



Justice and Peace Newsletter

Archdiocese of Liverpool

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Back to Basics

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission has been sending out this newsletter to interested readers since 2006 and we at the Commission hope that you have found it useful and informative. At our recent Development Day, we discussed the role and purpose of the Commission, which is according to its constitution, 'to stimulate awareness of the need for justice and peace both at home and overseas, to assist in the work of reflection on those needs in the light of the Gospel and the Church's social teaching, and to foster and encourage action for international and local justice and peace in the parishes of the Archdiocese'. We would like to hear from you about ways in which you feel we can help you as individuals and as parishes and as Pastoral Areas.

Do you have a Parish Justice and Peace Group?

Justice and Peace Groups across the Archdiocese vary enormously and we would like to help you make yours more successful by providing ideas and putting you in touch with other groups, particularly in your own Pastoral Area.

Would you like to have a Parish Justice and Peace Group?

It is a bit disappointing that so few of our parishes do have a group. After all, the Church's Social Teaching makes clear that issues of Social Justice are not just a lifestyle choice but part of how we respond to the call to Discipleship, a reminder that God is to be found amongst the poor; that God is on their side. If you are thinking of starting a group, we would happily send someone along to talk to you and/or put you in touch with a neighbouring parish which has a successful group and could help with ideas.

Would you like to have a Pastoral Area Justice and Peace Group?

If you get together with other parishes in your Pastoral Area there could be one group for all the different parishes. This might be the way forward.

Catholic Social Teaching

This should be the foundation of our Justice and Peace activity.

Whether or not your parish currently has a J and P group, there is a programme of Catholic Social Teaching which the Commission can provide for every parish, so please contact the Fieldworker if your parish would like such a programme. We can also offer an 'Exploring Life and Faith' Evening, which offers a taster of the advanced course in Integrating Life and Faith.

What else can the Commission Offer?

The Commission exists 'to stimulate awareness of the need for justice and peace both at home and overseas, to assist in the work of reflection on those needs in the light of the Gospel and the Church's social teaching' (extract from the Constitution). We provide a number of events: The Memorial Lecture (held in January every year), Contacts Day (19th February), an opportunity to meet and make contact with campaigners, the annual Romero Mass, to be held this year at St Michael's, Liverpool (20th March) and the retreat at Loyola Hall (20th – 22nd May). Are you on the mailing list?

Contacts Day

St Mary's Church, Broadfield Walk, Leyland PR25 1PD, 1.00 pm to 4.30 pm, Saturday 19th February
An opportunity to connect with other Justice and Peace groups and hear more about the work of the Commission

Over To You

Ultimately, however, if issues of Justice and Peace are to be a part of the lived faith of the people of the Archdiocese, there needs to be activity at Parish level. This year the Commission is highlighting three issues: supporting local groups, providing reliable information on topical issues and finding alternatives to consumerism. Below is a brief Calendar of Justice and Peace related events, and a list of issue-related websites which parishes may find useful.

Calendar

16th January – Peace Sunday
27th January – Holocaust Memorial Day
29th January to 6th February- Poverty and Homelessness Action Week
28th February-13th March Fair Trade Fortnight
18th March Cafod Fast Day
24th March- Anniversary of Oscar Romero
29th May- 4th June 29 May - International World Week for Peace in Palestine-Israel.
5th June- World Environment Day
18th-26th June- Campaign Against the Arms Trade STOP campaign
20th-26th June- Refugee Week
6th and 9th August- Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days
11th September Racial Justice Sunday
21st September- UN International Day
2nd October International Day of Nonviolence
16th October- World Day of Migrants and Refugees
1st October- International Day for Eradication of Poverty
17th-24th October- One World Week and Week of Prayer for World Peace
10th December –Human Rights Day

Useful websites

National Justice and Peace Network www.justice-and-peace.org.uk
Cafod www.cafod.org.uk
Fair Trade Foundation www.fairtrade.org.uk
Green Peace www.greenpeace.org.uk
Pax Christi – International Catholic Movement for Peace www.paxchristi.org.uk
Stop the War Coalition www.stopwar.org.uk
Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament <http://ccnd.gn.apc.org>
The Fellowship of Reconciliation www.for.org.uk/
Campaign Against Arms Trade www.caat.org.uk/
Catholic Social Teaching www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk
Catholic Worker Movement <http://www.catholicworker.org/index.cfm>
Church Action on Poverty <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>
Palestinian Christians www.kairospalestine.ps
Friends of Sabeel- Support for Palestinian Christians www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk
Friends of the Holy Land www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk
Progressio (formerly CiiR) www.progressio.org.uk