

Dear Justice and Peace Supporter,

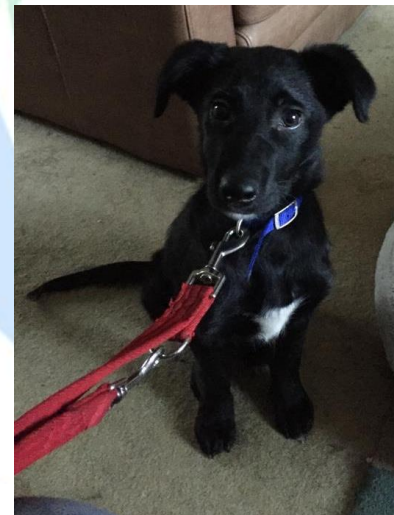
Travels of a Social Justice Co-ordinator

Of all the journeys I have to plan in my job going to Dungavel should be one of the easiest. It is less than half an hour from my home, and with the sat-nav on I just do what I'm told and am there usually with very little difficulty. Driving to Dungavel a few weeks ago for our Solidarity Witness I was struck, properly just how remote it is. Once a retreat for the Hamilton family the location is great if you want to get away, not so easy if you are relying on public transport; the nearest train station is Strathaven (6 miles away with no buses). My thoughts on the remoteness of Dungavel were shared by several of the speakers on the day. I think it is the seemingly deliberate choice to house immigration detainees (many of whom have not broken any law, and all held without knowing how long it will be for) in a place so far away from the communities that they rely on. This was hammered home as we met a lady who had come to visit a recently detained relative to deliver clothes, toiletries and other essentials which she had not been permitted to take with her when she was arrested. Dungavel advertises visitor hours from 1:30pm, she was being told to return at 5; something which must feel impossible when you are relying on favours and friends to get you all the way out there. I was reminded of the scenes we have seen play out on the US border in recent weeks, and I saw again in October when I volunteered in Calais with a post going round on social media with a traditional picture of Jesus and the text stating "I was a stranger and you teargassed me". While there is no quick solution to the causes which drive migration, the exploiting of desperate people by politicians must be the real 'war on Christmas'; deliberately shutting the door on those in need. To paraphrase G.K Chesterton; "The paradox of Christmas is that the birth of the homeless, the refugee, the exile, and the unwanted should be celebrated in every home".

Danny (Social Justice Co-ordinator)

(At the request of someone who will remain nameless. Having included a picture of my parents' dog at the start of the year, it only feels fair I end the year in the same way.... Plus they got another dog last week!!)*

*It was our Campaigns and Communications Officer Frances!!



We have been very busy with the **Give Me Five campaign** recently, hopefully you will have seen our 'Families Can't Wait' campaign or read some of the personal testimonies on how child benefit has helped families over the years. Also, recently, the coalition of organisations involved with the Give Me Five Campaign joined together to send two letters to the Scottish Government ahead of their recent budget announcement on Wednesday 12th December. Bishop Nolan, President of J&P Scotland, [signed a letter from Scottish faith leaders](#) and Honor Hania, Chair of Justice and Peace Scotland [signed a second letter on behalf of all the organisation involved in the campaign](#) to Derek MacKay, the Finance Secretary urging the government to bring forward their plans to introduce an income supplement for the poorest families in 2022. The campaign continues, look out for updates on the campaign Twitter page @GM5Scot.

Sponsor Refugees

In 2015 the UK government decided to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees over 5 years. We all know that Scotland has gone over and above in our response to welcome those in need of protection, however we are still reliant on government policies to decide what happens next. The Syrian Resettlement scheme is due to end in 2020 and there have been no indications when or if it will be extended. **Community Sponsorship** is where a local community takes on the costs of supporting a family (rather than the local council) <http://www.sponsorrefugees.org/> has lots of information for people interested in how this model works. In Canada, where this model is used, the government would be unable to shut down refugee resettlement as the power has been taken from them by citizens who want to do their part in welcoming a stranger in need.



Dungavel Solidarity Witness

We were delighted to have the support of Bishop Nolan, Linda Fabiani MSP, Aileen Campbell MSP and Christina McKelvie MSP when we attended the Ayrshire Hope Not Hate **Dungavel Solidarity Gathering** on Sunday 25th November. You can watch Bishop Nolan's address to the Dungavel protesters here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUSBT_horoE

This year we are pleased to support the **Christian Aid Christmas** appeal to help people recovering from violence and conflict worldwide. Take a look here <https://medium.com/christian-aid-campaigns/call-on-the-uk-government-to-join-us-in-bringing-peace-170ae48fa67e>



Justice and Peace Scotland badges are now available for all members / supporters in parishes, schools, anywhere and everywhere. Please contact the office if you would like to order some. There is no charge, but any donations to help us cover the costs of postage will be most gratefully received. Diocesan Justice and Peace Commissioners will have some in the New Year.

