

Dear Justice and Peace Supporter

Travels of a Social Justice Co-ordinator

This latest update on my travels is especially poignant, I've sat down to write it a few minutes after driving back from Calais. The visit by Bishop Nolan and I, joined for the second day by colleagues from the English and Welsh Catholic Church has taken place with a hope to draw attention to the situation taking place just a few miles of the coast of the UK. Over recent months when I have mentioned Calais to people a common response has been "wasn't that sorted last year?" This answer I never felt was due to a lack of care, or that those replying are disinterested or dispassionate towards social issues (indeed I know they are not) but the media and government drawing attention away from the situation. On the ground in Calais, the area where just over a year ago several thousand people were living has been purposely 're-seeded' and turned into an "ecological area"; quite deliberately the authorities wish to remove any evidence of what happened. However, the result is that several "small jungles" now exist, several hundred people sleep rough in the area, with an Orwellian police operation, making use of drones and thermal cameras to find any tents, or sleeping sites, removing tents and sleeping bags within day of them being obtained. Those working on the ground tell us that the CRS; French riot police now permanently in Calais ratio 2 to 1, or 3 to 1, to the number of migrants. The situation is tough, everyday young people are risking their lives jumping on lorries in the hope they will be able to cross, or loosing hope and travelling to Paris, where the risk of exploitation and human trafficking is far higher. But the hope bought by staff and volunteers doing all they can to help, be it providing meals, clothing, first-aid, and accompanying them with friendship and support. Meeting them as people, not "problems", and identifying those most at risk in need of help.

**NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2017**

Our call to both the UK and Scottish Parliaments to establish safe, legal channels, and instead of building fences to establish the facilities and shelter needed in Calais to respect the dignity of those living there is one which we hope will go forward as the new year (both liturgical, and soon calendar) begins. It was perhaps quite timely that the visit took place when it did. Not just as we start advent, when across the county we will be putting up nativity cribs; our icons of a migrant family, a child born away from home, and fleeing to Egypt to escape the persecution of the authorities, but in the week following our celebration of Christ the King:

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (Matt 25: 34-36)

Danny (Social Justice Co-ordinator)

SCOTTISH FAITHS
ACTION FOR REFUGEES

Become a volunteer with the Edinburgh Weekend Club – 3 new volunteers needed.

The Edinburgh Weekend Club seeks to respond to the social isolation experienced by many refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants arriving in Scotland. The club's purpose is to foster the integration of refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants in Edinburgh by creating an atmosphere of welcome. By providing a relaxed and fun environment the Edinburgh Weekend Club enables its participants to meet new people, build friendships, improve their English and learn more about Scottish culture and history. <http://www.sfar.org.uk/we-are-recruiting-again/>

Following our recent visit to Calais. We are more aware than ever of the need for volunteers to help. The Maria Skobtsova Catholic House and partner Caritas France have need of volunteers. Maria Skobtsova House is an ecumenical house which prayerfully accompanies the young and vulnerable, and Caritas France work to distribute warm food, clothes and sleeping bags to destitute refugees. Can you help?? Find out more details [here](#).



Part of our reason for going to Calais was a hope to re-start the political and public conversation about the situation there. Whilst we were in Calais Linda Fabiani MSP raised a motion in Parliament acknowledging the visit – which can be read [here](#). We have also had an Early Day Motion tabled in Westminster, thanks to Patrick Grady MP and Stuart McDonald MP. This motion recognises the visit, and the joint statement issued by Bishop Nolan and Bishop McAleenan of Westminster. The joint statement can be read [here](#). Please contact your MP and ask them to consider supporting **Early Day Motion 651**. Details of the motion, and those MPs who have already signed can be found [here](#). As we prepare and send out the newsletter the whole of the UK is experiencing freezing cold or snow; if you thought your commute to work was bad imagine sleeping out in this!

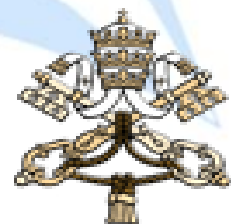
If you are uncertain how to contact your MP <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/> is a great website for identifying and contacting your representatives.

Pax Christi Scotland?



One of the conversations which took place following our conference 'Reclaiming Gospel Nonviolence' last summer was about exploring the establishment of a Catholic Nonviolence organisation here in Scotland, part of the global Pax Christi movement. An opportunity to meet and explore these possibilities, is open to everyone, including any Pax Christi members living in Scotland, or anyone interested in learning more will take place on **17th February** at the **Ignatian Spirituality Centre**, Glasgow. For more information, or if you are interested and unable to attend on this occasion, please contact the Justice & Peace Scotland office.

