

# JPIC Update

LENT 2009

## 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.

A booking form is attached.  
Transport will be laid on from Derby station.

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**Volunteers Needed:** 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.

### Fairtrade Fortnight - Feb 28th to March 8th

An ever-growing number of churches are making the connection between trade and poverty and committing to using fairly traded products including tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits.

Fairtrade Fortnight is an opportunity to become an active part of this campaign which is making a real difference to the lives of more than 7 million farmers, workers and their families in 59 developing countries.

To become a Fairtrade Parish you must agree to the following:

- \* Use only Fairtrade tea and coffee in all meetings for which you have responsibility.
- \* Move forward on Using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit.
- \* Promote fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight and throughout the year

Once you have achieved these goals you can apply, through the Southwark JPIC office, for a pack of materials, including a Fairtrade Church certificate.

The news that GlaxoSmithKline has said that it will significantly reduce the price of the drugs it sells in 50 Sub-Saharan countries and will set up a patent pool to share research has been widely welcomed.

Late last year Caritas International issued a call to all pharmaceutical companies to develop affordable drugs specifically for children with HIV/AIDS, many of whom die before their second birthday.

Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, President of Caritas International, said that while a third of HIV-positive adults in the world have access to antiretroviral drugs so that they can live longer "only 15% of children with HIV get these essential drugs"

He said "Pharmaceutical companies and governments must show leadership by developing child-friendly medicine for HIV and improving testing"

Cardinal Rodriguez said children will be the focus of the 162 Caritas members in 2009. Caritas and other Catholic organisations provide around a quarter of medical AIDS relief in Africa.

Children under the age of 15 accounted for 2.1 million of the 33.2 million people living with HIV in 2007, according to a joint report by the World Health Organisation and several other UN agencies.

Of these children 90% live in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2007 an estimated 420,000 children were infected with the virus globally and 290,000 died of AIDS according to the report.

We can only pray that GSK's initiative is the first of many steps to improve healthcare throughout Africa.



## **NEWS FROM CAFOD**

**Lent is the most important time of year for us to raise money for our work helping the poor overseas.**

**We have loads of fantastic ways to make the most of the Lent season - and we hope there is something to inspire you.**

### **Cambodia: Help starts from love**

Phalla is one of the bravest, most capable women you could meet. Her story is CAFOD's main focus this Lent, and her words inspire our work.

### **Commit to a daily silence**

Delia Smith, one of Britain's best-loved cookery writers, offers you a golden opportunity to take time out and spend 20 minutes a day in silence during Lent.

You can sign up at [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk).

### **Hold your own eco-carnival**

A Brazilian Carnival makes a fantastic eco-friendly fundraiser - use our colourful carnival ideas such as films, pictures, Brazilian music and recipes, games, and website banners.

### **Lent Fast Day, March 6**

Make the most of Fast Day with our posters, mass talks, spiritual materials, stories, and so much more.

### **Please give to Lent Fast Day online**

### **Thursday 12th March**

Marks the launch of CAFOD's Climate Justice campaign to be held at Westminster Cathedral Hall from 7pm to 9pm.

Drinks reception, musical performance and key-note speakers.

**SOUTHWARK JPIC  
2009 SPRING ASSEMBLY  
AYLESFORD PRIORY  
SATURDAY 30th MAY**

*Please make a note in your diary*

## **JPIC OFFICE**

I am very pleased to have been given the opportunity to act as JPIC coordinator for the Archdiocese and would welcome any ideas, thoughts and suggestions as to how we may waken "The Sleeping Giant" as the National Justice and Peace Network has recently been described.

Terry Brown

It seems prayer still upsets some people.

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

*'Heavenly Father,  
We come before you today  
To ask your forgiveness and  
To seek your direction and guidance.  
We know Your Word says,  
'Woe to those who call evil good'  
but that is exactly what we have done.*

*We have lost our spiritual equilibrium  
and reversed our values.*

*We have exploited the poor and  
called it the lottery.*

*We have killed our unborn  
and called it choice.*

*We have shot abortionists  
and called it justifiable.*

*We have neglected to discipline  
our children and called it  
Building self esteem.*

*We have abused power  
and called it politics.*

*We have coveted our neighbours  
possessions and called it ambition.*

*We have polluted the air with profanity  
and pornography and called it  
freedom of speech and expression.*

*We have ridiculed the time Honoured  
values of our Forefathers and called it  
enlightenment.*

*Search us, Oh, God, And know our  
hearts today;  
Cleanse us from every sin  
And set us free.*

*Amen!'*

**The response was immediate.  
A number of legislators walked out  
during the prayer in protest.**

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DUE TO MY PRIOR COMMITMENTS THE JPIC OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
UNTIL MARCH 19TH. E-MAILS AND ANSWERPHONE MESSAGES WILL BE  
DEALT WITH ON MY RETURN.

Terry Brown