

## Diary Dates:

<b>7 Oct</b>	<b>CAFOD Harvest Fast Day</b> <a href="http://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/Fast-Day">http://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/Fast-Day</a>
<b>8-16 Oct</b>	<b>Speak Up week of action on climate change</b> , An invitation to speak up to your MP in your constituency to ensure our government upholds its promises to the poorest people made last year in Paris. <a href="http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Speak-Up-to-MPs-for-climate">http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Speak-Up-to-MPs-for-climate</a>
<b>9-15 Oct</b>	<b>Prisons week:</b> A week of prayer for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime. <a href="http://prisonsweek.org/">http://prisonsweek.org/</a>
<b>16 Oct</b>	<b>World Food Day:</b> Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too is the theme, see <a href="http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/theme/en/">http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/2016/theme/en/</a> , also <a href="http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/">http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/</a> for End Hunger UK campaign
<b>1 Nov</b>	<b>Romero Lecture 2016, Rutilio, Romero and Pope Francis</b> to be given by Fr Rodolfo Cardenal SJ. Amigo Hall, SE1 7HY at 16.00 <a href="http://www.romerotrue.org.uk/news/rutilio-romero-and-pope-francis">http://www.romerotrue.org.uk/news/rutilio-romero-and-pope-francis</a>
<b>12 Nov</b>	<b>Day of Reflection on Refugees &amp; Migration</b> , 10:30 to 15:30 at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, 12 Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9DU. (see also page 1)
<b>13 Nov</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
<b>15 Jan</b>	<b>Peace Sunday</b> on the theme of <b>Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace</b> . The text of the Holy Father's message will be available in mid December, <a href="http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace.index.html">http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace.index.html</a> Resources will be available from Pax Christi in due course, <a href="http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/">http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/</a>

Speaker sessions from the 2016 **National Justice & Peace Conference** entitled "Justice, Power and Responsibility: How can democracy work for the common good?" can be viewed on YouTube, see <http://tinyurl.com/zr7vr5o>  
See also <http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

## J&P Commission:

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# Diocese of East Anglia



Autumn 2016

## Justice & Peace Newsletter

### Refugees & Migration

Speaking of the 65 million displaced people, **Pope Francis** says "This unprecedented number is beyond all imagination. The displaced population of today's world is now larger than the entire population of Italy! If we move beyond mere statistics, however, we will discover that refugees are women and men, boys and girls who are no different than our own family members and friends. Each of them has a name, a face, and a story, as well as an inalienable right to live in peace and to aspire to a better future for their sons and daughters.....At this place and time in history, there is great need for men and women who hear the cry of the poor and respond with mercy & generosity". <http://tinyurl.com/h3sgm7e>

Data from the UNHCR for 2015 indicate that an unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.

Nearly 34,000 people are forcibly displaced every day as a result of conflict or persecution. 54% of refugees worldwide came from just three countries, Syria (4.9m), Afghanistan (2.7m) and Somalia (1.1m)

Turkey (2.5m), Pakistan (1.6m) and Lebanon (1.1m) are the major host countries.

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/figures-at-a-glance.html>

### **A Day of Reflection on Refugees & Migration at Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge on 12 November** will provide an

opportunity to reflect on what can be done practically to help refugees, irrespective of the country from which they have been displaced.

Speakers include Sarah Teather, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service, and Sr Mary Clare Mason, who has been instrumental in making refugees welcome in Peterborough. (see diary)

### Supporting Refugees Coming to the UK

In July 2016, the British Government announced two ways in which private individuals and groups could support refugees (from Syria or from elsewhere) in the UK. This note provides a brief summary of the schemes

#### A. Community Sponsorship

In July 2016, the Home Office has announced a scheme for charities to sponsor refugees to come to their area (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship>). The basic elements of the scheme are:

- The sponsor provides accommodation for 2 years. This must be of a sufficient size for the individual or family & have specified facilities (such as heating) and it must have its own separate front door. In practice the sponsor will have to subsidise any rent. For example, In Cambridge, government funding for renting a two-bedroom self-contained property is £609.87 per month; the funding for a three-bedroom self-contained property is £729.95 per month. These are well below market rates.
- The sponsor provides identified people to welcome the refugees and settle them in. This would involve a welcome pack and £200 per person (adult or child) for initial expenses on groceries, toiletries, etc.
- The sponsor provides support over the first year after arrival to enable the whole family to settle in a locality. A major need is to arrange English language tuition for adults as soon as possible. It is expected that the sponsor will provide formal English language tuition by a suitably qualified ESOL teacher, for a minimum of 10 hours per week for the first twelve weeks, followed by a minimum of 5 hours per week for the remaining nine months. Such formal English language tuition should be supplemented on a regular basis by less formal conversational English, which could be provided by a range of volunteers. There should be an expectation of significant progress over the year and the achievement of an English language qualification.
- Other support might include supporting attendance at the local Job Centre for benefits assessments, accompanying people to the local GP, or to meet with teachers about their children's schooling.

## B. General Support

More generally, individuals in Cambridge, Peterborough and a number of other areas can offer support in money or kind by going to <https://www.gov.uk/help-refugees>. Here they see what their local authority wants by way of help for refugees. Individuals can pledge whatever help they can manage.

## Experiences of Calais:

*Sue Parsons writes:* In January of this year, I felt I wanted to “do something”. I wasn't sure what it was, but a chance remark by a former parish priest and an extremely appropriate gospel reading the following Sunday spurred me on. And so in April I found myself spending two weeks as a volunteer for an organisation called Care4Calais, working in their warehouse in the mornings and going with them into the refugee camp – the Jungle – in the afternoons, distributing the donations we had sorted in the morning, giving the occasional informal English lesson and repairing shelters.

A few weeks earlier, the French authorities had demolished half of the camp – and recently the mayor of Calais has threatened to do the same to the remainder. As a result, the people living in the camp lost most of their remaining meagre possessions – and there are recent reports of the French Riot Police taking refugees water from them – and drinking it themselves in front of the refugees. Another byproduct of the demolition is that people think the camp is no longer there. As a result donations to Care4Calais and the other voluntary organisations working there have significantly diminished.

In fact, a recent census shows that there are 6,000 people living in the camp – with 47 arriving every day, which means that by September, it is likely that there will be 10,000. To

put that in context, Newmarket has a population of about 15,000! Included in those numbers are 761 children – the youngest 4 months old – and 80% of them – 608 – are unaccompanied minors. Most of the inhabitants, though are men, young single men escaping the Taliban or Isis, men who have left war-torn countries and difficult regimes to try and make their way to the UK to build a better life for their families. They are skilled – doctors, dentists, teachers, lawyers.

Many of them have been there for months after hazardous journeys across Europe. One young man I met had had to leave his wife and two small boys in Afghanistan to try and reach safety and prepare a better life for them. He'd worked as a civil engineer for an American company and as a result the Taliban threatened his life. He'd made his way across the Middle East and Europe and had been in the camp for seven months. Just prior to my meeting him, he'd decided to seek asylum in France, as he was having no success trying to get to the UK. He asked if any of us volunteers could help him learn French – we had great fun putting him through his paces – thank goodness for my A' Level French! – and he was a quick learner. Sadly, I don't know how successful he's been since I left.

It was an amazing experience! I was challenged – physically, as it was hard work and mentally. Some of my assumptions were put to the test, I've always been a “softie liberal” and so was surprised that among these people I was trying to help, who I felt sympathy for, were some rather unpleasant characters. But they were a tiny minority. Overall I felt a great sense of injustice, sometimes helplessness, but also a huge awe for the resilience and hopefulness of the human spirit.

## A Prayer for the people of Syria:

*Almighty eternal God, source of all compassion,  
the promise of your mercy fills our hearts with hope.*

*Hear the cries of the people of Syria;  
bring healing to those suffering from the violence,  
and comfort to those mourning the dead.*

*Empower and encourage all countries to offer care and welcome to refugees.  
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,  
and give persistence to those who seek for peace.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace. Amen.*

<http://www.usccb.org/>

The parish of **Our Lady's, Stowmarket** recently became the second parish in East Anglia to receive the **live simply award**, having demonstrated living: simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably with creation.

Find out more about the award at <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-campaign/Livesimply-award>