

# JPIC Update

JUNE 2009

## Strangers into Citizens Rally

Arriving early to assist with the stewarding Westminster Cathedral looked a little bleak and empty. It was difficult to anticipate the sight, a short while later, when the groups from all areas processed in to a Cathedral packed to bursting with migrants from London's three dioceses; Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, and those, from across the Country, that had come to show their support.

The mass, celebrated by Bishop Thomas McMahon in the absence of Cardinal Cormac who was indisposed, reflected the tremendous diversity of London's Catholic community, with people representing countries from around the globe. A number of civic dignitaries, including Mayors of London Boroughs and Ambassadors from EU and other countries also attended.

In his homily, Bishop Patrick Lynch emphasised that the Catholic Church has a concern for all workers whether documented or undocumented. He said that a way should be found for undocumented workers who had been in the UK for over five years to 'continue to contribute to British society'.

'The Church is concerned for all workers - documented and undocumented. A migrant's legal status is quite separate from his or her human dignity. A human being's worth is defined by their God given dignity, not by the papers they do or do not carry. There is clear moral case that undocumented workers who have lived and worked in this country for five years or more should be given the opportunity to build a future in the United Kingdom and continue to contribute to British society.

You have worked here, your children have been born here and attend school here, you are part of our parishes and our society here and a way should be found so that you can remain here.'

Bishop Lynch also stressed the important contribution that migrant workers have made to the Catholic Church and to Britain in recent years and urged people to prevent migrants being used as scapegoats during the economic downturn.

"You have contributed culturally and economically to the nation and you have contributed spiritually and socially to the Church bringing with you your deep faith, your commitment to the family and your loyalty to the Church. So my prayer today is that during a time of recession when there will inevitably be job shortages we as the Church will do all we can not to allow migrant workers from within or outside the European Union to become scapegoats and targets of peoples frustration with the economy".

After the mass an estimated 20,000 people from all the services being held by various denominations converged on Trafalgar Square to attend a rally organised by London Citizens.

There we heard speakers from many different faith groups calling for the regularisation of the legal status of long term migrants in the UK.

## Refugee Week 2009 15th-21st June

### *Different pasts, shared future*

Refugee Week is a UK wide programme of events which celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK.

During Refugee Week hundreds of events exploring refugee experiences take place across the UK. These range from small community and school activities to art exhibitions, political debates, film screenings, conferences, big music festivals, sports events etc...

Anyone can get involved in Refugee Week either by organising or visiting an event or by just spreading the word! The main focus of activities this year is the Simple Acts Campaign, which is about inspiring people to use small, everyday actions to change perceptions of refugees.

For further information go to:  
[www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)  
or ask the Southwark JPIC office for help.

## NJPN CONFERENCE 2009

### On the Road Together: A-mazed by Migration

This year's National Justice & Peace Network conference, to be held in Swanwick, Derbyshire from 17-19 July asks the question "People on the move. How does the Church respond in a changing world?" One of the main speakers will be our own Bishop Patrick Lynch.

All are most welcome to attend but we are particularly asking all parishes if there is a parishioner or a family, ideally one who could add to the discussion from their own experiences, who they would be able to sponsor to attend.

Transport will be laid on from Derby station.

**Volunteers Needed-Please!** As this year's event is being organised by the London diocese they are looking to us to provide a number of volunteers to act as stewards. No experience required, training given.

### Cutting energy use in our homes

The television programme "Grand Designs" has launched the Great British Refurb campaign. On their web site [greatbritishrefurb.co.uk](http://greatbritishrefurb.co.uk) you can sign your name to a petition which will be delivered by the presenter, Kevin McCleod, to 10 Downing Street.

The petition calls for the Government to:

- \* Offer households new ways to pay for green refurbishment, which would significantly reduce upfront costs and instead spread them over a longer period of time.
- \* Provide better financial incentives for householders to refurbish their homes to make them greener and more energy efficient, through substantial government grants, subsidies or tax rebates.
- \* Ensure installers are qualified and approved to undertake the work.

### Q. How to make money for your favourite charity whilst surfing the net!

#### A. Use [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com) as your search engine.

Register on the web site, designate your charity, CAFOD, Progressio, SVP and many others to choose from, and then every click will earn them money. So far a total of over £740,000 has been raised.

## European Elections—Remember to vote!

If, like me, fed up with politicians of all colours, you feel inclined to stay at home on June 4<sup>th</sup>, please remember that the European elections are for multi-member constituencies and there are fringe parties out there whose views are fundamentally out of step with the Church's social teaching. They may get seats, and all the kudos and financial support that go with them, for as little as 7.5% of the vote in some areas, so please go out and VOTE FOR SOMEONE.

## INDIAN ELECTION

The poor showing of the BJP in the month long Indian elections must give hope to the religious minorities in India but the problems being experienced in some areas are still causing concern.

The Indian bishops' conference has paid tribute to the persecuted Christians of their country as "heroes of faith and patriotism." The 120 bishops have dedicated moments of prayer for the communities in many parts of India, especially in Orissa and Karnataka, that have faced persecution over recent months at the hands of Hindu extremists.

A report from John Dayal, president of the United Christian Forum for Human Rights, states that the Orissa situation is far from resolved, and thousands of Christians have not been able to return home. It says that the Orissa government "is still not able to ensure the safety and security of thousands of Christians who cannot still return to their village homes".

Please remember those suffering persecution for their faith in your conference prayers.

## STOP THE TRAFFIK UPDATE

Six weeks after the launch of "March on Mars" Mars made an announcement. They have promised to make their GLOBAL product range **traffik free by 2020**, starting with Galaxy bars in the UK and Ireland next year.

Mars are giving us a short term commitment with Galaxy bars while we keep asking for evidence of long term, global change.

Now let's ask Nestlé what they are doing to curtail the exploitation of plantation workers..