

Issue 8 September 2008

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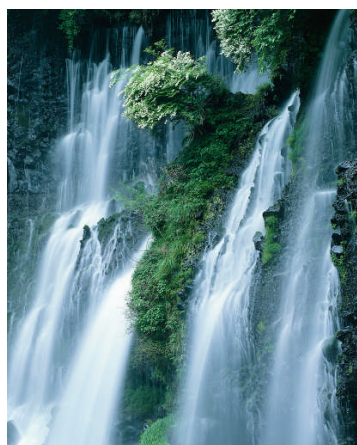


**Rt Rev Graham Rose
Bishop of Dundee**

**'et in ipso omnia constant'
and in him all things hold together**

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Water of Life

One of the things that identify the British is a constant seemingly incessant preoccupation with the weather. I remember speaking with someone recently from Saharan Africa who, on hearing that the rain had “spoilt” another summer simply smiled and said “don’t you realise – this is liquid gold”. In essence it is all relative but is it really possible to have too much of a good thing?

Water is one of the key symbols familiar in our faith lives. It cleanses, sustains life, provides rest and relaxation and is a catalyst in so many aspects of our life. Without food we can survive for quite a while – without water we would be in serious trouble in hours. However, it can also be a danger and for those who, for example, work and travel on the seas, an ever present reminder of our own vulnerability.

As with all resources, water must be given the respect it deserves. In this country we are fortunate to have an almost endless supply of wholesome, clean drinking water, the quality of which matches any of the products we buy in bottles. However, if we lose that respect the

resource can be wasted and lost forever. In a similar way this applies to almost everything we use. The result is the 'throw away society' that has become a symbol of our times. I often wonder what archaeologists will make of this era in years to come as they see a seam of plastic containers in every dig.

By now, I hope that you will all be familiar with the *LiveSimply* campaign. Conscious of our commitment to make a difference and to reduce both the cost and impact of our resource use we have been producing *Just Time* in an electronic format which you can find as a download on our website. *LiveSimply* is about making small but significant changes to the way we live and work and ensure that the earth's precious resources are used properly and not wasted. If you have not made a commitment to *LiveSimply* then why not request to receive your copy of *Just Time* by e-mail? Just e-mail me at phil@dioceseofbrentwood.org and we will do the rest.

I hope that you have all returned refreshed from the summer break and ready to face this "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". We are always pleased to receive contributions and comments and although we cannot always include everything we receive we will always do our best to report on a range of topics.

With every best wish,



*When the solution is simple,
God is answering.*

*Albert Einstein
1879 – 1955*

Visit to Dundee, South Africa

I was very privileged to be representing CJSR at the Episcopal Ordination of Fr Graham Rose as Bishop of Dundee. The ordination was to take place on Saturday, 30th August, so I travelled to Dundee overnight on Tuesday, 26th August. The flight arrived bang on time on Wednesday morning and I was delighted to see Fr Gerald Gostling waiting for me on my arrival at Johannesburg airport. I'm not sure who was more excited – him or me – neither of us could believe I was actually in Africa !

From Johannesburg we travelled to Standerton to meet up with Isabel Seady (former secretary to Bishop Michael Rowland) with whom I would be staying until after the ordination. There were major repairs taking place on the motorway, which Fr Gerald advised was in preparation for the 2010 World Cup. Judging by the condition of the road, and the expansion planned, the workmen certainly have their work cut out to have all this work completed in time for the event. Improvements to South Africa's infra-structure is also planned so the task before them is huge. Of course, it is hoped this tournament will bring many benefits to the country which they badly need.

It took me some time on this journey to realise that the vast areas of tin shacks, on both sides of the motorway, were actually "houses" occupied by people. In some places they were built of brick and these were part of the Reconstruction Development Project (RDP) – a government initiative which aims to replace the tin shacks with these brick-built houses. Many areas were without electricity and Fr Gerald told me that none having running water – this is usually supplied by an outside tap or local government mobile water units. Following lunch with Isabel, Fr Gerald returned to his parish and we went on to Newcastle (where the ordination was to take place).

It would not be appropriate to give a blow-by-blow account of my time spent in Dundee, so I will just highlight here some of my experiences whilst there. However, I have to say that, from the moment I arrived in the country, it felt like home. I am sure this is mostly due to the wonderfully warm welcome I received wherever I went.

Maria Ratschitz Mission is set in a glorious location, surrounded by green hills and beautiful gardens. Fr Tom Tshabalala, OFM is the

parish priest and works tirelessly for the local community. The Nardini Sisters run the mission and the hospice – the newly built hospice is now open and on the day I was there already had two patients in situ and two more were arriving that day. You will recall that the old hospice burnt down last year so to have rebuilt a new one and have it up and running in such a short time is wonderful. The sisters urgently need donations to equip the hospice and provide support for nursing care.

Amakhasi Mission – St Antonine’s Home for the Aged – this location is very remote and getting there by road was an uncomfortable experience (no offence to Bishop Michael’s driving, just the quality of the roads !). St Antonine’s is a beautiful place, with many elderly residents **but** it really needs donations to improve the buildings and facilities for the residents. The priest in charge, Fr Michael Zakhele, and the sisters (Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) are doing wonderful work but badly need our help. The residents that day were so pleased to have a visit from Bishop Michael and Isabel (and the stranger from overseas !).



Blaauwbosch Mission – St Anthony’s Orphanage. The principal Mr Petros Mbongiseni – “Bongi” is doing marvellous work. He took me through his three year work plan which was very impressive and included targets for the children and an ongoing training/counselling programme for the staff. The orphanage is very efficiently run – bedrooms and communal

rooms were pristine. To maintain this high standard and continuing development, donations are urgently needed.

