, and of love, in the words of St Paul of the Cross, Passionist founder. He went on to talk about two aspects of this overwhelming, unexpected love of God. The first is expressed in the phrase "The Crucified God". The second is expressed in a dimension of Jesus' life and teaching that led Him to be tortured and executed, and that can be called "Active Non-violent Resistance" which is something Pope Francis wrote about in his 2017 Peace Day letter, "Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace."

Fr Martin stressed that "words are not enough" and went on highlighting many examples where a form of civil disobedience or non-violent action were carried out. Gandhi's civil disobedience was continued in South Africa long after his departure, by the many courageous and heroic men and women, not to mention the teenagers "who were" disappeared, who were instrumental in the dismantling of Apartheid. 27th April 1994 was South Africa's first multi-racial general election with full enfranchisement. Breaking news that evening was that not a shot was fired in South Africa today for those who had endured the violence, especially of the previous months, this was nothing short of 'the Lion had laid down with the Lamb' peace reigned even if only for a time, free at last.

There is no doubt that all had experienced in their daily life, for many years in one way or another The Passion of Christ, and now the overwhelming work of God's Love had visited like a dawn from on high. Yes, words are not enough.

If we are worth anything according to Oscar Romero it is not because we have more money or more human qualities. Insofar as we are worth anything, it is because we are grafted onto Christ's life, his cross and Resurrection.

Care for our planet "We must protect creation for it is a gift which the Lord has given us, it is God's present to us; we are the guardians of creation. When we exploit creation, we destroy that sign of God's love.

Both talks were illustrated with power point illustrations.

There was plenty of time for discussion as well as plenty of time for contemplative walks around the gardens in Selly Park.

Supplied by Sr. Anna



Baptised and Sent: Our call to be Missionary Disciples

Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month, being 100 years since Pope Benedict XV's teaching on mission. It will be a special month of prayer and action, calling us to renew our missionary commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all peoples.



For the four weeks of October 2019, four themes have been approved by the Holy Father:

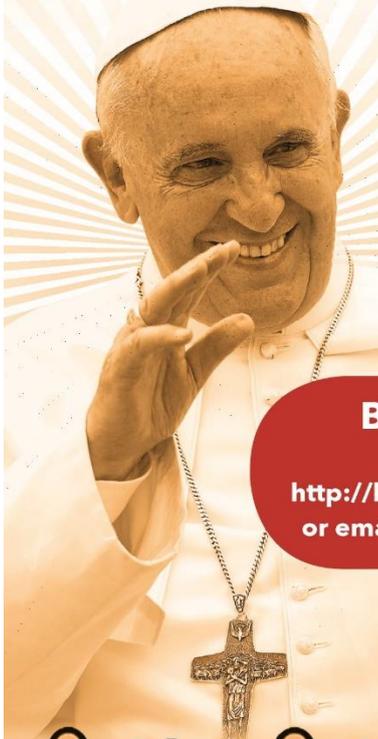
1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in His Church
2. The witness of missionary saints and martyrs
3. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation for mission
4. Missionary charity as a commitment to support the Church's missionary activities and communities too poor to support themselves

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and the Columban Missionaries invite you to reflect on your experiences, celebrating and putting into action the call to mission for justice, peace and care for creation at our Assembly on Saturday 12th October 2019.



BAPTISED AND SENT

OUR CALL TO BE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES



Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month. The Justice and Peace Commission for the Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Columban Missionaries invite you to reflect on your experiences, celebrating and putting in to action the call to mission for justice, peace and care for creation.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

Use Google Forms at
http://bit.ly/JandP_Assembly2019
or email: bham.jandp@gmail.com

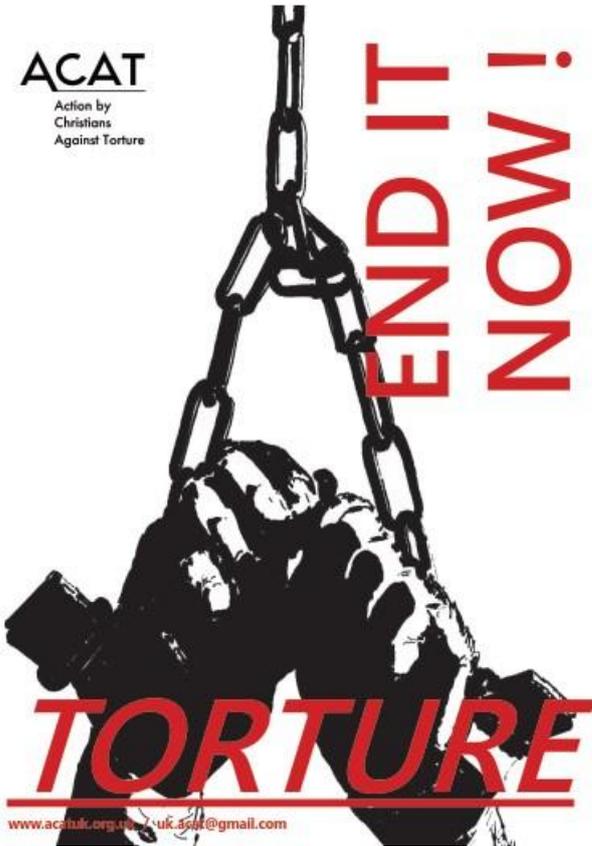
**DATE: SATURDAY 12TH
OCTOBER 2019**

TIME: 10 AM to 5 PM

**VENUE: ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOL, SOLIHULL**

The Columban Missionaries are visiting parishes in the Archdiocese of Birmingham during 2019.





Dear ACAT supporter,
As usual we suggest that you write a simple card or greeting to the individual saying that you are thinking of him/her and/or urging him/her not to lose hope (or words to that effect). A picture postcard is always welcome and cheapest to send. You can include your name and address (if you wish) but do not mention ACAT or include a religious greeting if so advised, as communication from a foreign organisation can endanger the prisoner and lead to a harsher sentence (a very general greeting, such as 'We are praying for you', is acceptable). It is important not to forget individuals featured in previous campaigns and some (marked with an *) are included here with updated information where available. For the Easter campaign we focus on prisoners persecuted for their faith, although others are included. Postage rates overseas at the time of writing are as follows: a letter or card weighing up to and including 10g (e.g. a postcard) costs £1.25 to Europe and the rest of the world; a letter or card up to 20g costs £1.25 for Europe (including the Ukraine) and £1.45 for the rest of the world.

Dear ACAT supporter,
Please remove Sergio Alberto Gonzalez Castro from the Easter Greetings list. He has now been freed.

[Follow link for for article with names](#)

The nonviolent March in Gaza

<https://mondoweiss.net/2019/03/approaches-discusses-movement/>

Link Supplied by Ann Farr who is currently in Palestine helping to monitor what is going on.

To help you keep abreast of what is going on in the diocese our Website is updated regularly. We also now have a twitter account so please follow us. Don't forget if you are running any Justice and Peace related events or holding Justice and Peace related meetings email me the details so that they can be added to the Justice and Peace Website Calendar.

We are also looking for articles for next months News Letter, so please send us information about what you have been doing or what you feel would be interesting to others.

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