

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

JPIC Update May 2011



World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel

- 29th May to 4th June. During this week Palestinians and Israelis will be praying for peace in front of several Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, along the separation wall and in houses of worship in Jerusalem and across Palestine.

They will be part of a worldwide effort to affirm the human dignity and rights of all peoples through the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel, an initiative of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The aim of the week for peace is to encourage concerned communities and individuals to make a common witness by participating in worship, educational events, and acts of advocacy in support of a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis.

"With the Palestinian-Israeli peace process at a standstill, people of faith are increasingly searching for ways to express their support for a just and lasting peace for all in Palestine and Israel," says the Rev. John Calhoun, the convener of the World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel.

The common focus of this year's events is Jerusalem. Policies and actions taken by the Israeli government in occupied East Jerusalem continue to threaten the future of Jerusalem as a viable home for two peoples – Palestinians and Israelis – and three faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Furthermore, the restrictions on access by Palestinians to places of worship in Jerusalem, the demolition of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem in order to expand illegal settlement building, and the denial of Palestinians' right to family reunification in the city, as well as the withdrawal of the residency permits to many Palestinians (as is the case with Bishop Suheil Dawani of the Anglican Church in Jerusalem), constitute grave violations of basic human rights.

A dossier of background materials prepared by WCC is now in the Resources section of our web site www.southwarkjandp.co.uk If you do not have internet access the office will be happy to post out copies

Vatican Report on Global Warming

Nations and individuals have a duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enact policies that mitigate global warming, said a Vatican-sponsored working group in a report released by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

The cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing reforestation, cutting air pollutants and helping poor regions adapt to climate change "pales in comparison to the price the world will pay if we fail to act now".

"We call on all people and nations to recognize the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of global warming caused by the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses".

Pope Benedict XVI has been very vocal about his concern for environmental degradation and has criticized a lack of real commitment to mitigating climate change.

The report summarized recent findings of the effects climate change has and will have on world populations. It said diminished air quality due to particulates, soot and gases "result in more than 2 million premature deaths worldwide every year and threaten water and food security."

Melting glaciers put drinking water security at risk and climate disruptions threaten those living in coastal and storm-prone areas,

The working group made the following recommendations:

- Immediately reduce carbon dioxide emissions worldwide by employing renewable energy sources, halting deforestation, increasing reforestation and deploying technologies that "draw down excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere."

- Cut heat-absorbing pollutants like soot, methane and hydrofluorocarbons by 50 percent.

- Help countries assess and adapt to the environmental and social impacts climate change will bring.

May 28th - Pax Christi Annual General Meeting

At Holy Apostles Parish Hall, Pimlico. 10.30 to 4.00. Speaker Canon David Porter, Director for Reconciliation Ministry, Coventry Cathedral

Come and meet the Pax Christi team, learn about their work and resources, share and celebrate with the Pax Christi family and friends.



June 6th Annual Erskine Childers Lecture

The standing and authority of United Nations has been questioned after the ongoing crisis in Middle East and North Africa as the UN Resolution for No Fly Zone in Libya is not working as violence and conflict is raging in the area. What should the UN and the International Community should be doing to resolve the situation. Henning Melber, Executive Director of Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation with a panel of other distinguished speakers Aldersgate Room, Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London SW1H 9NH. Doors open, 6:00pm.

June 6th – Operation Noah Supporters Meeting and Seminar.

Meeting 4pm, Seminar 6pm on "The Climate Crisis: Why is nothing Happening?" A Social, Political and Moral Perspective on Obstacles to Action" Prof. Lynn McDonald A Director of the Climate Action Network of Canada. At Friends meeting house, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ For further details & to confirm attendance contact Natalie Hall Operation Noah administrator: 07766758499 admin@operationnoah.org

June 9th Tea Time for Change: a Westminster lobby of Parliament

This is the first major lobby on international development since the general election. CAFOD is joining with ActionAid, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Save the Children and Tearfund to organise the lobby which has an aid and economic justice theme. It's going to be an inspiring day of speeches, workshops, an ecumenical service and a chance to talk to MPs about global poverty. For details of how to take part contact: jbuchanan@cafod.org.uk

June 10th to 12th "Behold the Lamb" - Silent Weekend Retreat

The Nonviolent Jesus: His Way of Nonviolent Love of All by Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy a priest of the Eastern Rite (Byzantine-Melkite) of the Catholic Church. Formerly a lawyer and university educator, he is the founder and the original director of The Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution at the University of Notre Dame. He is also the co-founder, along with Dorothy Day and others, of Pax Christi-USA

June 15th - Housing Justice National Conference - Church Action on Housing and Homelessness - Tea & Sympathy or Radical Action.

10am to 3 pm at St Paul's Church, Robert Adam Street, London W1U 3HW

The times they are a changin': Are day centres, shelters and soup runs mere 'sticking plasters' and should churches now be building a new kind of society, one in which everyone has a home that truly meets their needs?

An Open Space Conference: Whatever your perspective on homelessness and housing, this is an opportunity to put your views on the table and debate where we go from here! e-mail info@housingjustice.org.uk

June 25th Bore Place, Kent - Environment Day for Parishes

organized in association with Canterbury and Rochester Dioceses. Details will be available shortly at www.shrinkingthefootprint.org.uk

June 25th / 26th - International Prayer Vigil to mark UN Day of support for Victims of Conscience.

Action by Christians Against Torture is taking part again this year The theme of the Vigil this year is "You are precious in my sight..... and I love you". Isaiah 43 v4. ACAT UK has produced material for the Vigil, which you may find useful. This is available free from the office, phone 01752 843417

July 15th to 17th - National Justice & Peace Conference "Justice at Work" at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Exploring the dignity and reality of contemporary work both globally and locally, the conference will seek to raise awareness of working conditions in the context of today's economy and modern society. It will do this from a Christian perspective. For booking forms please contact the office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10th September: We are holding Justice & Peace training day at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral with a choice of workshops on:

- Starting a J&P group
- Re-invigorating a J&P group
- Involving youth in our J&P work
- Starting and encouraging area & deanery groups

22nd October: Our Autumn Assembly

at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, SE1.

We are delighted to have Francis Davis as our keynote speaker. Francis is a fellow of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University & a director of the Las Casas Institute on Ethics, Human Rights And Social Justice.