On Thursday evening I met Fr Graham Rose in Dundee and we discussed the twinning of our two diocese. Father Graham emphasised his interest and support for this joint project. The following morning he very kindly celebrated Mass for Isabel and myself – he included in his prayers our Bishop Thomas and all the people in Brentwood diocese.

Episcopal Ordination of Fr Graham Rose –

a beautiful day, sunny and warm, but windy. Everyone had been worrying that it might rain (spring has arrived in South Africa and it often

brings rain). As we arrived at Ss Peter & Paul parish, Newcastle where the ordination was to take place, there were already throngs of Sisters, priests and people walking to the site, and this was two hours before the celebrations were



due to begin. This was also the site of the diocesan Pax Christi Pastoral Centre, where there were hordes of priests and sisters milling around. The ceremony was being held in an enormous marquee, adjacent to the Centre, which could hold 4,000, and this was already filling up, the air was alive with great excitement and expectation. No photographs were allowed during the ceremony but a DVD and official photographs would be available. (I ordered 2 DVDs, 1 for CJSR/1 for Bishop Thomas). The music greeting our arrival was joyful, exuberant and infectious – you could not keep still. The two priests who were acting as MCs were Fr Zakhele (Amakhasi) and Fr Thokozani (Dannhauser). The ceremony began with a group of young Zulu girls singing and dancing down the main aisle before joining the choir. They were followed by a huge procession of priests, twenty three Bishops, Archbishop Wilfrid Cardinal Fox Napier (Durban), Archbishop Buti Thlagale (Johannesburg), Archbishop James Patrick Green (the Papal Nuncio), Bishop Emeritus Michael Pascal Rowland and Fr Graham Rose. During this procession, which was an incredible sight, the singing became louder and louder and on Fr Graham Rose's appearance I thought the marquee roof would fly off!



The ceremony was extremely moving – the liturgy beautiful and the singing superb. The actual rite of ordination of Fr Graham was, of course, very special as was the homily given by Bishop Michael Rowland. The newly ordained Bishop Graham Rose was equally moving and humbling, especially when he referred to his mother and family who were very much in evidence. All the while the ceremony was taking place the wind became very powerful and, of course, great play was made by everyone that

the Holy Spirit was surely among us ! The ceremony lasted around three hours and considering that there were 4,000 people in the marquee, goodness knows how many outside, the atmosphere throughout the event was one of holiness and closeness to God. I knew this would be a special occasion, and I wasn't disappointed. It will rank as one of the most memorable times in my life. Bishop Graham Rose is a wonderful man; extremely easy to talk to and blessed with being able to put people at their ease. He is an excellent communicator and a man of enormous faith. Dundee has been so blessed to have been given two wonderful Bishops: Bishop Michael and now Bishop Graham, please do keep them both in your prayers. At the end of the celebration Bishop Graham toured the marquee to give his blessing to everyone present. He was accompanied by Cardinal Napier and the Papal Nuncio. To complete the celebrations food was available for everyone (yes, over 4,000 people, plus clergy) and this was the perfect end to such a perfect occasion.

I then was taken to Evander by Fr Gerald Gostling where I would be staying for the next few days.



Evander and eMbalenhle – I spoke at two Masses in these locations. At Evander (Fr Gerald's parish) I enjoyed an excellent lunch where I met the very active youth group and their leaders. The Mass at Embalenhle (Fr Solly's parish) was in Zulu so was very vibrant with marvellous singing. That afternoon Fr Gerald took me to a township

nearby. The family I met lived in a typical tin chalet which consisted of two tiny rooms to accommodate four adults and three children – this was fairly typical. We went on a short walk round the township and the oldest girl told me of the crime and abuse which was fairly common in that area. She also said that every family in the neighbourhood will have been affected in some way by HIV/Aids. Despite the housing (if you could call it that) and the utter degradation of the neighbourhood which was abhorrent to me, this family, and other people I met living there, had a wonderful spirit and easy disposition. The next two nights I stayed with a marvellous young couple, Ricky and Jo Hawkins in

Secunda. They have converted their home into a retreat centre primarily for young people “*Missionaries of the New Evangelization*” with the focus on the sanctity of marriage, and the importance of family life in a Christian environment. They also work with confirmation groups in the surrounding parishes.



On Monday Fr Gerald introduced me to two of the women who work in the Home Based Care unit at Embalenhle (Fr Gerald has previously written about this work). Both these ladies had young babies with them and had walked a great distance to the unit, which really shows dedication and commitment.

Damesfontein – we arrived at this isolated mission station early Monday afternoon. The Parish Priest, Fr Giorgio (Consolata) was there to greet us. This was another beautiful location – lovely church and school. The Consolata missionaries will be leaving Damesfontein over the next few months and a decision will have to be made regarding its future. Following Mass the next morning, and prior to our departure, I met most of the children who attended the mission school which was delightful. I will hope and pray that another community can bring life and purpose to this beautiful area.

Pomeroy – Fr Gerald and I met up with Isabel outside Dundee and proceeded to Pomeroy. I met the Augustinian sisters who run the clinic and the Noyi Bazi Home Based Care Unit. They support, purely by voluntary means, some 90 families, orphaned children and those suffering from HIV/Aids. They are badly in need of funds as the care they provide feeds, clothes and responds to the needs of these desperately underprivileged people.

We returned to Dundee that evening for a final meal with Isabel and Fr Gerald. Before I left the following morning, Fr Gerald celebrated Mass with Isabel and myself which was a beautiful start to my last day in Dundee. The time I had spent with Isabel had been so rewarding as she is a warm and easy companion to be with. Her knowledge of Dundee and all that goes on in the diocese is all embracing.

