

The Changing Face of Britain



This diocesan gathering with **BISHOP BRIAN NOBLE** will be an opportunity to celebrate the growing diversity to be found in the parishes of our diocese and discern new opportunities and challenges. It is part of a national initiative which has been organised to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) and **RICHARD ZIPFEL** (CARJ Trustee) will be present to comment on the national picture.

Saturday, 9 May, 2009
11.00 - 2.45

**St Thomas More Catholic High School,
Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe CW2 8AE**

This day is free of charge and is open to all.

You are invited to bring a contribution to a shared lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please register for the event by email, phone or post to assist with the preparations. Contact: Joan.

GET FAIR

Make your voice heard! Constituency Lobby, 26/27 June 2009

The UK is now the fifth richest country on the planet, yet the gap between rich and poor continues to grow. Government statistics have revealed that 12.8 million people are living in poverty in Britain today – that's 1 in 5 of us.

The Get Fair coalition is coordinating a constituency based lobby of MPs to ensure ending poverty in the UK is on the agenda of all the major political parties. It is calling for politicians to commit to concrete measures to ensure:

- An income that meets minimum living standards
- Affordable housing and decent neighbourhoods
- Fair access to services, without discrimination

If you are willing to be a contact point for your constituency or to take part in the lobby, please register your interest at www.getfair.org.uk/lobby, or by calling 0161 236 9321 or emailing info@getfair.org.uk.

European Parliamentary Elections 4 June, 2009

The Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Church have produced two excellent documents in preparation for the forthcoming elections:

An **Election Briefing** which explains in simple language the function of the European Parliament. It warns that proportional representation makes it possible for a party with a relatively small number of votes to gain power and urges community mobilization to stop racist parties from winning or increasing seats. http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/jpit_electionbriefing_0409.pdf

Countering political extremism at the ballot box - A toolkit for church leaders

Advocating a **See, Judge, Act** methodology the document suggests:

- *You will know your congregation and your community well – probably better than anyone else.*
- *Listen to the concerns of your people. Learn about the realities and challenges they are facing.*
- *Think about how the BNP might be exploiting fears, perhaps to do with employment, asylum seekers, benefit provision or community relations, and about how to deal with genuine issues without resorting to the politics of fear and hatred.*
- *People will consider voting for a far-right party for a number of reasons – and not always because they are racist or neo-Nazis.*
- *Be aware not to patronise or lecture people about how they might vote when they have real issues or concerns that need to be addressed.*
- *It has sometimes been the case that the BNP have done well when the other parties have failed to mount even a minimal campaign, or where there may only be one or two mainstream candidates. It is important that everyone pulls together when there is a danger that the BNP might succeed.*

http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/jpit_counteringpoliticalextremismtoolkit_0409.pdf

Use your vote and encourage others to do so!

"We ask you to take part actively in the democratic process, and then to vote with this question in mind:
"How can my vote best serve the common good?""

DIARY DATES

MAY

7 Chester Romy Tioncgo An opportunity to hear of the peace promoting, rural development and conservation work being done in the Bukidnon area of the Philippines, during Romy's second year as Mayor of Damulog, and the parts played by the partners of MuCAARD-UK. The Friends Meeting House, (Off Frodsham Street) 7.30p.m. Contact Peter Linsey 01244 320562.

10-16 Christian Aid Week 020 7620 4444 christian-aid.org.uk

9 The Changing Face of Britain St Thomas More Catholic High School, Crewe. Contact Joan.

9 West Kirby Peace Vigil St Agnes Church, Darmonds Green, West Kirby, Wirral. CH48 4DU. 3.00-4.00 pm.

16 NJPN AGM & Networking Day CARJ, 9 Henry Road, London. Speaker: Cecilia Taylor-Camara (Catholic Association for Racial Justice). www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

16 Pax Christi AGM London. Speaker: Bishop Kevin Dowling (South Africa) 020 82034884

17 Wirral Coastal Walk offers opportunities for all ages and degrees of fitness from 5, 19, or 15 miles, much of it on the flat and accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs - a brilliant way to support CAFOD. For sponsorship forms and more information, contact the CAFOD Office 01244 677594 shrewsbury@cafod.org.uk .

22-24 Liverpool J&P Retreat: Prayer & Peace for the Holy Land Information and booking: Loyola Hall, 0151 426 4137.

JUNE

5 World Environment Day unep.org/wed

7 Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer Contact CCAT 020 7281 0297 caat.org.uk

13 Cafod Mass of Thanksgiving Our Lady's, Shaw Heath, Stockport SK3 8BQ, 10.30 a.m. followed by talk by CAFOD speaker.

13 West Kirby Peace Vigil St Agnes Church, Darmonds Green, West Kirby, Wirral. CH48 4DU. 3.00-4.00 pm.

15 - 21 Refugee Week Contact Refugee Council 020 7346 6752 refugeeweek.org.uk

25 Telford & Wrekin Interfaith Group AGM Meeting Point House, Telford, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr Devinder Kalhan & Mr Sehdev Bismal (Wolverhampton Interfaith Council). Contact 01952 591508.

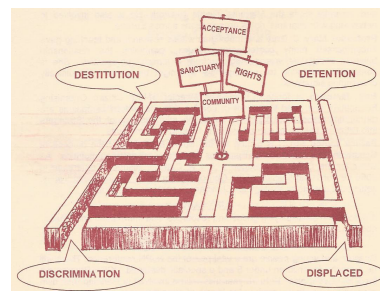
JULY

11 West Kirby Peace Vigil St Agnes Church, Darmonds Green, West Kirby, Wirral. CH48 4DU. 3.00-4.00 pm.

11 J&P Walk starting at 10.00am and covering about 4-5 miles of easy and companionable walking. Contact Joan for details of starting place.

12 Sea Sunday apostleshipof thesea.org.uk

NATIONAL J&P CONFERENCE



On the Road Together: A-Mazed by Migration

“Come to a place where we can share our struggles, hopes and fears about this fraught and complex subject. Bringing together our experiences and ideas we can overcome the dead ends and diversions of the migration maze, and emerge hopeful and ready to travel on in harmony.”

Open Space Expert:

Annette Zera.

Speakers:

Don Flynn

Migrants' Rights Network

Professor Mary C Grey

Theologian

Neil Jameson

Director of the Citizen Organising Foundation

Patrick Lynch SSCC Bishop for South East area of the diocese of Southwark and as Chair for the Office for Refugee Policy at Catholic Bishops Conference, in 2008, he published Mission of the Church to Migrants in England and Wales.

Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

17 - 19 July 2009

Booking Form from <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/documents/CONF2009BookingFormredfinal.pdf> or from Joan.

Please send me your dates and news, so that they can be included in future editions of the **Quick News Network** mailing. If you would prefer to receive Quick News Network electronically as a pdf in future, please email me and let me know.

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www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

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