

Dear Justice and Peace Supporter,

Travels of a Social Justice Co-ordinator

I recently took a few days off to travel to Cardiff where I was volunteering to help run a school mission week. While 300 miles away the setting would be familiar to many of us here; a Catholic school, a diverse mix of students, and a hard working staff who have made amazing changes in a short time to a school at one point set for closure. We had the theme of 'Our Journey' and playing to strength I'd been asked to look at social justice issues; and how for many people their journey through life isn't easy. This workshop is summed up as follows; sports hall; 60 students, 3 members of our team! Starting with a few shocking facts (did you know there are 134 Billionaires in the UK, while 1 in 5 people lives in poverty?) we then labelled students as 'rich', 'working class' or 'poor' and challenged them to complete a daily list of tasks (very easy if you start off rich, near impossible if you start off poor). After about 20 minutes of chaos, cheating, privilege and discrimination we gathered back to reflect. We started this thinking about the game and how the students felt when they were told 'go away', or 'wait', or be told they 'aren't allowed' education. As thought set in, and blether ended I was struck by the silence when I asked "imagine this wasn't a game". "If you were stranded at Calais", "If you were ripped from your family at the US border where you sought safety". We ended with words from Pope Francis; *"The future of humankind isn't exclusively in the hands of politicians, of great leaders, of big companies. The future is, most of all, in the hands of those people who recognize we all need each other."*

While our classroom session was a great success the real joy was the afterschool activities we offered. As the temperatures peaked at 31°C, our intended game of 'Splash Volleyball' became a water balloon fight. For me this wasn't an 'extra' to the mission week, but an integral part of it. Too often, given social justice work shows us the toughest sides of society we forget that joy should be at the heart of any mission, any engagement, and anything we do to build up the Kingdom. So the chance to play, throw water balloons, and to share a happy face are as important as engaging with important issues. I hope everyone has a great summer!

Danny (Social Justice Co-ordinator)

NEWSLETTER
Summer 2018



"Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary use water balloons" (Things St Francis never said!)

Upcoming Events

The name of the other : A Seminar on Emmanuel Levinas, Friday 24th – Saturday 25th August
Conforti Xavarian Mission, Calder Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 4JS

An opportunity to reflect on and deepen our understanding of the work of Emmanuel Levinas, a French Jewish philosopher whose family perished in the Holocaust. He made responsibility for "the other" the foundation of his work. The Seminar will explore the various dimensions of the relationship between myself, the other, and God and the challenges this poses for ethics and religion.

https://interreligiousdialogue.weebly.com/uploads/7/9/1/5/7915856/seminar_poster.doc

Sharing Our Common Home

As part of our focus on migration we have been travelling around capturing the Scottish response to the call from Pope Francis to Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate refugees and migrants. Our latest campaign video can be viewed here :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tsV1BLOtX2g>





What is happening in Nicaragua? Madelaine Caracas, Public meeting,

Tuesday 10th July 2018, 5pm, University of Edinburgh, Room 1.20, Dugald, Stewart Building, 3 Charles Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9AD

The Nicaraguan government, led by President Daniel Ortega and his vice-President wife Rosario Murillo, is waging war on its own people. **Madelaine Caracas** is a 20-year Nicaraguan activist who is travelling through Europe to denounce the Ortega massacre as part of an informational caravan of solidarity.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/276277019604277/>

NAE NUKES ANYWHERE! – International Rally at Faslane , 22nd September 2018

Starting at **12 noon** marching from the Peace Camp to the North Gate of the base for the rally, a distance of around a mile, to reach Faslane 12.30 – 12.45. The aim of the rally is to highlight the strength of support from many UN member states for Scotland, a country hosting nuclear weapons against its wishes. The rally will feature speakers from many countries. We really hope this a huge event to show the level of international support for Scotland’s opposition to nukes and to present a clear challenge to the UK Government to sign the TPNW, enter negotiations and scrap their nuclear policies.

<http://www.nuclearban.scot/sep-rally/>



Coming Soon – “I was a stranger...”; 40 Days of Scripture and Prayer for Refugees

The instruction to welcome the stranger, the orphan and the widow is repeated more than any other in scripture. Drawing together 40 verses which reflect on themes of migration, safety, welcome, and mercy this prayer card, along with the supporting booklet will provide a chance for prayer and reflection on the planet’s most pressing current issue.

Look out for the prayer cards (coming soon to your diocesan Justice and Peace Commissioner) and booklet (coming soon to our website).



“Lord when did we see you hungry?” – Conference/Retreat Day on the Social Gospel, Saturday 2nd September, Conforti Xavarian Mission, Coatbridge 10am – 4pm

Organised by **St Bride’s, Bothwell Justice and Peace** group in conjunction with the Xavarians this day will explore the call to Missionary Discipleship, response to contemporary situations of poverty in Scotland, and exploring the experiences of refugees in the UK in light of scripture. The cost is **£12** (including lunch and refreshments) thanks to the UK Province of the Xavarian Missionaries subsidising the costs. Please contact stbridesjandp@outlook.com for more information or to book a place.