We left for Johannesburg airport shortly after breakfast. On the way, Fr Gerald stopped off at Piet Retief but unfortunately neither of the priests was home.

As I said my sad farewell and thanks to Fr Gerald at Johannesburg airport, I could not help but reflect on the impression that my short visit to Africa had left on me. Personally, it is always the people that I remember – how they treated me and related to me, and everyone I met, without exception, welcomed me in such a natural and loving way. I will remember especially all those people who gave up their time to escort me around the diocese and allow me to share their homes and their hospitality, I will never forget them or Dundee.

Davina Bolt

World Youth Day

After twenty seven long and gruelling hours we had finally made it to the “ends of the earth” and we were welcomed with the fresh winter breeze of Australia. Outside Sydney airport many groups gathered in clusters with their unique and colourful clothing, each representing their nation and some sign or symbol of faith.

We made our way to a coach that would take us to a local diocese where we would stay with a beautiful and warm family. Days in the diocese offered particularly fun and rewarding experiences. At times we were called upon for the service of the church and the local community. We were able to give back to the community by planting several trees in a local green area.

Before long we were off on our travels and the week of WYD events were about to begin! At the opening mass I was literally taken aback by the magnitude of pilgrims, if you elevated yourself a little you could see that there were pilgrims of almost every nation, race literally as far as the eye could see.



In the plane on the way to Australia I met a group of sixteen pilgrims from Togo who were able to come due to the heavy subsidising from Rome. So clearly money had not stopped every nation from at least being represented.

At the Pope's opening ceremony at Sydney Harbour there was absolute pandemonium as thousands waited eagerly to get a glimpse of the Holy Father. When he arrived to give his opening welcome he spoke to us about his beautiful aerial view from the helicopter as he witnessed the truly "wondrous and majestic splendour" of God's creation. He also urged us to be mindful of the scars, which mark the earth such as, erosion, and deforestation caused by the squandering of the earth's minerals to fuel an insatiable consumption.

During the course of the week we were given the opportunity to attend many talks. One I remember was one on human trafficking. In this presentation we were able to see the work of the church, moving people out of inhumane conditions and situations. They also briefed us on actions we ought to take as citizens and as Christians if we were to see or here something worth reporting.

World youth day truly was an amazing experience reframing how I see the Church and how I see the world. As one Franciscan, Brother Gabriel put it this is the world as God intended, the world, as it should be.

Paschal Uche



Paul O'Grady starts mammoth re- sponse to a woolly request.

We received a deluge of delightful babies' hats after Paul O'Grady mentioned our campaign to save children's lives on his teatime show in April. The presenter, who visited one of our programmes in Free State, South Africa this year, says he can't look at life the same way since. "People say after these trips that the experience has changed them profoundly, blah, blah – I hate those old clichés. But it's true," explains Paul. "I used to be cynical and wonder if the money we give to charity ever reaches the destination it's meant for. But I've seen for myself, it really does."

Within 14 days of the show, our Knit One Save One campaign had a total of more than 20,000 life-saving hats – that's more than 89 knitted every waking hour, giving 20,000 newborn babies a much better chance of life.

Every hat arrived with a message for the Prime Minister pinned to it, urging him to act now to save the four million babies who die needlessly each year before they're a month old. We'll present those messages to the government later this year.

It's hard to believe a little hat can mean the difference between life and death, but newborn babies can't control their body temperature and lose vital heat through their head. That puts them at risk of pneumonia which, unbelievably, still kills more children than AIDS, malaria and measles together. Every hat will be sent to one of our programmes. Some have already gone to Angola, Tibet and Sierra Leone.

Your response has been overwhelming. We've already had almost 200,000 hats and, until 21 October, we want you to keep knitting! If you haven't made a hat yet, go to www.savethechildren.org.uk/ knitting to download your knit kit. Even if you've never knitted before, you still have the power to help.

Don't forget to write a message, too. Your hat will help save a life.
Your voice will help save millions.

It's Time to get fair

Church Action on Poverty is launching its GET FAIR campaign in September this year. Here is a preview of what is to come.

Three quarters of the population think the gap between rich and poor has grown too large. Its now our time to speak out!

Get Fair is a new alliance of charities and faith groups, including Save the Children, Oxfam, Help the Aged, Church Action on Poverty, Housing Justice and the Muslim Council of Britain, which has come together with one simple message: it's time to Get Fair.

We have planned a series of high-profile events:

- **September** – Public launch of Get Fair campaign, with local campaign launches across the country
- **4 October** – End Child Poverty rally in London
- **31 January – 7 February** – Action Week: local events tell real-life stories of how poverty impacts on the lives of people
- **Spring 2009** – Constituency-based lobby of MPs and major end rally event
- Plus **campaign actions and events** with partner organisations throughout the year

Over the past two decades Britain has become richer – but not any fairer. The UK is the fifth richest country on the planet – yet the gap between rich and poor continues to grow.

Over the past 10 years, the incomes of the top 10% have risen faster than those of the population as a whole. **Income inequality** is at its highest level since the late **1940s**.

Health inequality has got worse over the past decade. Babies born to poor families now have a 17% higher than average chance of dying, whilst a boy growing up in Manchester can now expect to die over 10 years younger than a wealthier boy in Kensington. 4.5 million people struggle with **fuel poverty**. One in 10 pensioner households could not afford to keep warm this winter and, almost one in three were forced to cut back on heating or make savings elsewhere.

Housing affordability in the UK is worse than it has ever been.

62,000 families live in temporary accommodation – up on 5 years ago.

To be fair, politicians of all parties have signed up to a historic goal of ending **Child Poverty** by 2020 – but have so far failed to deliver...

