

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



JPIC Update October 2015

Pope's message at the Global Christian Forum on religious persecution of Christians
(Vatican Information Service)

Vatican City, 5 November 2015 (VIS) – A message was published today from the Holy Father to Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, and all the participants in the meeting of the Global Christian Forum which took place in Tirana, Albania from 2 to 4 November on the theme “Discrimination, persecution, martyrdom: following Christ together”.

The Pope extends special greetings to brothers and sisters of different Christian traditions who represent communities suffering for their profession of faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. “I think with great sadness of the escalating discrimination and persecution against Christians in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and elsewhere throughout the world. Your gathering shows that, as Christians, we are not indifferent to our suffering brothers and sisters”.

“In various parts of the world, the witness to Christ, even to the shedding of blood, has become a shared experience of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Protestants, Evangelicals and Pentecostals, which is deeper and stronger than the differences which still separate our Churches and Ecclesial Communities”, the Pope observed. “The *communio martyrum* is the greatest sign of our journeying together. At the same time, your gathering will give voice to the victims of such injustice and violence, and seek to show the path that will lead the human family out of this tragic situation”.

Francis concludes by assuring all those present of his spiritual closeness, and expressing his hope that the martyrs of today, belonging to many Christian traditions, “help us to understand that all the baptised are members of the same Body of Christ, His Church. Let us see this profound truth as a call to persevere on our ecumenical journey towards full and visible communion, growing more and more in love and mutual understanding”.

The Forum urged persecutors to cease their violence, and exhorted governments to respect and protect religious freedom, and especially to protect Christians and others persecuted for their religious beliefs and the media to reflect appropriately on violations of religious freedom and the discrimination and persecution of Christians.

During the three days of the meeting, the participants began the day with prayer in the orthodox cathedral of Tirana, dedicated to the Resurrection of Christ, the Centre of the Evangelical Alliance of Albania, and the Catholic St. Paul's Cathedral, to pray for the 200 million Christians persecuted in the world. The Forum concluded on the day on which Albanese Catholics commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in the Catholic cemetery of Scutari by a priest who survived 50 years of atheist communism in Albania.

Aid to the Church in Need is one Charity that helps persecuted and oppressed Christians around the world through prayer, information and action. <http://www.acnuk.org/> or Phone: 020 8642 8668

InterFaith Week 15-21 November, 2015.

In order to encourage people to better respect, understand each other religions, interact and share common ground, interfaith events are held through out the year. InterFaith Week puts the spotlight on these issues and helps people focus their efforts. Various Events are being held which can be accessed through the Inter Faith Week Website. There are two main ways to view events on the website. One is a Google-Map www.interfaithweek.org/map and the other is a full running list in date order <http://www.interfaithweek.org/events-74/events/full-list-of-all-events>

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The Map view has a proximity search function, so you could, for example, search for events within a 5 mile radius of an address in Southwark.

There is also a page which displays events by day of the Week, which is at

<http://www.interfaithweek.org/events-74/events/day-test-list> This includes both the map and a list of events each day.

Or Phone: **InterFaith Network for the UK** 020 7730 0410 to ask for events in your area.

Reminder for “Building The Way Ahead” For Southwark JPIC

All are invited to take part in the process of Building The Way Ahead

Take part in the process of strengthening the existing JPIC.

Date and Time: Saturday, 14 November, 2015. 11am to 1pm (Registration, Tea, Coffee from 10:30am)

Venue: Oasis College of Higher Education, 1 Kennington Road, London SE1 7QP
Opposite Lambeth North Tube Station.

Directions:

Exit the Lambeth North Tube Station, and cross the road to Christ Church, which stands at the corner of Westminster Bridge Road and Kennington Road.

Walk along Kennington Road for 2 minutes.. The entrance to the Oasis College of Higher Education is **immediately** after scaffolding tunnel adjoining the bus stop.

10th - 14th November – “Memorial” A new play on Franz Jagerstatter by Sharon Jennings

Play about the Austrian hero and martyr Franz Jagerstatter, who took an independent and inspiring stand against Nazi oppression during the Second World War.

Venue: The Friary, 47 Francis Street, SW1P 1QR. Time: 7:30pm. Tickets £10

<http://www.fentiman-productions.co.uk/>

15th – 21st November – InterFaith Week 2015. Check for Local Events near you.

<http://www.interfaithweek.org/events-74/events/main-events-calendar>

Sunday 15th November – InterFaith Event - Conversations for the Soul and Remembrance Prayers

Venue: Hyderi Islamic Centre, 26 Estreham Road, SW16 5PQ – Time: 2:30pm – 4:30pm

20th November – InterFaith Event at St. Bernadette’s Church, Tilgate Way, Crawley, RH10 5BS

Time: 7pm – 9pm. Guest Speaker Katharina Smith Muller, Adviser to the Roman Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, will present a “Guide to Inter Faith - Building bridges – the practice and spirituality of interfaith dialogue.

Phone: 01293 883372 Email: contact@crawleyinterfaith.net Website: www.crawleyinterfaith.net

21st November – NJPN Open Networking Day with Vincentians in Partnership

Venue: Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge, London SE1 7JB. Time: 10:30am – 4pm.

29th November – People’s Climate March. CAFOD

Interfaith Event: 11:45am Tea Coffee, followed by midday interfaith event at Westminster Synagogue, Kent House, Knightsbridge, SW7 1BX. Then join the rally at 12:45pm.

Rally: Assemble at Park Lane at 12noon, set off at 1pm and march past Green Park, Pall Mall and down Millbank to gather at Parliament Square for closing rally.

4th December – Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture (CAFOD)

This year’s lecture will feature Cardinal Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Time: Doors Open 6:30pm. Lecture begins 7pm. Venue: St Mary’s Church, Wyndham Place, London, W1H 1PQ

Free Event, but registration required. Click Link. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pope-paul-vi-memorial-lecture-tickets-18995045693#>

4th December – London Churches Refugee Fund Carol Singing at Oxford Circus Underground Station

Volunteer, singers and instruments required. Please confirm your time slot availability: 3 -4:30pm, 4:30 – 6pm, 6 -8pm.

Fancy dress with lights welcome. Contact maggie.hindley@londoninterfaith.org.uk or Phone 020 7372 1765

8th December – Pax Christi Advent Peace Service & Market at Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston

Time: 7:30pm – 10pm. Music led by Julie McCann. Christmas Gifts from Jesuit Refugee Service, Palestinian Goods.

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of JPIC.

If you would like to get involved in Justice & Peace in your Parish, please contact Kenneth R Roberts at:

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