

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



JPIC Update May 2015

Annual Mass for Migrants.

On Monday 4th May 2015 over 1,500 people came to St George's Cathedral for the annual Mass in honour of St Joseph the Worker. This is a morning of reflection and celebration in support of all Migrant Workers. It is organised by the J&P workers in the three London dioceses in conjunction with all the Ethnic Chaplains.

This year's mass was sponsored by The Tablet as part of their 175th anniversary celebrations. Their sponsorship was used to train a choir for the occasion and to provide a finger buffet lunch after the Mass with food organised by the Ethnic Chaplains.

The principal celebrant was Archbishop Peter Smith with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Bishop Alan Williams of Brentwood with many bishops and priests concelebrating.

Welcoming the congregation, Archbishop Peter Smith described the Mass as "a joint venture of prayerful support for migrants in our city." In his homily, Archbishop Peter reflected on the day's Gospel in which Jesus is rejected by the people of his hometown of Nazareth. He described how the Holy Family were refugees - forced to flee Bethlehem when Herod began killing new born baby boys.

Archbishop Peter pointed out that Jesus' public ministry it has its core focus compassion, loving kindness and mercy - care towards the oppressed, the exploited, the poor. He said Pope Francis has repeatedly called for countries to adopt a more "generous openness" to migrants, saying: "I am a pastor of a Church with no borders."

Archbishop Peter quoted Pope Francis who had rebuked those with "blood on their hands" who tolerate, even passively, human trafficking. Archbishop Peter had particular criticism of the UK's detention centres for migrants, saying these were "stripping them of their human dignity" and he expressed alarm at the crisis of boat refugees in the Mediterranean.

Archbishop Peter went on to call for prayers for politicians. "We must pray for them" he said. "They have a very difficult job."

There is a full report and a link to Archbishop Peter's excellent homily at www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

Bishop Patrick Lynch Urges EU to act on the boat refugee crisis.

In the wake of the latest tragedies in which hundreds of refugees fleeing war and persecution have drowned in the Mediterranean, Bishop Patrick Lynch, Bishop for Migration in the Department for International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has urged EU countries to do more to assist in the rescue operations and seek long term solutions to the crisis.

In recent months, Malta, the smallest country in the EU, and Italy, have been on their own, dealing with an influx of thousands of refugees coming from North Africa since the EU stopped funding rescue operations last summer.

Bishop Lynch said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of the men, women and children dying almost daily in the Mediterranean Sea as they desperately search for a safer life in Europe. We call on all EU member states to involve themselves in the relief efforts and to work collaboratively to find a swift, just, effective and compassionate solution to these humanitarian disasters."

Pope Francis' prayer intentions for May

The Holy Father's universal prayer intention for May is: "That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor".



May 12th Embrace the Middle East Annual Lecture

To be given by Rt. Rev and Rt. Hon Dr Rowan Williams 6.30 to 8.00 at St James's Church, Piccadilly. The talk is entitled 'Warrior archaeologists: making and remaking history in the Middle East (how archaeology can be used to make political points in an overheated political atmosphere). Tickets are free but must be booked in advance: www.embraceme.org/events

May 14th 6-9pm Look How Far We've Come: Getting Racism Back On The Agenda?

6-9pm at The Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3BU. A special three-in-one event consisting of: a) 'Is Jesus White?' presentation b) 'Look How Far We've Come Community Talk' screening c) The release of the DVD highlighting history & racism 'Look How Far We've Come: Commentaries On British Society And Racism?' . For more information or to book: <http://bit.ly/1xWMG1d>

May 15th - Conscientious Objectors Day

Memorial event in Tavistock Square 12.00 to 1.00. Speakers will be Mia Tamarin, a recent Israeli CO, and Sheila Triggs from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

May 16th NJPN AGM & Open Networking Day

10.30am - 4pm at CAFOD 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB.
Speaker Nick Dearden from Global Justice Now on TTIP: A Charter for Big Business?

May 21st - Bridging Extreme Differences - Building dialogue with extremists

15:00-21:00 at Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 12 Bloomsbury Square London WC1A 2LP (In Memory of Lee Rigby) Organised by Belief In Mediation and Arbitration www.bimagroup.org

May 23rd - "Surviving the 21st Century: Global Challenges, Threats and Prospects for Peace.

Distinguished speakers will explore three urgent and important issues facing humanity: War and Peace Building, Islamophobia Interfaith Dialogue, Climate Change Crisis and Solutions. 10:30 – 4.30 at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.

Free public meeting - Donations welcome. For registrations and any other info please contact: Vijay Mehta vijay@vmpeace.org Phone : 0207 791 1717

May 23rd (Pentecost Sunday) - Beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero

The beatification of Archbishop Romero will take place in San Salvador at a ceremony in the 'Salvador del Mundo' Plaza presided over by Cardinal Angelo Amato, who heads the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of the Saints. It is scheduled to take place between 09.00 and 12.00 hours local time which is 16.00 to 19.00 British Summer Time. It should be possible to watch the service on-line at tvcaelsalvador.org. Bishop John Rawsthorne will represent the Bishops' Conference in San Salvador.

That evening at 4pm there will be a Mass followed by a special evening vigil in St John's Cathedral, Norwich This is being organised by East Anglia Justice and Peace.

May 27th - Answering questions that must be asked

Organised by the South London branch of the Council for Christians and Jews, Hear Student Rabbi Daniel Lichman and Student Methodist Minister Kan Yu answer questions on their inter-faith experiences. 7.30 at Streatham Baptist Chapel, 20-22 Lewin Rd SW16 6JR

June 1st - Pray and Fast for Climate Change. 7-9pm at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square.

June 8th to 13th - Grief to Grace, Healing the Wounds of Abuse

A 5-day psychological and spiritual programme for anyone who has suffered degradation or violence through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. www.griefftograce.org

July 4th - Evangelisation Seminar 2 - "Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord" Spreading the Good News through Justice & Peace.

10.00 to 1.00 at St Francis de Sales Church Hall, 26 Larkhill Lane, SW4 6SP (close to Stockwell tube station, free parking). Open to all. No charge but please book through Centre for Catholic Formation (020 8672 7684 or office@ccftootingbec.org.uk)