

**Our Lady of the Wayside Parish
Justice, Peace and Human Rights Action Group**

Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull. B90 4AY

Chairperson: Maureen Jennings email: mjjpolw@gmail.com



2017-2018

A wide range of activities are supported by parishioners including campaigns, fundraising and volunteering for a variety of causes, organised by a small number of active members of the JP&HRAGroup.



- Harvest & Lent Fast Days
- Several parishioners took part in the "Share the Journey" walk around the world in support of refugees
- Parish noticeboard with current news & campaign information.



St. Chad's Sanctuary

- Continuous practical support through donations of clothing, footwear, food, toiletries and household items as needed
- Several parishioners have volunteered regularly at StCS throughout the past year
- A refugee from Sudan made an appeal at the parish Advent carol concert at which children from the primary school premiered a new carol "All children of the Lord" in collaboration with James Trewby (Columban J&P Education worker) with a retiring collection for the Sanctuary.

**Solihull Welcome –
RESTORE project**

Several OLW parishioners are involved in this as 'Welcome' volunteers on a weekly basis at St. Augustine's Church, central Solihull, near Sandford House (Home Office asylum reporting centre).

**Action by
Christians
Against
Torture**

- Whole parish greetings card campaigns for prisoners of conscience organised in Lent & Advent
- JP & HRAG members regularly write to chosen prisoners of conscience from PoC lists and participate in Urgent Action Campaigns against the use of the Death Penalty



TRAIIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

• A Fairtrade Parish

- A wide range of Fairtrade food & drink is used at parish events
- Participation in campaigns for Trade Justice
- Traidcraft stall in narthex after Sunday Masses – annual turnover of approx. £10,000
- 'Fair Trader' discounts shared with other local parishes and parishioners placing orders
- Fair trade stall diocesan J&P Assembly
- Donations and any profits support Traidcraft Exchange (charity separate from Traidcraft shop)

Fr. O'Mahony Memorial Trust

A parish-based charity established to honour the commitment of former parish priest Fr. Paddy O'Mahony to justice and peace which now distributes approx. £30,000 annually in small scale grants to various projects and appeals across the world including CAFOD, Aid to the Church in Need, International Refugee Trust (Comboni Sisters).

**St. Mary's Educational &
Charitable Trust,**

Vidyangar, India, is supported by the parish priest (trustee), parish volunteers, collections & occasional grants from the Fr. O'Mahony Memorial Trust.

Plus generous financial support each year from parishioners for

Fr. Hudson's Care, Housing Justice, St. Basil's, Catholic Association for Racial Justice, Pax Christi