For more information and to sign up for the GET FAIR campaign contact

Church Action On Poverty, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ.

Tel: 0161 23 9321 or email liamp@church-poverty.org.uk

***Poverty and Homeless
Action Week 2009
will run from***

***31st January to 8th February
2009***

***Homeless Sunday
1st February***

***Poverty Action Sunday
8th February***

Community Asset and Global Benefit

Three Myths about Fairtrade:

As support for Fairtrade flourishes, and the number of Fairtrade towns and churches rises rapidly, critical questions are being asked about the efficacy and integrity of the Fairtrade system. In this article, taken from a speech made at Dover's Fairtrade Fortnight celebration, Professor Richard Norman tackles three of the most common criticisms of Fairtrade and the misconceptions on which they are based.

1. **Excessive Retail Margins:** *"It's the shops and middle-men, not the producers themselves, who make an extra profit."*

What the FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees is that the producers receive a fair price, at a level agreed with them to ensure that they can make a living, and that they also receive a community premium for investment in the local community – for schools, health care facilities, roads, fresh water, improving production methods, or whatever they collectively decide. The guarantee is backed by an independent inspection process, conducted every year by inspectors in the country of origin. That's what the FAIRTRADE Mark is for.

Beyond that, the Fairtrade process traces products through the supply chain to make sure that what you buy as Fairtrade in the shops really is what the producers were paid the Fairtrade price for. The Fairtrade Foundation has no control over how much the middlemen and the retailers take, it makes no claim to do so, and it would be illegal to try to fix retail prices. The shops claim that they do not apply a higher mark-up to Fairtrade products. If you don't believe them or think their prices are too high, do what people always do – shop around. Now that there are so many certified Fairtrade products to choose from, we can look to competition between retailers to keep prices down, just as with any other product.

2. **Inefficient Production:** *"Fairtrade subsidises inefficient producers, so that they have no incentive to improve or diversify."*

The Fairtrade system doesn't eliminate competition. The Fairtrade price is guaranteed never to fall below the agreed level necessary for producers to make a living, even if world market prices fall below that level. But if world market prices rise, the price paid to Fairtrade

producers rises too, so they have every incentive to improve quality and get as good a price as they can for their product.

Fairtrade also gives producers the security to plan ahead. You can't improve production methods, or diversify into new products, if you have no profit margins and no capital with which to do it. The Fairtrade system provides active support and advice to help producers to become more efficient, and to look for opportunities to diversify.

3. **Unfair to non-Fairtrade Producers:** *“The Fairtrade system is actually unfair – it makes the non-Fairtrade producers worse off.”*

This claim has been made by some people, but there is absolutely no evidence for it. What is true is that, because the demand for Fairtrade products is not high enough, not all the farmers and producers who want to get Fairtrade certification can do so. The worst that can then be said is that the Fairtrade system leaves the non-Fairtrade producers where they were before.

In fact, however, things are better than that. The FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees not only a fair price, but also a community premium, which benefits the whole community in which the producers live. So everyone in the community can enjoy clean drinking water, or a new health clinic, or whatever they decide to invest in. There is also some evidence that competition from Fairtrade buyers puts pressure on other buyers outside the Fairtrade system to improve their practices and offer a better deal.

The fact remains that a large number of Third World farmers can only sell a small portion of their output into the Fairtrade system, and many cannot benefit from Fairtrade at all. The reason for this is quite simple: limited consumer demand. In spite of the rapid growth in Fairtrade sales over recent years, the vast majority of the Third World products bought in this country are not Fairtrade. If we want to see the benefits of Fairtrade spread more broadly, then we must be willing to go out and buy products with the FAIRTRADE Mark. Only if demand increases will more producers benefit.

Professor Richard Norman is the chair of Canterbury District Fairtrade Steering Group. This article comes from Society Matters, the quarterly magazine produced by Church in Society, Maidstone. Church in Society is a charitable company, a department of the Church of England Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester. Church in Society works to enable the church's effective contribution to community, economic and social transformation, so that the full potential of all communities may be realised.

Am I bovered?

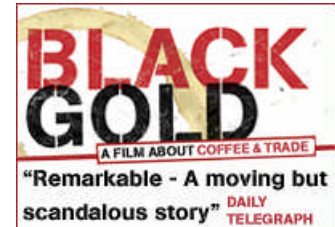
An opportunity to be informed and challenged by some of the issues facing the world today. Excerpts from the film 'Black Gold' will be followed by time for discussion over tea and coffee.

Thursday 8th October

at 8pm

in the Cathedral Parish Hall

Hosted by the Brentwood Justice and Peace Group.



Ethiopian Experience

In September 2006 I arrived in Addis Ababa with 47 other volunteers from UK, Ireland, USA, Netherlands, Canada and Kenya. Over half of us came to work in education the others in agriculture, social and youth work, or HIV/AIDS. As we waited for our luggage to come through at 2am and looked around the almost empty airport I remarked to another volunteer "where are all the tall dark handsome Ethiopian men we have seen on television?" "My thoughts exactly" she replied. Not our reason for volunteering I hasten to add!

Ethiopia is one of the poorest but also one of the most beautiful countries in Africa. It covers approximately 472,000 Sq Miles. There are two seasons the dry one from about October to May with short rains, if they are lucky, in March with longer rains in July and August. The North and central highlands have a pleasant temperature, 20-25 degrees most of the year. Further south, in the lowlands, it is hot 35+ most days. They still follow the Coptic Calendar although for business the Western Calendar is used. New Years Day is on September 12th; since they are seven years behind us 2007 was their Millennium. On that occasion there was a great atmosphere in Addis with lots of fireworks. For

security reasons we watched from a distance although apart from a couple of border areas the country is quite safe.

