

Dear Justice and Peace Supporter,

There is one question that frequently gets asked at a range of meetings that I attend. I heard it most recently at Dungavel after our witness there; should we be smiling in the picture? For me the best answer (and the one which at Dungavel tends to get shouted by a member of the J&P network) is “Yes; we can’t change the world with a sad face!”

**NEWSLETTER
ADVENT 2019**

This thought is with me as we try to finalise this newsletter, mostly as trying to find something positive or uplifting to say feels like a challenge. This time next year COP26, the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change will be hosted in Glasgow. A few days ago COP25, hosted by the Chilean government in Madrid has ended with a what even the most “balanced” of commentators are calling a ‘disappointment’. It was hoped that COP25 would see the groundwork for new ambitious targets intended to limit the damage being done to the planet which would be formalised next year here in Scotland. Instead, even with a couple of extra days of negotiation the interests of the wealthy and powerful seemed to prevail. Agreements on reducing carbon became mired in requests for loopholes and opt-outs allowing large multinationals to continue to operate without disruption. As a result the measures agreed all fall short.

There was a distinct gap between the commitment and passion of the protesters who were in Madrid, joined with all those we have seen over the last year around the globe and many of those who were ‘at the table’. It is also unavoidable to acknowledge as a Spanish friend of mine was commenting on twitter that the UK government (hosting the next COP) is led by a man who was replaced by a melting ice sculpture in a recent political debate on climate change.

But, we can’t change the world with sad faces. The next 12 months we are uniquely placed to be pushing all our leaders to be taking the climate crisis seriously and committing to real change within our societies.

Danny

SCOTTISH FAITHS
ACTION FOR REFUGEES

**Glasgow Presbytery Conference on Refugees and Asylum Seekers,
Saturday 29th February 2020, 9:30am – 4pm**

Do you have an interest in the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers and would like to explore them more from a faith-based perspective? Maybe members of your parish are asylum seekers or refugees and you want to know more about how to support them in your Church?

This **one day conference** hosted by the Presbytery of Glasgow (the Church of Scotland) aims to bring together people involved in the Church who are refugees or asylum seekers, and those that work with them, improve knowledge and understanding of what is happening across the city with regard to asylum and refugee support and integration, and explore the possibility for future or ongoing work or networking by those involved.

The day is free and lunch is included. Please register your interest on the Eventbrite page :<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/glasgow-presbytery-conference-on-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-tickets-81970210105>

Roundtable Seminar on 'Church of Sanctuary', Friday 13th March 2020, 2pm- 4pm, 121 George Street, Edinburgh

Hosted by the Church of Scotland, ACTS, and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland this free two hour round-table seminar aims to discuss a shared commitment between the Churches for diaconal, prophetic and pastoral work on issues relating to migration, especially with those who are asylum seekers and refugees and providing an opportunity to promote the concept of Church of Sanctuary.

For more information and to register please follow the link :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/roundtable-seminar-on-church-of-sanctuary-tickets-82578948859>

This is followed the next day by

Sanctuary in Scotland, Saturday 14th March 2020, 10am – 3:30pm, Central Church Tollcross, Edinburgh

Everyone is invited to a day conference to develop and support a shared commitment between the Churches for diaconal, prophetic and pastoral work on issues relating to migration, especially with those who are asylum seekers and refugees and providing an opportunity to promote and resource the concept of Church of Sanctuary. To learn more, or to register please follow the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sanctuary-in-scotland-tickets-82607101063>

News from St Andrew's Justice & Peace Group and St Nicholas' Primary School, Bearsden

Fr Mackle, parish priest of St Andrew's, Bearsden, blessed two saplings which will be planted in the school grounds next spring by the school Mini Vinnies group.

The saplings were left over from the event held at Carfin last April. At this event, saplings were planted to represent the eight dioceses in Scotland. Juniper saplings were chosen to represent Justice and Scots Pine saplings were chosen to represent Peace. The surplus saplings were then taken by some members of the Justice and Peace commission of Glasgow and offered to local schools and parishes. St Andrew's, Bearsden accepted a Juniper sapling to plant in its 'Spirit of Peace' garden, and St Nicholas' Primary school agreed to take a Juniper sapling and a Pine sapling to set up a Justice and Peace garden in its new primary school grounds.

Accordingly, on Friday 6th December, the feast of St Nicholas, Fr Mackle blessed the two saplings which the Mini Vinnies are displaying in the photos along with the 40th anniversary Justice and Peace banner.



