

NOTES FROM THE JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP MEETING 3RD AUGUST 2020

Our Meeting

For the first time since the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease, we met at Our Lady and St Etheldreda (OLISE) Newmarket We discussed and agreed the following: -

1. CAFOD CAMPAIGNS UPDATE

- CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family. Or use CAFOD's 'Summer of Hope' fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: cafod.org.uk/summerofhope.

• UNITE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

In many developing countries where poverty is widespread and healthcare systems are much more fragile, the effects are likely to be disastrous. We must never forget that we are one global family, united in this struggle.

Out of love for our sisters and brothers overseas, sign CAFOD'S petition asking the Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home.



Please sign the petition by visiting cafod.org.uk/coronavirus

• CANCEL THE DEBT

The World Bank & IMF will gather in October for their annual meetings. The UK is a powerful shareholder in both and has an important role to play in ensuring these global institutions act fast to avoid the pandemic causing lasting damage to the world's poorest people.

- As well as signing the petition, CAFOD are calling on us to take action to support the campaign to **CANCEL THE DEBT!** And here's how: -
 - Between now and October take a photo of yourself creatively displaying the words **Cancel The Debt**.
 - Share your photo on social media or email it to CAFOD.

For full information & ideas go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns/Time-to-cancel-the-debt>

2. DEMAND FOR FOODBANKS

On July 21st, ITV News reported "unprecedented demand for food banks which had experienced their "busiest month ever" during the coronavirus crisis as families faced a loss of income due to job losses or furlough schemes, the Trussell Trust has said. The food bank network saw an 89% increase in demand for emergency food parcels in April compared to the same period in 2019. The figures included a 107% increase in food parcels sent to children with the number of families seeking help almost doubling since last year. The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) reported similar increases reporting 175% more emergency food parcels given out in the UK during April 2020 compared to last year." ITV News 21 July 2020

At the same time, contributions to Food Banks have declined, partly because of lockdown and partly because collection points cannot operate at present.

Please remember our own Food Banks in Mildenhall, Lakenheath and Brandon.

3. LIVING SIMPLY

Last year we met interested people in a workshop about Living Simply, one of the Pope's projects for the church, especially for those, like us, who live in affluent countries. That meeting produced a useful and ambitious list of ideas to use in making this a Live Simply Parish. This was approved in OLISE's February Parish Meeting. Some people put their hands up to join a group which could lead the parish on this. **We now invite anyone and everyone who would like to join to contact Jennifer Schooling (jenschooling@gmail.com).**

4. CREATION MONTH AND A NOVENA

September 1st is World Prayer for Creation Day. To celebrate, CAFOD has produced a Novena to St Francis. **Deacon John** is talking with AFF colleagues about praying the novena at Thursday evening meetings.

5. HIROSHIMA NAGASAKI

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the destruction of Hiroshima (August 6th) and Nagasaki (August 9th). Your prayers for world peace and world-wide nuclear disarmament are asked for,

6. PRAYERS FOR JRS

The Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), like many charities, are under severe pressure to serve their usual clients, the homeless. Their shelter in London is closed, and reaching people in need is becoming more and more difficult. Your prayers are requested for the homeless and for the JRS.

7. J&P MEMBERSHIP

We always welcome those who want to join us and are willing to give up an evening every month or so to help us plan. Fr Christopher and Rev. John will be talking to parishioners to explain why this is important to our Parish.

As you can see, the J&P Group may have been locked down, but not knocked out! We meet again **at 7.00 PM on Monday October 12th** at OLISE's Parish Centre. Come along! We'll be delighted to see you.

SAID IN 1998: RELEVANT STILL

"All conflict is about difference, whether the difference is race, religion or nationality. Difference is an accident of birth and it should therefore never be the source of hatred or conflict. The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies the most fundamental principle of peace – respect for diversity."

An extract from John Hume's acceptance speech on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998

The J&P Group