The national dish is injera - fermented bread made from teff flour, a native grain, and is served with wat – a spicy stew of beef/chicken and vegetables. It is normally served on one large dish for the whole family and eaten with the fingers of the right hand. Ethiopia is the home of excellent coffee, a visitor is welcomed with a coffee ceremony. This includes roasting the beans, grinding, boiling, filtering and serving three (small) cups to each person. Prepared by the women it is an opportunity to chat while the men discuss football, Manchester United or Arsenal the two most popular teams.

The Ethiopians are a beautiful race and wonderful people, polite, gentle, good humoured, gracious and hospitable. The children are delightful. There are of course some rich people there but the majority are extremely poor. In Addis many older, disabled people and orphans live rough and beg on the streets.

My first year was in Dilla University teaching a Higher Diploma Course to teacher trainers. Ato Kidane, the then President, now doing further study in Norway, was an exceptional person. Under his leadership the college produced the best teachers in the country and gained university status in September. My job included training future leaders and moderators for the Diploma course. In spite of heavy workloads the whole group completed and passed the course. In fact the university became one of the Moderating Universities appointed by the Ministry of Education with responsibility for helping other universities and teacher training colleges improve the quality of training. I loved Dilla; the teachers were brilliant, although rarely in time for class their enthusiasm made up for this. In my spare time I taught English to students.

Dilla is 300km south of Addis. It was hot but very green with a good fruit and vegetable market. Being a town in a rural area it was easy to get involved in local projects. I worked with a church deacon. The generosity of my community, friends and Brentwood parishioners enabled us to build several houses for needy families, lease some land and organise a committee of women to run and develop an organic farm. They rear cattle and goats and plan to introduce hens and bees. They have a ready market for their meat in the university. Schools have

few resources so with donations from Brentwood Diocesan schools we managed to give several sets of books to schools both in Dilla and Addis. There are no restrictions at present on photocopying so a set of books and a photocopier was another way we were able to help a couple of schools.

For my second year I was asked to work in the Ministry of Education in Addis Ababa. A hard worker called Yasabu guided me through the red tape, believe me there is a lot of it. But I had discovered that “age” is highly respected in Ethiopia so naturally I took advantage! The student population has increased rapidly in the last couple of years and in 2007 thirteen new universities were opened. Part of my job was helping to organise and run training workshops for teacher trainers, visiting universities to support the work being done and write reports with recommendations for the Minister of Education.

The new universities are still building sites; initially they got little money but are promised more foreign funding in the future. Students do not choose where to go; they are assigned to a university usually miles away from home. Mixing ethnic groups in this way has caused its own problems. Told to take up their place even before classrooms or dormitories are completed has made it extremely difficult both for staff and students. One could only congratulate and marvel at what they achieved in such difficult circumstances. Appointments are usually political with appointees sometimes lacking the educational background needed.

As far as I could see the Prime Minister, holding on to power for several years, appears to run a one man show. Following the 2006 election the winner and Leader of the Opposition Party and several of his Ministers were imprisoned. Released for the Millennium, as a goodwill gesture, they fled the country. Freedom for the press is minimal, civil rights workers are finding it more and more difficult to do their job, work permits often refused. Bombs planted in Addis recently could be the work of either party. A law passed in July '08 curtails the work of NGO's and the poor are now expected to find 90% funding for projects. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church does not make life easier for the poor, its strict fasting laws leave the people weak and vulnerable to sickness and disease. Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS are the main killers.

However, in spite of all this, or perhaps because of it, Ethiopians are

happy and resourceful. I love them and have left a large part of my heart there. It was such a privilege to work with them and make lifelong friends.

You might be asking yourself “how can I help” Possible ways are:

- A donation of £15 to a teacher or university student to buy a book
- £12 a month helps a student in university or enables a student to attend night school to learn a skill
- Sponsor a person to train as a nurse £800 a year
- Sponsor a teacher to do an MA or PhD in Ethiopia or Europe to equipping him/her to lead and train others.
- Clean water and sanitation would lessen their vulnerability to disease and one of the projects of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia is finding and maintaining wells.
- A pump to pump the water from a deep river would make life so much easier for the women and children

If you feel you can help in even the smallest way please contact me. A little money in the right hands goes a very long way in Ethiopia. Education is one of the best ways of helping developing countries so I continue to support teachers, students and a couple of school building projects in Ethiopia through the generosity of so many benefactors.

Rosario Staunton

For more information or to find ways that you can help phone Sister Rosario on 01277 220455

A day with a difference

Throughout August we have been lost in euphoria over the achievements of Team GB at the Beijing Olympics. Forty five medals in total, nineteen of them gold and some of them quite unexpected. This was a real

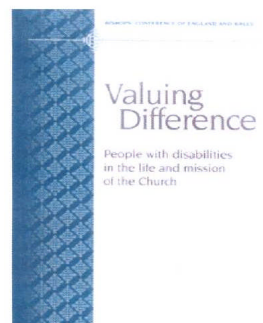


celebration of athletes reaching their full potential and in some cases exceeding all expectations. Now it is the turn of the paralympians; the media is full of stories about people who have overcome incredible odds to take part in sport and the predicted medal total is even higher than for the main Olympic Games. This time we are expected to come second with a total of one thirty five gold medals, one hundred over all. Proof if it were needed that people with disabilities can play a tremendous part in society if they are given the support they need.

On Saturday 25th October we will be hosting our own celebration. We will be looking at the contribution that disabled people can make to our parish and to our community, and asking how far we have come since the Bishop's Conference published 'Valuing Difference' ten years ago.

