



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



JPIC Update December 2009

"If You Want To Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation" is the theme of Pope Benedict's message for the celebration of the forty-third World Day of Peace.

Here are some extracts of the Holy Father's message, [the complete version is available from our web site, or ask the office to post you a copy:](#)

"Man's inhumanity to man has given rise to numerous threats to peace and to authentic and integral human development - wars, international and regional conflicts, acts of terrorism, and violations of human rights. Yet no less troubling are the threats arising from the neglect - if not downright misuse - of the earth and the natural goods that God has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen "that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and towards whom we are journeying.

Environmental degradation is often due to the lack of far-sighted official policies or to the pursuit of myopic economic interests, which then, tragically, become a serious threat to creation. ... When making use of natural resources, we should be concerned for their protection and consider the cost entailed - environmentally and socially - as an essential part of the overall expenses incurred. The international community and national governments are responsible for sending the right signals in order to combat effectively the misuse of the environment. To protect the environment, and to safeguard natural resources and the climate, there is a need to act in accordance with clearly-defined rules, also from the juridical and economic standpoint, while at the same time taking into due account the solidarity we owe to those living in the poorer areas of our world and to future generations.

A greater sense of inter-generational solidarity is urgently needed. ... Natural resources should be used in such a way that immediate benefits do not have a negative impact on living creatures, human and not, present and future; that the protection of private property does not conflict with the universal destination of goods; that human activity does not compromise the fruitfulness of the earth, for the benefit of people now and in the future.

To be sure, among the basic problems which the international community has to address is that of energy resources and the development of joint and sustainable strategies to satisfy the energy needs of the present and future generations. This means that technologically advanced societies must be prepared to encourage more

sober lifestyles, while reducing their energy consumption and improving its efficiency. At the same time there is a need to encourage research into, and utilisation of, forms of energy with lower impact on the environment and "a worldwide redistribution of energy resources, so that countries lacking those resources can have access to them.

It is becoming more and more evident that the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle and the prevailing models of consumption and production, which are often unsustainable from a social, environmental and even economic point of view. ... We are all responsible for the protection and care of the environment. This responsibility knows no boundaries. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity it is important for everyone to be committed at his or her proper level, working to overcome the prevalence of particular interests.

The Church has a responsibility towards creation, and she considers it her duty to exercise that responsibility in public life, in order to protect earth, water and air as gifts of God the Creator meant for everyone, and above all to save mankind from the danger of self-destruction. ... Our duties towards the environment flow from our duties towards the person, considered both individually and in relation to others. Hence I readily encourage efforts to promote a greater sense of ecological responsibility which, as I indicated in my Encyclical "Caritas in Veritate", would safeguard an authentic "human ecology" and thus forcefully reaffirm the inviolability of human life at every stage and in every condition, the dignity of the person and the unique mission of the family, where one is trained in love of neighbour and respect for nature.

If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation. The quest for peace by people of good will surely would become easier if all acknowledge the indivisible relationship between God, human beings and the whole of creation. In the light of divine Revelation and in fidelity to the Church's Tradition, Christians have their own contribution to make. They contemplate the cosmos and its marvels in light of the creative work of the Father and the redemptive work of Christ, who by His death and resurrection has reconciled with God "all things, whether on earth or in heaven."

NJPN urgently needs your support now.

The National Justice & Peace Network

- Links people who have a concern for justice and peace.
- Acts as a hub for the exchange of information.
- Offers support and encouragement for groups and individuals.
- Provides a channel between issues and campaigns.



But now NJPN is facing dramatic reductions in its core funding and urgently needs your support to continue its vital work. You can help by:

- Giving a donation - *Cheques payable to NJPN. Send to NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX*
- Committing to a regular donation - *Standing order forms downloadable on the NJPN website*
- www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

NEWS FROM STOP THE TRAFFIK

We are delighted to inform you that within DAYS of the Nestlé Christmas campaign launch, we have learnt that 4 finger Kit Kats will be FAIRTRADE in the UK as of January 2010. This is fantastic news! The question now is WHY only 4 fingered Kit Kats? Why only the UK? We understand it's hard to make all products traffik free overnight but we sincerely hope this is not just a token gesture. We want to enjoy all chocolate without the bitter aftertaste so the campaign continues! As our CEO Ruth says '*the worst thing we can do is think that this is enough! The industry needs to know that we will not stop until every bar in every shop is traffik free.*



Events in our diocese:

19th January 7.30 pm 'Human rights and liberty'.

At the riverside premises of Hurlingham Yacht Club, 43a Deodar Road, Putney, London SW15 2NB. Speakers will include Jeremy Corbyn MP, Vijay Mehta, and Sir Brian Barder.

Refreshments and bar will also be available.

Contact: Rob Storey (chair) on 07776 356 334 or StoreyRW@aol.com

30th January 2 - 5 pm World Development Movement teach-in.

66 Offley Road, Oval, SW9 a great opportunity to get up to speed on WDM's campaigns and a chance to meet and mingle. Bring and share lunch from 12.30 contact Katherine Talbot 020 7820 4900 or katherine@wdm.org.uk

May 22nd 2010

Our Spring Assembly

At Aylesford Priory 10.30 to 4.00

Details to follow

Our prayers and very best wishes go to Archbishop Kevin on his retirement, with our sincere thanks for all he has done to promote and encourage the work of Justice and Peace during his time in office.

National Events:

17th January Peace Sunday

If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation



January 18th to 25th

Week of prayer for Christian Unity.

You are witnesses to these things

Luke 24:48

contact www.ctbi.org.uk or 0207 564 7254 to download or order resources.

January 30th to February 7th

Poverty & Homeless Action Week

To organise an event to promote Homelessness Sunday on Saturday 30th January or Poverty Action Sunday on 7th February download resources from www.actionweek.org.uk

22nd February to 7th March Fairtrade Fortnight

