

Diary Dates:

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| 9 May | Cambodian Open Day from 09:30 – 17:00 at St Mary's, 322 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4PD. Speakers with experience of twinning with parishes in Cambodia. |
| 16 May | National Justice & Peace Network AGM & Open Networking Day at CAFOD, Romero House, London SE1 7JB Speaker: Nick Dearden, Director of Global Justice Now on 'TTIP: A Charter for Big Business?' |
| 23 May | Beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero in the Plaza Divino Salvador del Mundo, San Salvador. www.romerotrust.org.uk/?nuc=news&func=view&item=81 Look out for a special service in St John's Cathedral and perhaps other venues in East Anglia. |
| 6 Jun | Pax Christi AGM at Holy Apostles Parish Hall, Cumberland Street, Pimlico. Speaker Ziad Hilal SJ of JRS Homs, Syria. http://paxchristi.org.uk/event/pax-christi-annual-general-meeting-london/?instance_id=380 |
| 17 Jun | Mass Lobby on Climate Change, Westminster: www.cafod.org.uk/Events/Climate-lobby A first chance to talk with our newly-elected MPs after May's general election and before a crucial UN climate conference to be held in Paris in December 2015. |
| 21 Jun | J&P Commission meets at Newmarket |
| 17-19 Jul | The Things that make for Peace: National Justice & Peace Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. (see page 3) |
| 24 Oct | Learning Together Day inspired by the forthcoming Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis on an environmental theme at St Mary's Church Hall, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich IP4 4BD. Details to follow. For a pre-encyclical guide, see www.cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/pope-francis-first-encyclical |

J&P Commission:

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Diocese of East Anglia



Justice & Peace Newsletter

May 2015

REFLECTIONS FROM ROMERO LECTURE 9TH APRIL 2015, BY BRIAN PIERCE OP "HE HEARD THEIR VOICE, OSCAR ROMERO MYSTIC AND PROPHET"

FR BRIAN PIERCE GAVE A VERY REFLECTIVE LECTURE, WHICH WAS IN PART A MEDITATION, THIS IS SOME OF WHAT HE SAID.

We were gathering on the 35th anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom and at about the same time as his death.

Archbishop Romero was a man of great prayer his prophecy was great because his prayer was great. He knew Jesus personally.

If we look at Mark 10 46-52 we find the story of the healing of the blind man Bartimaeus.

Remember that Jericho is hot, arid and windswept. It's not a place to find a cooling breeze. 'They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving'. Picture the scene! It's hot, dry, dusty and noisy. Crowds of people in a busy throng, it would be easy to ignore or not see a blind man sitting by the roadside.

The man was Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus and he heard it was Jesus of Nazareth. He began to shout out 'Jesus, son of David have mercy on me.' We then read that people told him to be quiet but that made his cry more insistent and loud.

Fr Brian emphasized what Jesus did. JESUS STOOD STILL AND SAID 'CALL HIM HERE.' Jesus firstly hears this man and he then asks Bartimaeus 'What do you want me to do for you?' Bartimaeus asks for the ability to see again. Jesus says 'Go your faith has made you well'. After Bartimaeus is healed he follows Jesus.

Archbishop Romero was born into a very poor family. However after 7 years working in a desk job, he was removed from his people. He later said that in this period he lost his way.

He was transferred to a parish in a coffee growing area, high up in the hills. Lots of people came into the area for the brief period of coffee harvest. At night it was very cold. In his 2nd year there he 'woke up' and opened his eyes to the suffering of the people around him. Perhaps like Jesus he stood still- he saw the coffee workers sleeping out in the open in the freezing cold. Asking a fellow priest what he could do he opened the school for them at night and provided them with a hot drink, as was suggested to him. At night he went each evening and heard their stories. He opened his eyes, heard the words of the poor and began to speak out.

AR (Archbishop Romero) was 'anointed' with his mission when faced with the sight of a young boy who had been murdered. His mutilated body lay in a ditch, his eyes open and looking upward as if to say 'Why me?'

Oscar Romero was installed as archbishop at a mass in the cathedral however a large number of priests stayed away because they disliked his conservative approach. After his installation he went to the seminary, knocked on the door and it was opened by Fr Rutilio Grande, one of his opponents. AR simply said "Help me"

20 days later Rutilio Grande was murdered whilst on his way to a mass, together with 2 others.

After the murder of Fr Rutilio, AR cancelled all masses in the archdiocese for the funeral of the three who were murdered. Thousands attended the funeral mass. AR takes a step into a world he didn't know, a baptism into his people.

(cont)

On that day one martyr Rutilio Grande gave his life for another. From that moment on he left behind the pagan lands of Tyre and Sidon and marched onwards to the glory of Jerusalem

AR heard the cry, he echoed the cry and responded to the cry. He wants to strip away a church of power and privilege. He wants a church on fire with love for people .