The aim of this day is not just to dwell on the 'might have beens' or to pat ourselves on the back because we put a ramp in at the church door, it is essentially a time to look at our attitudes to others, in particular people with disability and to see how we as a community welcome them and allow them to play their part. We are looking essentially for examples of good practice, successful initiatives and projects which have raised awareness of disability.

Our speakers will be covering both the spiritual aspect of 'Valuing Difference' in particular examples of how catechetics programmes can be made inclusive for people with learning difficulties and the practical aspects of dealing with disability issues. There will be a panel of people with various disabilities both physical and sensory who are happy to answer your questions and the day will include workshop sessions where ideas can be shared. A positive outcome would be for each person who comes to leave with at least one practical idea to take back to their parish. More details and an invitation to attend will be sent to you.



How do we measure success of a project like Valuing Difference in our parishes? The answer will probably be different for each community but essentially it is when everyone can feel welcome and part of the group no matter who they are and how they have to deal with life.

Similarly how do we really measure Olympic success? Perhaps it will be in the year when the Olympic games and Paralympic games take place at the same time in the same venue and nobody comments on the differences.

Elisabeth Abbott

Photograph of David Wier sourced from the Paralympics website.

Faith in the Future

As Catholics, there are many issues that concern us at the present time: crime, the state of the economy; the future of marriage and of the family; poverty, the environment; abortion, euthanasia, embryo experimentation. However these concerns have become politicised in the sense that marriage, the family, abortion, euthanasia, embryo experimentation are seen as 'right wing' preoccupations, while poverty and the environment are seen as the special concerns of the Left. Then there are crime and the economy, on which there seem to be fundamental differences of approach. And yet all these issues are linked: poverty affects marriages and families; families affect the environment; abortion is not a personal and private matter but, like a pebble thrown into a pond, spreads its ripples far and wide. Catholics know that even if we appear untouched by these issues we are linked to those who are affected, in a relationship that cannot be broken, because we are all children of God.

Far from being mere statistics, the unborn – 'the least of these' - are our brothers and sisters. Abortion has become the touchiest issue of all, portrayed as 'the right to choose', of interest only to those on the Right. And yet it is of vital interest to anyone concerned with the exploitation of the weak. Far from being a private issue, as my research has shown, it has been incorporated into public policy – and we are seeing the outcome of this policy in the economy, because when more than six

million individuals are removed from the community, the economy is bound to be affected. Thus we see the knock-on effects, from the sales of ice cream to the black hole in our pension provision.

However obvious the answer might seem, we cannot rely on the commonsense approach of restricting abortion, because the same lobby that wants easier abortion will advocate euthanasia as a 'pain-free' way to ease our 'population problems'. That is why Catholics need to pray more, find out more, lobby more, and take the initiative on this very basic issue, rather than leave it to someone else. Many people, while feeling uneasy about abortion, have also been influenced by the fear of 'overpopulation'; many do not even know how abortions are carried out, and feel completely baffled by the proposed legislation on embryo manipulation; yet our pro-life groups are bursting with up-to-date scientific information.

We have won all the arguments; we just need to tell everyone what the arguments are. What we are talking about is not the special province of either Left or Right; it is the genocide of the generations, and in declaring that every child deserves equal care from conception, we are declaring our faith in everyone's future.

Ann Farmer

By Their Fruits: Eugenics Population Control, and the Abortion Campaign

Ann Farmer

The Catholic University of America Press, 2008

ISBN 978-0-8132-1530-3

Reaching out to Christians who suffer for their faith

Aid to the Church in Need is a universal charity of the Catholic Church that supports persecuted and other suffering Christians. Founded in 1947, ACN brings Christ to the world by restoring hope to those suffering for their faith. ACN helps train priests, Sisters and catechists, build churches, print and distribute children's Bibles, offer emergency aid to refugees and provide basic transport (including bicycles and even donkeys!) for priests and religious in remote regions. ACN receives no state or other official aid and is entirely dependent on

support from faithful and other private individuals. In 2007 alone, ACN's UK office in Surrey made 793 grants totalling over £4.8million, providing aid for 136 countries.

The priority needs of the suffering Church today will be addressed at ACN's annual Westminster Event on Saturday, 27th September. The day begins at 10.30am with Mass at Westminster Cathedral. Talks will take place immediately afterwards in the cathedral hall.

The principal celebrant at the Mass and key-note speaker will be Archbishop Jean Sleiman of Baghdad. The Carmelite from Lebanon is a widely recognised expert on Christian-Muslim relations who is fully aware of the challenges faced in building co-existence between the two religions in the Middle East. Despite cautioning about the danger involved since appointed Bishop of Baghdad in 2000, he has worked tirelessly towards peace in Iraq.

The other speaker at the event is Bishop Joseph Coutts of Faisalabad, Pakistan. He has promoted inter-religious co-operation in an effort to win respect for his small yet frequently persecuted Christian community. Despite his concerted efforts for inter-religious harmony, the intensity of violence via extremist groups has soared to new levels.

For more information about Aid to the Church in Need visit www.acnuk.org or contact 020 8642 8668. Aid to the Church in Need is registered with the Charity Commission No. 1097984.

Time for Creation

It is recommended that "the period from 1 September to 4 October be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change." This covers the period in which many of us celebrate harvest and includes the Feast of St Francis.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is providing a programme of resources to encourage and assist churches to observe A Time for Creation 2008. The theme for this year is Hope for Creation – a Time for Worship and Action.

s,.5 The resources are flexible and include suggestions on a variety of ways in which churches, groups and individuals might choose to focus on a Creation theme at this time of year. Central to these resources are sermon materials prepared by Revd Dave Bookless, National Director of A Rocha UK, with a choice of two 5-week frameworks, one based on the Lord's Prayer and one on the Revised Common Lectionary. The materials are flexible, so it is possible either to follow the whole 5 weeks or to dip into the material and use it as required. The Lord's Prayer materials in particular are suitable for a less formal or all-age setting.