Refugee Photographic Exhibition

Justice and Peace Scotland and **SCIAF** have worked together to bring this exhibition of refugee photographs and stories to every diocese in Scotland. Archbishop Tartaglia launched the exhibition in St Andrews Cathedral, Clyde Street in Glasgow on **World Refugee Day, 20th June 2018**.

Exhibition Venues and Dates

Future dates for other diocese are available on our website, and will be included in future newsletters.

Glasgow Diocese: 20th June – 17th July St Andrews Cathedral, Clyde Street

Galloway Diocese: 18th July - 14th August

St Margaret's Cathedral, John Street, Ayr KA8 OBS, 18th July – 24th July

St Peter in Chains, South Crescent Road, Ardrossan, 25th July – 5th August

St Teresa's, Glasgow Street, Dumfries, DG2 9DE, 7th August – 14th August

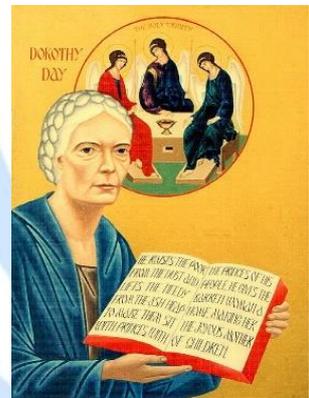
Aberdeen Diocese: 15th August – 11th September

Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, Huntly Street Aberdeen, 15th August – 31st August

St Mary's Church, 30 Huntly Street Inverness, IV3 5PR, 31st August – 12th September

Edinburgh Catholic Worker

A small group of people have begun meeting together in Edinburgh to seek ways of setting up a Catholic Worker house in (or near) the city. The Catholic Worker is a movement of communities living and working together in the light of the Gospel, committed to the promotion of Catholic social teaching, peace-making, hospitality, and the corporal works of mercy. It began in the USA in the 1930s under the inspiration of Dorothy Day. For an introduction to the origins of the movement see: <http://www.ppu.org.uk/people/day.html> For a more detailed picture of the Catholic Worker movement, its history and aims, its work in various countries today, you might spend some time looking around <http://www.catholicworker.org/>. The Edinburgh group is now meeting occasionally, discussing ways of taking the idea forward. If you would like to take part in these discussions, or simply to be kept informed of our progress, please send your email address to Gilbert Márkus (gilbertscm@aol.com).



#WeeklyCST



Followers on Facebook and Twitter will know that every Sunday we release #weeklyCST – a weekly quote from Catholic Social Teaching, themed to match either the Mass scripture, or a significant social justice event in the coming week. A document with all the CST quotes for 2018 is available [here](#). Please share widely and encourage people to include the quotes in in parish newsletters / bulletins. They are also great for schools (thought for the day), prayer/ study groups, or for private reflection and prayer.



Music for Worship

A selection of music for praise, thanksgiving, and comfort inspired by faith.

Inspired by love and anger (John Bell) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zijXlgMEg7c>

The Lord's Prayer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROM5EpCQUlg>

A recording/ arrangement of the Lord's prayer in Aramaic; the language of Jesus.

Food for thought

Each edition we will try to bring something thought provoking, and perhaps challenging for you to reflect on. First from the BBC.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p067bmlh/killed-by-my-debt>

In January 2015, Jerome Rogers, a popular nineteen year old from a council estate, finally got what he'd been working for – a new motorbike and his first real job, as a courier. But in the hands of bailiffs, two £65 traffic fines rose to over a thousand pounds. Some weeks, take-home pay in his zero hours job was as low as £12. Under the pressure of his debt, Jerome went to the woods where he'd played as a kid, and took his own life.

A dramatization of real events by the BBC explores the challenges many young workers are facing in the gig-economy, and the impacts on mental health, wellbeing and their communities. This film contains some strong language and distressing scenes. A report on Jerome's story is also available : http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/How_debt_kills

Following the witness in Glasgow against the Underwater Defense Trade arms fair. Our second piece is from TED

https://www.ted.com/talks/samantha_nutt_the_real_harm_of_the_global_arms_trade#t-25608

In some parts of the world, it's easier to get an automatic rifle than a glass of clean drinking water. Is this just the way it is? **Samantha Nutt**, doctor and founder of the international humanitarian organization War Child, explores the global arms trade -- and suggests a bold, common sense solution for ending the cycle of violence. "War is ours," she says. "We buy it, sell it, spread it and wage it. We are therefore not powerless to solve it."

Our third piece is from a local Justice and Peace group.

<https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/Home/tabid/40/itemid/2519/amid/531/Default.aspx>

Compiled by members of the St Andrew's Bearsden & St Joseph's, Milngavie Justice and Peace, this document explores the challenges of the Resource Curse, asking why people continue to starve in countries rich in resources.

Don't hesitate to be in touch with the Justice and Peace Scotland office on 0141 333 0238 and please consider printing out a copy of our newsletter and leaving it at the back of your church, or sharing it with a friend in print, or by email.

www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Twitter : @JandPScotland

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