We must be disturbed by the modern city . We must ask 'Where is God?' Timothy Radcliffe OP.

Fr Brian was an engaging speaker and illustrated his points with lots of stories about AR. However sometimes he darted about with anecdotes, stories, then facts so at times it was hard to keep up- so I trust I've not misrepresented what he said.

Sarah Ebelewicz

NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

Ipswich Deanery:

An exciting development over the last year has been the introduction of an e-mail service which alerts users to pertinent news items relating to justice and peace and Catholic social teaching. To increase awareness of the J&P group and to encourage people to sign up to the bulletin we have presented brief talks at masses in most churches in the deanery. As a result we now have over one hundred people signed up to the service, and attendance at our meetings has increased.

We are hoping to invite occasional speakers to our meetings and began this process recently with a very well received talk by Father Adrian Gates on "J&P its origins and historic and current role".

Our Deanery will be hosting the Diocesan Learning Together Day on Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment to be held at St Mary's Church on Saturday 24th October. It is intended to get a high profile speaker to expand on key themes. Plenty of time will be left during the day for active participation and discussion in workshop groups bringing together people from across the Diocese and trying to relate the encyclical to local circumstances.

Stowmarket:

The CAFOD + Group is active and well supported by many Parishioners. We fund-raise for CAFOD and encourage "Living Simply". Now we plan a pause in all Masses for Parishioners to complete questionnaires on their efforts.

We run regular well supported Fairtrade stalls and have asked Parishioners to de-clutter their sheds and offices and donate redundant tools, laptops etc for Africa - through "Tools for Mission"; Our Parish responses to disasters is usually very effective, our most recent being for Malawi.

Our present campaigning efforts focus on the UK Overseas Development Fund-- we disagree with a recent grant "£100 million to a Nigerian private energy company"; and further funds to Kenya for building shopping centres. Such projects in the past have led to land grabs, higher prices and worker redundancies plus increased cost of goods.

In support of all we have recently organised extra Parish prayer sessions for peace and

our next dream is to involve young people in our efforts where possible.

Cambridge:

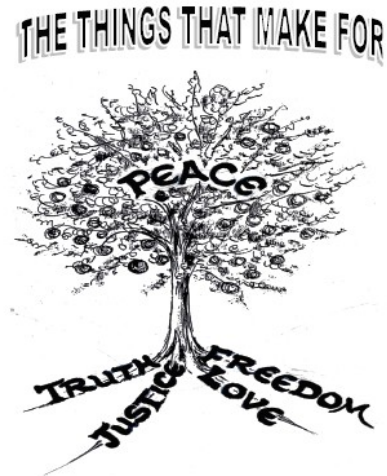
Peace Sunday was marked in the three Cambridge parishes. Pax Christi information leaflets were distributed to St Philip Howard parishioners as they arrived for Sunday Masses, Masses at St Laurence's drew extensively on the Peace Sunday resource booklet and a display on the theme of "Slaves No More, but Brothers & Sisters" was visible to OLEM parishioners as they entered church, with the St Francis Prayer card for children distributed.

Some J&P people were instrumental in setting up, and continue to volunteer with, the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project and food collections for Cambridge City Foodbank. The homeless project involves city centre churches providing overnight accommodation for homeless people referred by Jimmy's Cambridge. OLEM hosted an average of 8 people (max 13) on Friday evenings from 2 Jan to 27 Mar, with up to 7 guests staying for dinner only. 4,040 people were helped by the Foodbank in the year 2014-5.

The group led Stations of the Cross, produced by CAFOD East Anglia and focussing on the four Connect2 countries, at OLEM on one Friday in Lent.

There is scope to include news from other groups in the next issue.

2015 National Justice & Peace Conference:



will be held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 July.

Speakers include Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, and Fr Edu Gariguez, Executive Secretary of National Secretariat for Social Action in the Philippines.

Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi will chair the conference, with theological reflections from Rev Dr Martin Poulson SDB, lecturer in theology at Heythrop College.

The Conference provides an opportunity to explore the theme in related workshops, to meet other people involved in action for peace and justice, including representatives of a host of agencies who will have resources to browse and purchase. There will be age-appropriate programmes for children, who are likely to return home enthused. After the 2014 conference, one 13 year old wrote "I find it fun to be around people my age as it makes me feel welcome and well connected! I learn about justice and the Bible in a fun way.....All in all, every year I have had a great time and would HIGHLY recommend the conference to anyone". This sentiment is echoed by younger children from East Anglia.

See www.catholiceastanglia.org/justice/ for booking form. Late fee applies after 15 May.