Visit the website at www.ctbi.org.uk and follow the links.

ECO-CONGREGATION WORKSHOP

Saturday 27th September 2008, 9.30am – 12.30pm

St Cedd's Room, Chapter House, Chelmsford Cathedral

This workshop is offered during the period designated A Time for Creation to all parishes who want to 'green' their church life and mission, and we'll hear from churches who have received the Eco-Congregation award for their environmental initiatives. There is no charge for this workshop.

The modular scheme is designed to help all churches take positive action. The resources act like a toolkit, with a variety of ideas that can be used or adapted. Eco-Congregation has helped inspire a wide range of activities amongst congregations - practical, community-orientated and spiritual – ranging, to name a few, from environmental audits, energy conservation, recycling, litter picks, tree planting, and working with local groups, to creation-focussed hymns and prayers, bible studies and youth group work.

You may like to identify one, two or more people from your parish to come along on the day with a view to taking the scheme forward for the parish.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 3 October 2008

Please share what you can and stand in solidarity with poor communities in the developing world.

CAFOD passes on this message from 18-year-old Celina (pictured here in the Fast Day poster and leaflet), who struggles to support her HIV-positive parents in drought-stricken Mozambique:



"We are so glad for the help that you give us. Please find it in your hearts to keep supporting us because we need as much help as we can get."

You can read more about how you are helping Celina and others in the Fast Day leaflet distributed in parishes, or online at www.cafod.org.uk/fastday and please don't forget to fill in the gift aid details in you are a taxpayer.

Thank you.

CAFOD Dzień Postu: 3 Październik 2008

CAFOD przekazuje tę wiadomość od 18-to letniej Celinę (jej fotografia jest zamieszczona w ulotkach i afiszach na Dzień Postu). Ta 18-to letnia dziewczyna walczy z życiem każdego dnia opiekując się rodzicami, którzy cierpią na HIV – w ogarniętym suszą Mozambique.

"Jesteśmy tak wdzięczni za okazaną pomoc. Prosimy abyście pamiętali o nas, prosimy o pomoc, której tak bardzo potrzebujemy."

Supporters Day – Saturday 18th October 10.30am-3.30pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, Wanstead, E11

Guest speaker will be sharing CAFOD's international work. Hear about CAFOD Brentwood's new *livesimply* initiative, workshops, updates on our Campaigns on Mining and Climate Change plus plenty of time to chat with other supporters. Light lunch will be provided.

To book your place, please phone the Brentwood office on 0208 502 9722 or email brentwood@cafod.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

Hope in the Holy Land – A Brentwood Pilgrimage with a difference!



Palestinian and British Christians together

As part of our wider remit of Justice and Peace development, the Commission for Justice and Social Responsibility has been looking at ways to support the dwindling Christian Community in the Holy Land. For over 60 years the Middle East has seen a history of conflict and occupation. Since 1900 the Christian Community has reduced from 17% of the total population to around 1.5%. This small community lives daily in a situation which many of us find hard to comprehend and where basic human rights are ignored.

There are a number of reasons why this community is in decline and, by meeting with these communities, we are hoping to both understand these reasons and offer appropriate ways of giving support.

We are currently working with Fr Paul Maddison from the Diocese of East Anglia to arrange a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and not only visit the places that are so familiar from within scripture but also, by meeting with local parishioners and families, be able to offer a

continuing commitment to help these communities.

We are hoping that all arrangements will be in place for this pilgrimage to be made from the 25th May to 1st June 2009. Places are likely to be very limited so it is important to book early. We anticipate that the cost will be around £750 (plus insurance).



A group of East Anglian Pilgrims relax in the Holy Land

For more details and to reserve a place contact Phil Butcher 01277 265252 or

e-mail phil@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

Sadly this summer has seen a number of needless deaths – mainly of young people in a seemingly never ending cycle of violence. The way we live our lives and how well we are equipped to deal with potentially violent situations says much about our society today.

Pax Christi have joined with St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace to run a weekend course which aims to enable people to develop skills, patterns and approaches which will take us in a more productive and peaceful direction. It explores spirituality and non-violence as a powerful creative force in our lives and in the world. The training will be facilitated by Pat Gaffney (Pax Christi) and Helen Gilbert (St Ethelburga's). The course runs from the 10th – 12th October at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, London. EC2N 4AG

To find out more information and how to book, please contact 020 7496 1610,

e-mail events@stethelburgas.org or visit www.stethelburgas.org

Phil Butcher

Big Blockade Aldermaston

Stop AWE Nuclear Bomb Factory

Come and join us on October 27th 2008 at the Atomic Weapons Establishment where construction work for the design, testing and production of a new generation of nuclear weapons is already in process. We believe that the estimated 75 billion GBP cost of producing/maintaining this new weapons system over its 30 year "life" would be better spent on tackling the economic and climate challenges facing people in this country and around the world. We want our voices and actions to bear witness to the belief of millions of ordinary people in this country and around the world that nuclear weapons can only increase global insecurity and reduce our chances of survival as a species.

We believe that we have an obligation to act responsibly towards our world, to safeguard the environment and all the wonderful, diverse forms of life which share this one small planet. The majority of nation states do not manufacture, possess or deploy nuclear weapons. We however, do live in a nuclear weapon state and therefore have a special responsibility to demonstrate our opposition to these weapons of mass destruction. Since the first use of nuclear weapons against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, successive Popes have appealed for their abolition. Many Christians including Bishops, priests and nuns, have joined Faith Vigils and blockades at Faslane and Aldermaston to bear witness to Christ's message of love and non-violence.

