

# JUSTICE & PEACE MATTERS

## Two Thank yous to you

**THANK YOU SO MUCH for your very generous donation to the Food Bank run by Open Door. The quantity, variety & quality of food & products donated clearly show how much thought was given to this much needed service.**

**AND ALSO THANK YOU for your generous response to CAFOD's Emergency appeal on behalf of the DEC for the victims of Hurricane Idai. The collection amounted to nearly £650. A marvellous achievement.**

**WELCOME** to this month's edition of J&P Matters. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th June at 7.30 p.m.** In the hope of enabling a few more people to attend we have altered the day & frequency of our meetings. So please do come along. **You would be very welcome!**

Topics for this month:

- Thank yous
- Society of St Vincent de Paul
- CAFO Our Common Home
- Jean Vanier RIP
- All change at the top CAFOD & Pax Christi
- Dates for your Diary

## Society of St. Vincent De Paul

**The Society of St Vincent de Paul in England & Wales has been seeking & finding those in need for 175 years.**

**The aim of the SVP is to tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need.**

**The Vision** of the SVP, which is inspired by Christ's message to love our neighbour as ourselves, is for individuals and families, who are in any form of need, to have hope together with a sense of dignity, worth, well being and peace of mind.

**The Mission** is to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where possible.

**The Values are**

**Christ Centred** - The St Vincent de Paul Society acknowledges the presence of Christ everywhere.

**Compassionate** - aim to show a compassion that is non-judgmental towards those with whom they work.

**Respectful** - respect the dignity of all in the knowledge that we are all equal.

**Generous** - aim to be generous with time & possessions in the service of others.

**Responsive** - aim to be alert to the ever changing needs in the communities in which they work and to respond accordingly in order to alleviate poverty in all its forms.

**Accountable** - recognize accountability to those they seek to help; whilst acting within the limits of personal knowledge and skills.

**Confidential** - respect the confidentiality of those they help, whilst recognizing that the physical and mental wellbeing of any vulnerable party must always be paramount.

The St Vincent de Paul Society strives to achieve these values through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, through prayer, friendship, mutual support and encouragement. The Saint-Vincent de Paul Society is above all a school of faith. Through face-to-face visits, members are called to encounter Christ, God Himself, present and hidden amongst the Poor:

The concept of need is broader than financial hardship, so visiting people who are sick, lonely, in prison, or suffering from addiction is also a significant proportion of the work undertaken. The essence of the work is person-to-person contact and spending time with people is their greatest gift. Over 10,000 volunteer members, motivated by their faith, are committed to meaningful and long term befriending. Inspired by the message of the Gospels they seek and find those in need and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them in their homes, in hospital and in care homes on a regular basis and offer additional practical support such as food, furniture or financial help where needed. They also organise trips and events for older and isolated people. Friendship & practical help is offered to all who are visited without regard to faith, ethnicity, status or sexual orientation.

There is now an SVP Conference in our Parish of Newmarket & Kirtling and members are keen to put into action their Vision, Mission & Values. If you know of anyone who is experiencing need in any of its forms please contact Maura on 07565706851. All SVP members are DBS checked & all contacts are in the strictest confidence.

## Our Common Home

**“We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”** Pope Francis - Laudato Si.

**THE TIME IS NOW: mass lobby – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

This summer the government will decide whether to end the UK’s contribution to climate change by committing to an ambitious net zero target. They will also have the chance to end nature’s decline by committing to a strong environmental bill.

You have probably seen the School Strikes, inspired by the brave & determined stance of Swedish schoolgirl Greta Thunberg. Young people around the world are calling for climate action. Now’s your chance to stand in solidarity with them by joining thousands of others for **The Time is Now**, a mass lobby for climate and environmental action. Join CAFOD’s Climate Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage includes a guided retreat, lobby training, time to meet others & to have fun on the way. Coaches are running to the mass lobby from most diocese. For further information go to: [www.cafod.org.uk/climatelobby](http://www.cafod.org.uk/climatelobby)

Just a reminder that we are planning a Creation Celebration event here in Newmarket on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July from 10.30 am starting with a Mass of thanksgiving for & celebration of God’s gift of creation to us, followed by a shared lunch, an opportunity to sign the petition to the Government & to share our own ideas on how we as individuals & as a community can better care for our Common Home.

### Diary Dates

15<sup>th</sup> May International Conscientious  
Objectors Day - London

26<sup>th</sup> June Climate Coalition Lobby -  
London

### Jean Vanier RIP

Jean Vanier, founder of L’Arche, the international community for people with learning disabilities, has died at the age of 90. . His vision was one of radical welcome, inclusion and joy, where each person is valued and celebrated. He will be greatly missed by people from all walks of life who have been influenced and changed by the witness of his life and his teachings, which remain as relevant today as ever.

Vanier founded L’Arche in 1964 after witnessing the treatment that people with learning disabilities faced in institutions. His response, as an act of kindness & compassion, he invited two people with learning disabilities to share his home. He very quickly discovered that he was benefiting immeasurably more from their presence in his home than they from his.

There are now more than 150 L’Arche communities in 38 countries around the world, where more than ten thousand people with and without learning disabilities create places of welcome and celebration, sharing in life together. There are 12 L’Arche Communities in the UK.

In his final message, he said: "God is good and whatever happens it will be the best. I am happy and give thanks for everything. My deepest love to each one of you."

***In memory of a truly great man.      May he rest in peace***

**Goodbye to Chris Bain** who has retired as Director of **CAFOD** after 15 years & **welcome to Christine Allen**, the new Director. Christine began her career as a campaign coordinator for CAFOD nearly thirty years ago welcome home!

[www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**Goodbye to Pat Gaffney** who has retired as General Secretary of **Pax Christi** after a selfless 30 years of service & **welcome to Theresa Alessandro** who has taken her place. Theresa has a solid background in peace and justice issues.

[www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

Please remember them all in your prayers.

Loving God,

Open our ears to hear the cries of our sisters & brothers & of the earth, our common home. Open our eyes to the scandal of poverty and injustice in the world.

Open our hearts to feel the pain, the hurt, the hunger of one another.

Open our mouths to speak of the dignity of each person, precious in our sight.

Open our arms wide to reach out with compassion so that all distances vanish.

Open our hearts to share your love and our hope of a world where no one is beyond reach. We ask this through Christ Our Lord,      Amen.

*and create a sustainable future.  
Amen*