



# Justice and Peace Newsletter

## Archdiocese of Liverpool

s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk OFFICE: 0151 522 1080/81 m.hardacre@rcaol.co.uk

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## CARDINAL TURKSON ON WAR AND PEACE

### **WAR AND PEACE**

When the atrocities of war are documented there is a risk that people begin to look at everything with detachment, as if war was a show; or with indifference, since it's always possible to switch over to another TV-channel. War ceases to be "real"; becoming something that happens "somewhere else" and doesn't concern us, that doesn't affect our personal and social conditions, what we consider "our world."

#### ***From Indifference to Consciousness:***

We must therefore overcome indifference and turn it into consciousness. In fact, although we may be physically far from the arena of war, we cannot be morally and spiritually distanced from it. The shortness of our memory makes things worse, for it makes war ever more possible and likely.

#### ***Taken for granted***

We get used to seeing one region of the world ***living in peace***, while another region sees people ***dying because of a war***.

It makes us believe that war is and has been the lot of man right from the time, when Cain killed his brother Abel. So, it makes us develop an

attitude of indifference, feeling that neither war nor peace depends on us. That's just not true! It is becoming increasingly clear, especially in today's world, how a seemingly "small" and "local" conflict can trigger "global" consequences. But there is still another reason,

#### ***Peace in our hearts:***

a deeper one: war and peace originate in the heart of man, and it's impossible to have a divided heart. So, war, to some extent, affects everyone, and peace concerns everyone.

#### ***Current situation***

Today there are about twenty active conflicts in the world. Of these, eight are in Africa and nine in Asia: that is the majority. Almost in all cases, these are not "inter-national" wars, i.e. fought by one State against another State, but rather "asymmetric" conflicts, that involve States and non-state actors.

#### ***Innocent victims***

These conflicts have often lasted for years, causing a large number of innocent victims. If we look at these conflicts, we can see that, though the tensions may bear/assume ethnic, cultural, and religious traits, something completely different triggers them;

### **INJUSTICE**

There is always injustice, abuse, and violence.

#### ***War is not inevitable***

Jesus brought a change, he renewed everything; he made God's grace visible in order to bring peace into the history of every human being and of all humanity. Man is not called to hate himself and his neighbour but to love his neighbour as himself. For Pope John XXIII, *peace* rested on the four pillars or virtues of truth, justice, love and freedom. These are the basis for a harmonious development and solidarity among peoples: in a word, ***peace in the world*** is not an "unrealistic" goal.

#### ***Our dream is possible***

It points to something beautiful but difficult to realize. Something for which we need to ***fight a good fight***, even if it means the use of unconventional weapons. Paul VI called for total disarmament, hand in hand with education to moral principles that are common to all peoples.

#### ***Peace keepers?***

He asked himself: "Can we give the name *peaceful* to a world that is radically divided by irreconcilable ideologies - ideologies that are powerfully and fiercely organized, ideologies that divide Peoples from one another and then subdivide

themselves, into factions and parties that find their reason for existence and activity in poisoning their ranks with irreconcilable hatred and systematic struggle within the very fabric of society itself?"

#### ***War against ourselves***

Warfare in the religious traditions is abstinence/fasting and various forms of continence and self-control. The real warfare for peace should be waged in our hearts.

#### ***Think peace***

The duty of the present generations is to build peace out of a sense of solidarity and responsibility towards future generations. The wars of today do not and will not make for the peace of tomorrow. The axiom: ***if you want peace prepare for war***, is outdated. It has in history caused only misery and pain: more harm than good. War is evil whenever it is directed outside. It inflicts suffering; and the good of *peace* cannot be achieved with evil of the suffering that it inflicts, except for the suffering that brings witnesses to love and bring peace to one's person in imitation of Jesus' revelation of the love of his Father. (Summary of talk given to German bishops, November 2010.)

**PEACE SUNDAY** this year aims to raise awareness about the need for respect and dialogue between religions to build trust, unity and peace. The day offers an opportunity to build on the work of our own Bishops' Conference document, [Meeting God in Friend and Stranger](#) (Since Pax Christi were given approval to raise funds on Peace Sunday they have been able to employ a youth worker who has visited several schools and colleges in the archdiocese. Envelopes are available for any parish that would like to contribute.)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS			
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> January <b>PEACE SUNDAY</b>	<b>Memorial Lecture</b> <b>'Option for the poor: Option for the World.'</b> Fr Brian O'Toole cssp spent 19 years in ministry in Ethiopia. He says: " The environment and integrity of creation is a huge area at the moment, and advocating for fairness on this issue for poor countries."	LACE	2.00 – 4.00
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Moral Maze: Finding solutions to local poverty.</b> This event will be chaired by Roger Philips of Radio Merseyside.	Liverpool Town Hall	2.30 - 4.00
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Contacts Day</b> A chance for active groups (and for individuals who would like to get involved) to meet together and share ideas, inspiration and energy.	St Mary's, Leyland.	2.00 – 4.30
Ash Wednesday	<b>Act of Penitence</b> To be planned at the Contacts Day.		
Sunday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Romero Mass</b>	St Michael's, Kensington	10.30 -12.00
Friday 21st May to Sunday 23rd May	<b>Justice and Peace Retreat</b> 0151 426 4137	Loyola Hall, Warrington Rd, Rainhill. L35 6NZ	Friday evening ... All day Saturday ... Sunday lunch time

**POPE BENEDICT XVI**

The Pope's Christmas message to the his fellow bishops included a call for " a grand concept of dialogue, forgiveness and mutual acceptance, a concept that we now want to proclaim to the world. The human being is one, and humanity is one. Whatever damage is done to another in any one place, ends up by damaging everyone."

**Catholic Bishops of England and Wales**

**"Choosing the Common Good"**

"Because we are interdependent, the common good is more like a multiplication sum, where if any one number is zero then the total is always zero. If anyone is left out and deprived of what is essential, then the common good has been betrayed."

**A FRANCISCAN PRAYER**

May God bless you with tears...  
to shed for those who suffer from pain,  
rejection, starvation and war.  
May God bless you so that you  
may reach out your hand  
to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with  
enough foolishness  
to believe that you can make a difference  
in this world, in your neighbourhood,  
so that you will courageously try  
what you don't think you can do, but,  
in Jesus Christ you'll have all the strength necessary.

May God bless you to fearlessly  
speak out about injustice,  
unjust laws, corrupt politicians,  
unjust and cruel treatment of prisoners,  
and senseless wars,  
genocides, starvations, and poverty that is so pervasive.

May God bless you that you remember  
we are all called  
to continue God's redemptive work  
of love and healing  
in God's place, in and through God's name,  
in God's Spirit, continually creating  
and breathing new life and grace