



JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

January
2012

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the Justice and Peace Newsletter for our Parish.

Our group exists to keep the parish aware of problems of injustice and violence, at home and overseas; to assist in the work of reflection on these problems in the light of the Church's social teaching; and to foster and encourage action for justice and peace at every level of parish life.

To achieve these aims we meet, to pray, to educate ourselves and to raise awareness in the parish so that we may all act on Catholic Social Teaching, particularly in the area of justice and peace.

All are welcome to join us. We meet monthly (second Weds of the month), for details see the Parish Newsletter the week before the meeting.



THE MANNA SOCIETY

The Manna Society was chosen by the Parish as the 'home' fundraising project for 2 years.

The Manna Society is an ecumenical Christian charity which runs a day centre in Southwark offering breakfast and lunch, a range of medical services, welfare & housing advice, clothing etc to as many as 150 homeless people a day.

On Sunday 3rd July 2011 'Music for Manna', a fundraising

concert, took place at Holy Family Church.

This musical feast featured younger musicians playing a wide range of compositions on instruments including trumpet, saxophone, flute, violins and cellos; strings gave solo performances, duets and trios. The entertainment also included St Joseph's School Dancers and the band, Motion. There were contributions too from older members of the parish, ranging from magician Mr Houdini, through part of Handel's Messiah to four theoretical 'old salts' singing sea shanties.

On show, and sale for the charity, were pictures by local artist and architect Peter Dowling.



A fundraising raffle was also held for this charity and collections of food were organised.

In total £2,024.44 was raised for the Manna Society during 2011.



connect2: Bangladesh

After 12 months of admirable and much appreciated support of the whole parish in aid of the Manna Society in London we turn our thoughts to Bangladesh. The Parish of the Nativity of the Lord has become a part of **Connect2: Bangladesh** – a new CAFOD scheme that will enable us to share the lives of ordinary people in Bangladesh and raise money to help them build a better future. Through regular updates, we will share their hopes and dreams and stand in

solidarity with them as they overcome difficulties.

CAFOD first started working in Bangladesh in 1986 helping families to start kitchen gardens to improve their nutrition and earn an income. It has also helped women to start their own businesses and provided vital emergency relief to communities devastated by repeated cyclones and floods. It has been working to help people find ways to be more resilient when disaster strikes, and, with

several local organisations, helping people to find alternative ways to earn an income and raising awareness about the changing climate and how to prepare for future disasters.

CAFOD focuses on two key areas of support:

- 1. Earning an income** – helping people to adapt to their changing climate by enabling them to set up businesses that will thrive in the local conditions, make a good profit and be more able to cope when disaster strikes
- 2. Responding to emergencies** – providing vital

relief when disaster strikes, raising awareness and putting systems in place that help people be more prepared for natural disasters.

We will find out more about the people of Kainmari – a village almost completely surrounded by water in southern Bangladesh – who are building a better future for themselves with CAFOD's help.

To find out more see the J and P notice board or visit cafod.org.uk/connect2bangladesh



SVP News

The SVP (St. Vincent de Paul) was founded over 170 years ago by some Parisian students. The society is now one of the largest lay organisations within the Church, with over 900,000 members, and we are fortunate to have within our parish two SVP conferences, one being St Teresa's and the other, St Joseph's.

Over the past 6 months as always, our main activity has been carrying out visiting people in their own homes, in hospital, residential and nursing homes. Person to person contact is the essence of our work, a rewarding experience for the Vincentian and we trust hopefully for the recipient.

Our conferences have been in regular contact by letter with our twinned conferences in Kerala in southern India. This is a twinning scheme, whereby conferences in a richer country are linked to conferences in the third world. We give them our support through prayer and sending them money four times a year. We also assist them by sponsoring students. Currently we are sponsoring five students, two are training for nursing; one is in Teacher training college, one on a Higher Diploma in Computer

Applications and the third on a pre-university course.

An on-going project has been the "Orange Bucket" collection for the "Baby Feeding Stations" in Sudan. Over the past 6 months this has resulted in collecting £785.28 which has been sufficient to feed 20 babies for a year. You are probably aware that Sudan now comprises of two separate countries North and South Sudan. There is still a lot of unrest between them. Our Vincentian brothers in Sudan are assisting the many displaced people with various projects - the Baby Feeding Station project is just one.

You may have read in the Surrey Mirror about the "Winter Night Shelter" that is happening in Reigate and Banstead, and is being carried out by local churches within the borough. This initially will be over a 6 week period, where up to 15 people who are sleeping rough are being fed and given a night's shelter in a warm church hall. Members of the SVP have volunteered and are assisting other Christians in this important work, befriending, cooking, clearing up etc. etc.

In these troubled times, and without exception there are families that are suffering financial deprivation in our parish, and with your assistance (SVP annual collection) the SVP has been able to give Sainsbury and Morrison food vouchers over the Christmas period. Earlier, during the summer of 2011 when national media reports were revealing the plight of families in serious difficulty because of the financial crisis, we undertook an assessment of local hardship.

The Redhill Salvation Army corps told us of a worrying increase in families unable to provide basic food on their tables, adding that the Salvation Army shelves were bare. By the end of October, in

collaboration with the Parish Justice and Peace group, the project known as the Parish Food Collection was launched in all three of our churches.

Our parishioners' response was immediate and generous: by Christmas more than 25 yellow baskets full of preserved foods and toiletries had been delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution in our community. We have taken donations of bed linen, men's clothing and games to Crawley Open House, a hostel with direct access and a day centre for adults in need.



FAIRTRADE NEWS



There is good news for FAIRTRADE progress in the diocese. A number of churches in our diocese have recently been awarded Fairtrade status including St. Joseph's, Holy Family and St Teresa's. In fact we are the first deanery with all its churches certified Fairtrade; a truly magnificent achievement! The diocese now has the required 50% of churches with certified Fairtrade status and maintains the title of being a Fairtrade Diocese.

Being a Fairtrade Parish means that all groups should be using Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar etc for all meetings and events. Monthly sales of Fairtrade Goods are held after all masses at St Joseph's and Holy Family. Dates for the next sales will be:
28 & 29 January 2012
25 & 26 February 2012
24 & 25 March 2012

We would also like to hold a monthly sale at St Teresa's. If you would be willing to join a rota or are interested in helping to run a sale at St Teresa's please contact Anna Hobden via the Parish Office.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2012



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2012

will take place from 27 February - 11 March.

In 2012 we'll be asking everyone to 'Take a step' for Fairtrade starting with Fairtrade Fortnight.

It can be a simple step, like swapping your tea to Fairtrade, or a bigger step like asking everyone in your office to do it too.

You'll be joining thousands of others all over the UK when you take a step for Fairtrade.

Whether you are a regular customer at our monthly stall or not, if you would like to see the handmade toys, jewellery and other crafts, or stock up on products between our monthly sales, why not visit Robert Denholm House in Nutfield (on the A25); personal shoppers are welcome on Tuesdays 1.30pm-5pm.