

NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM

On Monday 17th May 2021

Meeting 155

Present: Brian and Janice Austin, Jonathan Holden, Anne Elson, Lynda Gould, Anna Godwin, Rose Pauling, Sylvester Mutsigwa and Jenny Armstrong Margaret and Peter Dimambro attended the 2nd part of the meeting.

Jenny hosted this 9th Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 26th April 2021.

We started with the Prayer for the Earth as it is Laudate Si week this week. The Gospel reflection was for Pentecost Sunday (Cycle B)

Matters arising from the last meeting.

Jenny had written to Father Benedict to let him know of our Rosary Intention as he runs a zoom session of the rosary. He replied to say that he is happy to use it.

Re the meeting between Archbishop Longley and the Chief Operating Officer for the Diocese and the Justice and Peace Diocesan Committee regarding the Church's response to the Climate Emergency which took place shortly after our last meeting, Jonathan had circulated by email the resulting discussions. The discussions included:

- the role of the Kenelm Youth Trust and their role in educating about climate;
- who leads the Diocese on Climate and Environment and whether someone younger should be sought (with the active blessing of Father Gerry Murray who is the present lead);
- Fossil fuel divestment when investing;
- the role of the Bishop's Conference in supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill www.ceebill.uk. (Supported by <https://greenchristian.org.uk> and <https://christianclimateaction.org.uk> both well known Christian organisations) and
- whether the Bishops would support this and/or lobby for it to be passed;
- the issue of 'green energy in Catholic establishments.

Archbishop Longley and the COO promised a follow up discussion and they were intending also to arrange a meeting with the recently elected Mayor of Birmingham.

Brian is still hoping to get more people who are willing to meet with their MP on Zoom as part of their campaign to 'Reclaim our Common Home' and let our MPs know the feeling of the Catholic community by standing in solidarity with those in developing countries where the pandemic has wrought even more damage and to push for action on climate issues which will form part of G7 and be the focus of COP26. He asked whether asking Matt Western MP to our next meeting might be an option. It was decided to defer the decision on that until after this meeting with Jonathan Chilvers later.

Laudate Si - It is Laudato Si week this week and webinars are available at 12 noon and 6 p.m. each day on subjects such as education and fossil fuels. Jenny had attended today and the speakers were very inspiring. But as a note in the 'chat' said 'How do we get this to parish level? (There is a notice in the weekly newsletter).

Brian has joined with other 'Laudato Si' animators in a writing group and had written an article on 'Laudato Si' Week' that appeared in the online 'Independent Catholic News' www.indcatholicnews.com

Rosary Intention for June

We discussed whether to specify the Israel/Palestine conflict but given that there are still many ongoing conflicts and the need for reconciliation is immense in many areas of the world we decided upon the following:

'We pray for all those engaged in resolving conflicts within and between countries',

Jenny will write to Father Benedict to make him aware of this for his Rosary session.

Jonathan will put in the newsletter.

Saturday Friendship Group at the Way Ahead Project

The numbers are very similar to pre-pandemic now and the average attendance on a Saturday is 10. During the week the numbers amount to around 100 visits per week.

There is still need for food donations as the breakfasts that are given need constant funding for the ingredients.

CAFOD

As we had Sylvester from CAFOD at our meeting he gave us an up to date report:

Walk for Water was very successful and had captured imaginations and raised £800,000, so CAFOD were extremely grateful for this. 2,500 people signed up for the 'walk for water' Challenge. He gave a big 'Thank You'.

CAFOD had already made two transfers of £200,000 to Caritas India for the Indian Coronavirus crisis. We raised the question as to whether the donations were getting through given the difficult issues with transferring money to India following new legislation by the Government there. Sylvester said he would investigate the situation and get back to us.

'Reclaim our common home' - the new campaign which encompasses the climate crisis, unjust debts and other structural issues for developing countries. There is a petition running – Brian has the cards ready and we need to decide when to distribute them at Mass. Rose was asked whether the Young Adults group might be able to do this but she replied that they are rather a small group so it might not be feasible.

Live Simply

There will be a virtual meeting on **9th June at 7p.m.** to discuss what we can take forward with LS. We would be glad to have others join us (please email jenarmstrong@talktalk.net for the zoom link)

In September, as well as the Season of Creation, it is the Leamington Ecofest (4th September) and the Climate Coalition's 'Great Big Green Week' (18th -26th)

Jonathan Chilvers, Green County Councillor for Brunswick Ward, joined the meeting and answered questions on how we can understand and influence decisions on environmental and climate change issues. [See separate notes.](#)

N.B. Next meeting Monday 28th June (note change of date), 7pm for 7.15 start

Reading: Mark 6:1-6 (14th Sunday)

Subsequently: 19th July, 20th September, 18th October, 15th November.