



Justice and Peace Newsletter

Archdiocese of Liverpool

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Updates: NOMAD and PARISH POWER

PA 13 UPHOLLAND

People at the CONTACTS DAY at St Teresa's in October decided to set up a regular monthly meeting on Saturday mornings to offer support to one another and to discuss local issues. These meetings were held at St Richard's, Skelmersdale. They have been loyally attended by a group of about 6 people.

In November there was an evening event at St Teresa's to explain the Christmas Card Campaign. Low attendance but significant interest by key people led to many cards being sent.

In January there was a full NOMAD Commission meeting in St Richard's parish centre. There was an eloquent speaker from West Lancs Women's Refuge.

During Lent there was some interest in three talks on CST at St Joseph's, Wroughtington.

VERDICT:

There is a lot of wonderful work for social justice in this area but our involvement does not seem to have helped structurally. Problems remain of the same faces at meetings and low priority given to information sharing among parishes. We need to improve the way we communicate.

PA 14 ORMSKIRK & MAGHULL

The trial NOMAD meeting in late October at St Anne's, Ormskirk, The format was: prayer, short input on the spirituality of J&P, discussion of areas of concern and decisions about what to try to do. The topics chosen were: Media, Politics, Living simply, Youth. The meeting was lively and well attended but only one person was from outside the parish.

St Anne's was a venue for the Christmas Card Campaign launch. (There were 5 launch events on the same day in mid November.) This took the focus away from the concerns identified at the previous meeting but a massive number of cards were sent to the Holy Land.

In March the Romero Mass was celebrated at St Anne's followed by a lively and informative meeting in the parish centre.

At the follow-on NOMAD meeting in April, a priest from the Lydiate end of the PA asked for help with setting up a Credit Union and Debt advice service. After discussion, the group agreed that issues of debt/credit were involved in their previous concerns and decided to find out more about how they could be effective and useful.

VERDICT: This group has the support of the clergy but is operating on the parish model. Is this the start of structural cooperation?

PA 22 LEIGH

The NOMAD process in Leigh has followed a different pattern.

The first meeting was the launch of the Christmas Card Campaign in November.

Discussion with clergy led to the actual NOMAD meeting being postponed to fit into the PA calendar. Being part of PA planning a key element in the success of the process in this Leigh.

Once the meeting at Holy Family, Boothstown, had been rescheduled it became possible to work with clergy to plan the aims and the structure of the meeting. This demonstration of the central role of the clergy was an important learning. The meeting itself was attended by over 20 people. All present contributed to discussion and they surprised themselves by the number of local issues that they identified ... they had expected to be concentrating on overseas problems. At the follow-on meeting in May it is hoped to develop a plan for how the parishes will become involved with the issues that were identified.

VERDICT: We work much more effectively when clergy and laity are working together. Structures may not be necessary for justice and charity to happen but they certainly help

Since the summer, the J&P Commission and the field worker have been trying out two new methods of working to try to help J&P concerns and spirituality to become incorporated into the way the Pastoral Areas organised:

1: Instead of the previous pattern of closed meetings with a standard agenda where only Commission members were able to attend, the new NOMAD meetings would be open to every body and offer a chance to engage with local concerns in the particular Pastoral Area where the meeting was being held.

2: 'Hands-on' working in one particular parish in Liverpool to test the theory that the parish offers a good way into the local community so as to help people make the most of scarce resources and to lead healthier lives.



An update on
**PARISH
POWER**
on the next page

FORTHCOMING EVENTS For more info on any of these events, ring 0151 522 1080

28th April	JUSTICE & PEACE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (With Vincentians In Partnership)	LACE 10 — 3
18th — 20th May	<p style="text-align: center;">Justice and Peace Annual Retreat “Empowering Relationships of Justice and Peace” with Diarmuid O’Murchu</p> <p>There are no residential places available for this retreat. You would be welcome to attend for the day on Saturday. Registration at 9.30 Cost: £10</p>	Loyola Hall Warrington Rd Rainhill Prescot L35 6NZ
23rd May 7-00—9-00	<p style="text-align: center;">NOMAD 2 LEIGH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The aim is to explore practical ways of bringing the Gospel’s values to life in the parishes of Leigh.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mass at 7pm</p>	Holy Family Boothstown
8th – 10th June	<p style="text-align: center;">Northern Catholic Conference</p> <p>J&P will be represented by an information stall. Volunteers welcomed to help to staff this stall</p>	Hope University
23rd-24th June	<p style="text-align: center;">ACAT VIGIL St Teresa’s, College Rd, Upholland WN8 0PY</p>	26 th June is the International Day in support of victims of torture and the vigil will be held on the previous weekend Details will be available nearer the time.
4th Sept 7 — 9.30	<p style="text-align: center;">As part of his visit to the UK, “A PERSISTENT PEACE” An evening with JOHN DEAR SJ</p> <p>There will be a £10 charge for this event to contribute to the cost of his flight from the USA</p>	St John’s Standishgate Wigan WN1 2LX

PARISH POWER

This project grew out of a discussion of the practical consequences of Catholic Social Teaching. Working in the parish of St Michael’s and Sacred Heart, it is exploring the idea that the parish offers an effective way into the local community. There are two strands to the work ~ 1: staying warm, by making the most of money spent on gas and electricity, especially by knowing how to understand bills and by choosing the best tariff ~ 2: growing food, with a balance between back yards and community gardens. Initial funding from CUF made it possible to buy in expertise on energy efficiency. A second funder, Natural Choices, (Mersey Forest and NHS) made it possible to go into the second phase of this work. Kevin Duffy has worked 3 days a week as Project Manager on developing, administering, coordinating and delivering the project. This project relies on the cooperation of Kevin Duffy, Annie Merry-Harby from F4C, Steve Atherton from the diocese, and Fr Arthur Fitzgerald and the parish team at St Michael’s and Sacred Heart. The J&P Commission has been a seed bed to allow this initiative to take root and to grow. Funding from Scottish Power will allow this project to continue.