Christian CND is organising a Vigil and candle light procession at AWE, Aldermaston during the night of 26th October on a 2 hourly watch basis and to maintain a Faith witness throughout the 27th in solidarity with those activists taking part in the Blockade. The aim of the Vigil and procession is to surround the nuclear bomb factory with prayer for a nuclear weapons-free world.

Anyone wishing to have more details of this Faith witness can contact Christian CND:

Tel: 020 7700 4200/2393 e-mail: christians@cnduk.org

Web: <http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/>

Anyone wishing to participate in the Blockade action can choose to take an arrestable or non-arrestable role. We are particularly in need of qualified First-Aiders.

Full details of accommodation/catering/general and legal briefing sessions in Reading on 26th; transport to AWE on 27th and post-blockade support are available in the Briefing Pack via:

Tel: 0845 4588 361

Email: blockawe@yahoo.co.uk **Web:** www.tridentploughshares.org

Organised by Trident Ploughshares. Supported by CND.

Anna Kobayashi

"Hear My People Cry".

Justice & Peace Conference, Swanwick, 18-20 July 2008.

It is the total experience which makes attendance at these annual events so enriching. This year's Conference organised by the National Justice & Peace Network with Liverpool Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission was no exception. It brought together some 300 participants from virtually every diocese in the country as well as others committed to the same goals — in this case, to explore the meaning and relevance of the Pastoral Cycle (See, Judge, Act) in relation to our local situation. The (very!) active participation of numerous children and young people sharing their own programme added to the rich experienced.

The Speakers' contribution was obviously special: Sr Margaret Scott built her presentation around Pope John Paul's words: "The Eucharist and justice go together, the eucharist without justice is sterile". Father Pat Riordan SJ explored the role of Catholic Social Teaching in helping

us the judge the reality of our world where capitalism and market fundamentalism contribute to so much global suffering. CAFOD's partner, Nanete de Araujo, moved us all deeply by her personal testimony to living and struggling among the homeless people in San Paulo while John Battle, the Leeds MP, challenged us to be active in binding together social justice, citizenship and a spirituality which embraced the local/global reality. Father Tom Cullinan offered throughout his own profound theological reflections on the themes we were considering.

The workshops were too numerous to list: each focused on a particular aspect of local and/or global need and the efforts being made to alleviate poverty and suffering —whether, to name some, among older people in the UK, victims of sex-trafficking or communities being torn apart by mining in the Philippines and elsewhere.

Throughout the entire Conference we were encouraged to participate actively in the Liturgy led by a quite amazing group of musicians and singers. This culminated in Sunday's Mass celebrated by Archbishop Patrick Kelly who, in his words, drew together the key message of the Conference: the utter importance of doing justice in the place where we live as well as in the global village which we all inhabit today.

The recreational aspect of Swanwick figured throughout: in the FairTrade Drinks Reception set among the numerous stalls in the Just Fair in the Sports Hall, the Global Village Fete on the front lawn and in the dancing to the music of Band for Life on Saturday Evening. And all this in the comfort and beauty of Swanwick itself.

A question time session enabled participants to share with others their thoughts on the whole theme. Indeed, this active sharing characterised the entire Conference and made one long for others to be there in greater numbers. This could mean that what begins at Swanwick can be continued throughout the year in each diocese and among the various Churches, religious orders and agencies which are the core of the Justice and Peace movement in this country.

Elizabeth Rendall

Appeals

RAMP
66b Serbert Road
Forest Gate
E7 0NJ



Food for families with no income

Rice and pasta
Tinned products
Salt and black pepper
Tinned fish
Sugar, tea, coffee
Squash, juices
Seasonings

Furniture and clothes

Children's, Ladies, Men's,
Babies, Clothes, coats,
blankets and footwear.

Machines and fabric

Sewing Machines,
Overlockers
Fabric and threads
Ironing boards and irons

Please help us with the above items in any way you can. We would also appreciate financial support to enable us to help these families..... If you can help please phone

020 8221 9200

Dates for your diary

2008

Sept 20th	CJSR —Make Peace Real <i>a day with Pat Gaffney and Hilary Topp from Pax Christi.</i> <i>Cathedral Parish Hall, Brentwood.</i>
Sept 26th	Child Poverty Day www.actionaid.org.uk
Oct 5th	Disability Sunday www.throughtheroof.org
Oct 17th	International Day for Eradication of Poverty www.unmediation.org
Oct 13th-19th	Debt Week www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk
Oct 19th-26th	One World Week www.oneworldweek.org
Oct 19th-26th	Week of Prayer for World Peace
Oct 25th	CJSR —Valuing Difference — 10 Years On <i>raising awareness of disability issues.</i> Conference Centre, Brentwood.
Oct 27th - Nov 2nd	Landmine Action Week www.landmineaction.org
Nov 9th-15th	Prisoners' Week PACT www.prisonersadvice.org.uk
Nov 16th	Prisoners' Sunday PACT www.prisonersadvice.org.uk
Nov 29th	CJSR/CAFOD —'HIV/AIDs' <i>a day with Dr Anthony Reddie</i>
Dec 1st	World AIDS Day <i>World Health Organisation</i> www.who.int
Dec 3rd	World Migration Day www.catholic.ew.org.uk
Dec 10th	UK Human Rights Day www.unmediation.org

We warmly welcome contributions for Just Time.

Please post them to Cathedral House or email cjsr@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

Please pass this copy on to someone else when you have read it.

*Further copies can be obtained by contacting our office
or online at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/cjsr*

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document are those of the individual(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the Commission for Justice and Social Responsibility



Diocese of
Brentwood