Dungavel Solidarity Witness

We continue to visit Dungavel Immigration Detention Centre in Solidarity with those imprisoned there. You can watch Bishop Nolan's address to the Dungavel protesters here

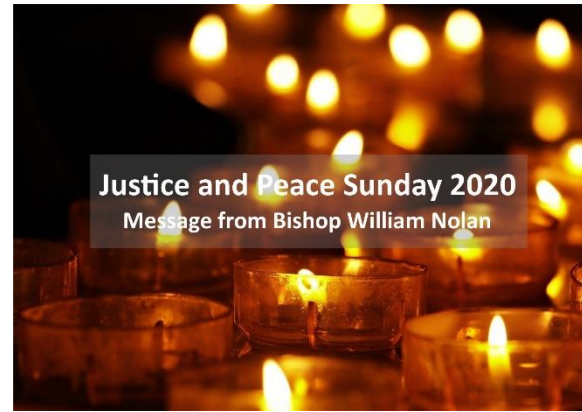
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYUwPgIBh_E

World Day of Prayer for Peace, and Justice and Peace Sunday

This year **Justice and Peace Sunday** is celebrated on **5th January 2020**. A collection will be taken up in all Catholic parishes in Scotland for the work of Justice and Peace Scotland and a letter from Bishop Nolan will be read. Bishop Nolan picks up on the theme of Pope Francis' letter for the **53rd World Day of Prayer for Peace** - "[Peace is a Journey of Hope](#)" which is celebrated on **1st January 2020**. The letter will be available to read on the Justice and Peace Scotland website

<https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/> from midday on

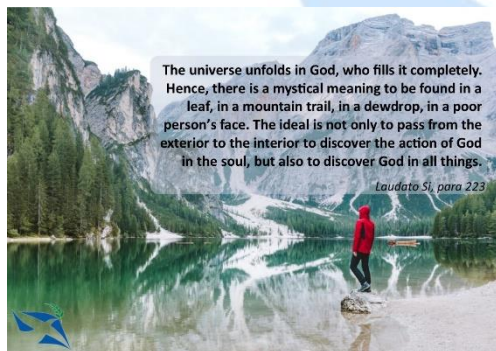
5th January and will be shared on our social media also. Thank you for your support!



#WeeklyCST for 2020

Followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram 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. These are intended for use in parish newsletters / bulletins, and are also great for schools (thought for the day), prayer/ study groups, or for private reflection and prayer. For the CST quotes for 2019 please follow the link below, alternatively contact the office, or keep an eye on our social media.

<https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/Portals/0/Articles/CST%20Year%20of%20Quotes%202020.pdf>



Music for Worship



A selection of music for praise, thanksgiving, and comfort inspired by faith. (Perhaps with a slight advent/ Christmas theme this edition!!)

Shawn MacDonald – O Little Town of Bethlehem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtolyqV34Ps>

Shawn is a Christian singer, songwriter and guitarist. This video was filmed at the Church of the Nativity, and supports Ethnographic Media's film '[Little Town of Bethlehem](#)' which explores the lives of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peace activists in the Holy Land.

Matt Maher – Glory (Let there be peace)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW4c6DcxgGc>

BYU Vocal Point – O Come, O Come Emmanuel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdR79P-2ewo>

Food for thought

Each edition we will try to bring something thought provoking, and perhaps challenging for you to reflect on. The first comes from Channel 4; Dispatches: Growing up Poor

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/68553-001>

In Britain, 4.1 million children are growing up in poverty. Dispatches follows three families to show what life is like if there's not enough money for life's essentials.

Our second piece is also from Dispatches, Born Homeless.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69784-001>

Dispatches explores the issue of pregnant women who find themselves with no place to call home, and conducts an exclusive survey of midwives to get a sense of the scale of the problem

The third video comes from the BBC's Storyville series: On the President's Orders.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009m86/storyville-on-the-presidents-orders>

The searing story of President Duterte's bloody campaign against drug dealers and addicts in the Philippines, told with unprecedented and intimate access to those on both sides of the war - the Manila police, and an ordinary family from the Caloocan slums.

Don't hesitate to be in touch with the Justice and Peace National 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

Facebook & Youtube: Justice and Peace Scotland

Instagram : justiceandpeacescotland

If you have any upcoming events, interesting articles, music selections (or pictures of your parent's dogs) you think would be good to share with the Justice and Peace network in Scotland please get in touch!

(For when it comes)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Danny & Frances in the Justice and Peace Scotland Office!

