



Justice and Peace Newsletter

Archdiocese of Liverpool

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Welcome to 2012

Christmas is over, the New Year is here and before long we'll be heading into Lent and 40 days of preparation for Easter.

40 days because we're remembering Christ's time in the desert. For him, the 40 days were followed by his public ministry when he emphasised that the kingdom of God was for the poor, the marginalised and the outcasts.

For us, by the miracle of liturgy, the 40 days of Lent don't lead into our time of ministry but go straight to the Paschal mystery of cross and tomb and Easter morning.

We can sometimes be tempted to forget what Jesus did during his life of ministry and to concentrate on the saving grace of his death and resurrection.

Perhaps this year, during the 40 days of Lent we can focus on the way we can follow our Lord's example by serving the poor, the sick, the marginalised, the imprisoned and the outcasts of our day.

Perhaps we can use Lent to examine the ways in which we relate to other people and to the rest of creation.

Perhaps we can reflect on the impact we have on our families and friends, our colleagues, our neighbours, our communities, and on the environment.

Do we notice when there is injustice or do we just accept it and take it for granted? Dare we speak out for what we believe to be right? Or do we let things go unchallenged?

Do we defend the oppressed? Or do we keep quiet in the presence of injustice?

Are we a force for good?

After all, Jesus wasn't crucified because he recommended to his followers that, having thought long and hard about the issues, he had come to the conclusion that usually we should be kind to old ladies and help people across the road.

He had come to proclaim the Kingdom of God

He was:

Outspoken, Dangerous, Gentle, Inspirational, Radical, Fearless, Analytical, Kindly, Demanding, Dynamic, Whole-hearted.

As his followers, should we not also be these things?



Joseph Cardijn

SEE

What is happening in the world?

What is going on? When does it happen?

Who is affected?

Who is suffering?

JUDGE

Why is it happening?

Who wins and who loses?

Why does this situation continue?

Who can do anything to put things right?

What insights come from Scripture and from CST?

ACT

What needs to be done?

What am I going to do?

Who are my allies that will help?

WHAT IS THIS KINGDOM/KINDOM?

Our faith is in a living relationship with our saviour, who demonstrated a special concern for the poor and the needy of his age and set us up as citizens of the Kingdom ...

... the Kingdom of God which is here and not yet here, which has been established but has not yet reached completion.

It is a Kingdom whose values we live by as we live and breathe, as we meet and relate to other people, as we gratefully taste the beauty of the creation of which we are a part, as we suffer the sorrows that are a part of our life here on earth where God has seen that it is good.

But it is not yet 'very good'.

If we accept the invitation to join the Kingdom then we are invited to live by its values and to work for a world where justice is the air we breathe and where love gives joy to the way we treat each other.

And when things go wrong? Then we can taste 'the costly sacrifice of love' and share further in the example of our Lord

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

15th Feb	NOMAD MEETING: SKELMERSDALE St Richard's Parish Centre, Liverpool Rd, Skelmersdale. WN8 8BX	7.30—9.00 Refreshments from 7.00
22nd Feb	ACT OF PENITENCE On Ash Wednesday February 22 nd come to St Luke's, the Bombed-Out church at the top of Bold St, Liverpool, where there will be prayers for peace and the distribution of ashes.	1-00 -1.20
7th March	NOMAD MEETING: LEIGH Holy Family, Chaddock Lane, Boothstown, Manchester M28 1DN	Mass: 7pm Refreshments: 7.30 Meeting: 7.45—9.00
17th March	APPLE GRAFTING St Teresa's, College Rd, Upholland WN8 0PY This event will be led by Philip Rainford who is one of Lancashire's leading experts on apples. His skills include identification of varieties, grafting, cordons, pruning and the maintenance of orchards. This event is in conjunction with F4C.	Venue: Club Time: 12—3 Cost: £5 per person, including 2 grafted trees to take away. Simple lunch and warm drinks available.
2 5th March	ROMERO MASS St Anne's, Prescot Rd, Ormskirk. L39 4TG Family Mass. Speaker: Emma Atherton who recently spent 3 months in El Salvador where she worked alongside some of Progressio's partners as part of the ICS Empower Youth scheme.	10.30 Mass
28th April	JUSTICE & PEACE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (With Vincentians In Partnership)	LACE 10 — 3 Details of speakers and workshops to be arranged soon.
23rd May	NOMAD 2 LEIGH	Details will be arranged after the 7th March meeting
8th – 10th June	Northern Catholic Conference J&P will be represented by an information stall. Volunteers welcomed to help to staff this stall	Hope University
26th-27th June	ACAT VIGIL St Teresa's, College Rd, Upholland WN8 0PY	26 th June is the International Day in support of victims of torture. Details of the vigil will be available nearer the time.