In October 2016 the migrant camp known as 'the jungle' was destroyed and those living their displaced. But the story doesn't end there!

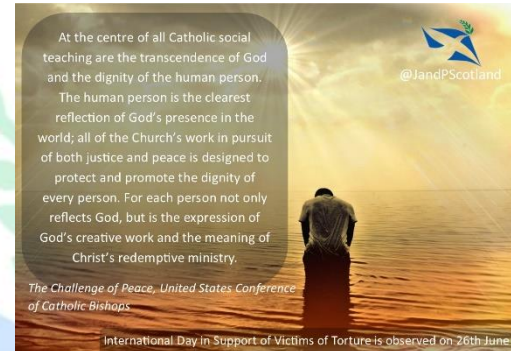
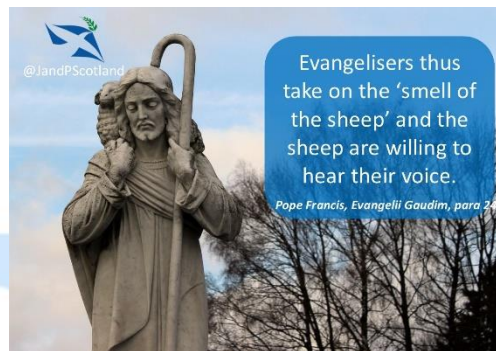
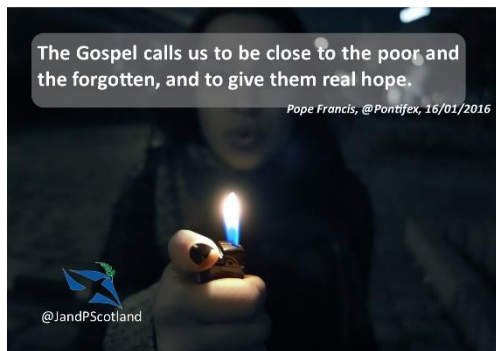
As part of our ongoing commitment to highlight the situation for young migrants in Calais, and support the work done on the ground Justice and Peace Scotland are inviting members of the community to join us. **Encounter : Calais** will provide a small glimpse of the situation, the work being done, and space for reflection and prayer as we



consider what our country's 'hostile environment' looks like on the frontline. [For more information](#), and to [apply](#) please follow the links. Or see [here](#) on our website.

#WeeklyCST for 2019

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 click [here](#), alternatively contact the office, or keep an eye on our social media.



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.

Pentatonix – Mary did you know? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>

Pentatonix's acapella arrangement of 'Mary did you know?' was released in 2014, as part of their album 'That's Christmas to Me'; the highest selling Christmas album since 1962.

BYU Vocal Point – O Come, O Come Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdR79P-2ewo>

Vocal Point are singing group at Bingham Young University. O Come Emmanuel is part of the traditional O Antiphons.

Food for thought

Each edition we will try to bring something thought provoking, and perhaps challenging for you to reflect on. This edition we have three selections. First the BBC 3; Stacey Dooley Migrant Kids in Crisis

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p03q8xm4/stacey-dooley-migrant-kids-in-crisis>



Stacey Dooley travels to Greece to follow children on the migrant trail, as they flee wars and seek new lives in Western Europe. From small toddlers travelling with families to unaccompanied teenagers journeying thousands of miles alone, Stacey witnesses their experiences first hand. During her trip, Greece closes its borders to migrants and Stacey sees the striking impact of this on the young and vulnerable.

Our second piece is from Channel 4's Unreported World looking at Gangs in El Salvador.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bmHr89SKRs>

One-way ticket to gangland: Krishnan Guru-Murthy meets the deportees, some of whom have spent most of their lives in the USA, who are being forced to return to El Salvador. Gang warfare has made it one of the most deadly countries in the world - where someone is killed every few hours. These deportees face impossible choices on their return, either join a gang, try to re-enter the U.S. illegally, or risk being killed.

The third video comes from DW Documentary looking at the West's arms trade involvement with the ongoing war in Yemen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkUv2R97I-Y>

Weapons manufactured in the West and exported to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have ended up in the hands of Yemeni militia. This is directly in contravention of international law and arms trade treaties. A documentary by the independent journalist network Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) reveals the shocking details. Egyptian journalist Mohamed Aboelgheit spent a year tracing and documenting the origin of weapons that have ended up in the hands of armed groups fighting in Yemen's civil war.

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!