Pope Francis has released the text of his message ahead of World Day of Peace (1st January). His letter is titled **Migrants and refugees: men and women in search of peace**, and was released through the Migrants and Refugees Section of our Dicastery for Integral Human Development



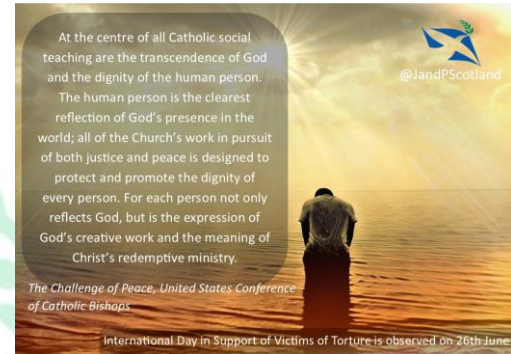
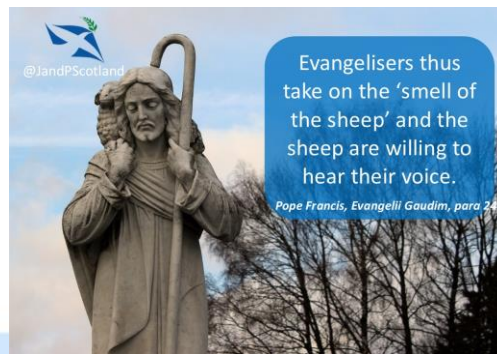
To read Pope Francis' letter [click here](#)!



A massive thank you to everyone who signed the **Give Me Five** petition and emailed their MSP's. Fingers crossed that we have done enough! We will be watching very closely to see what proposals are put into the draft Scottish budget on Wednesday 14th December to tackle child poverty. Updates to follow. Read Bishop Nolan's recent article in the Scotsman [here](#).

#WeeklyCST

Followers on Facebook and Twitter will know that every Sunday we release #weeklyCST – a weekly quote from Catholic Social Teaching, themed to match either the Mass scripture, or a significant social justice event in the coming week. These are intended for use in parish newsletters / bulletins, and are also great for schools (thought for the day), prayer/ study groups, or for private reflection and prayer. For the CST quotes for 2018 please contact the office, or keep an eye on our social media.



Music for Worship



A selection of music for praise, thanksgiving, and comfort inspired by faith. (Perhaps with a slight advent/ Christmas theme this edition!!)

Shawn MacDonald – O Little Town of Bethlehem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtolyqV34Ps>

Shawn is a Christian singer, songwriter and guitarist. This video was filmed at the Church of the Nativity, and supports Ethnographic Media's film '[Little Town of Bethlehem](#)' which explores the lives of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim peace activists in the Holy Land.

Pentatonix – Mary did you know? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>

Pentatonix's acapella arrangement of 'Mary did you know?' was released in 2014, as part of their album 'That's Christmas to Me'; the highest selling Christmas album since 1962.

BYU Vocal Point – O Come, O Come Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdR79P-2ewo>

Vocal Point are singing group at Bingham Young University. O Come Emmanuel is part of the traditional O Antiphons.

Food for thought

Each edition we will try to bring something thought provoking, and perhaps challenging for you to reflect on. This edition we have three selections. First from DW Documentary; Ai WeiWei Art, Awareness and the Refugee Crisis.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MkcTI00_uw

Exiled in Europe, Chinese artist Ai WeiWei has made the refugee crisis central to his work. DW Documentary accompanied him behind the scenes of his latest film 'Human Flow'. The trailer for 'Human Flow' can be viewed [here](#), and details of screenings in the UK found [here](#).



Our second piece is from Channel 4's Dispatches looking at 'Breadline Kids'..

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJDhnuNgEg>

As politicians continue to debate the causes and the use of foodbanks in the UK Dispatches speaks to young people living in situations of food poverty.

The third video comes from Unreported World exploring Burma's Broken Dream

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/65524-005>

Krishnan Guru-Murthy investigates whether the fledgling democracy in Myanmar (formerly Burma) is already under attack as Aung San Suu Kyi is accused of not bringing real freedom to many in the country.

Don't hesitate to be in touch with the Justice and Peace National office on 0141 333 0238 and please consider printing out a copy of our newsletter and leaving it at the back of your church, or sharing it with a friend in print, or by email.

www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

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