

Justpeace

PAX CHRISTI

International Catholic Movement for Peace

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Patrons for Peacemakers

A significant strand in Pax Christi's work is to reclaim the peace tradition of our culture - whether the nonviolence of the gospel and the early Church, or the peace activism of the First World War. We rightly make much of Franz Jägerstätter, Dorothy Day and Oscar Romero, and, with the canonisation of Pope John XXIII, a new peace saint has been officially recognised. Our Icon, still touring the country, conveys this rich peace spirituality.

Not surprisingly, the anti-militarist features of popular saints are often underplayed. St Francis is beloved for his creation theology and legendary peace prayer. His dialogue with the Sultan and direct intervention to stop the Crusader knights in Egypt is less frequently mentioned. Catherine of Siena defied convention to act as peace envoy between Italian states and the papacy. She reprimanded the Queen of Naples for violent divisions between her subjects.

St Martin, the soldier who famously sliced his cloak in half for a beggar (charity), not so famously became a conscientious objector. Obligated to follow his father into the Roman army, his duties were ceremonial until a battle against 'barbarians' became imminent. Declaring that as a Christian he could not fight, he offered to stand unarmed in front of the troops. The barbarians rapidly reached a truce, sparing Martin to become bishop of Tours and a founder of western monasticism.

St Martin inspired our forebears in PAX. In 1938 they reported that the Flemish Catholic peace movement was holding its fourth international week of prayer for peace. This began on Armistice Day, 11 November, the feast of St Martin the CO, and included the feast of St Albert the Great (15th). The PAX selection of other 'peace' saints is interesting: St Jean-Marie Vianney, a deserter from Napoleon's wars; St Ambrose who denied the Emperor admittance to Milan cathedral on Easter Day because 'your hands reek with blood'; and St Casimir of Poland who refused to fight in an unjust war.

With interest awakened, you discover more stories. From a guide book to Orkney's cathedral I learned about St Magnus.



SAINT TELEMACHUS
PEACE MAKER

Ade Bethune

In a power struggle with his warlike cousin, Magnus forbade his men to defend him and prayed to settle the conflict nonviolently. He offered to go on pilgrimage and never return to Orkney, to be blinded, maimed or imprisoned. His cousin had him killed.

Visiting St Michel de Cuixà (the abbey whose ruins attracted the young Thomas Merton) I saw the carved signature of Abbot Oliba. In the 10th century Oliba established 'the Truce of God' in areas under his jurisdiction. Originally prohibiting acts of war on Sundays, it soon extended across Catalonia and eventually all of Europe - by then reducing violence on 319 days of the year.

What about the more modest achievements of peacemakers amongst us today? Next year Pax Christi will present its peace award to one or two people who you think deserve recognition for their day-to-day peace work. We will be seeking your nominations in the New Year.

Valerie Flessati

Gerry Hughes RIP

With sadness we report of the death of Gerry Hughes. A great friend to Pax Christi for more than thirty years, Gerry gave of his time, energy and creativity to support our movement and many individuals within it. From the mid 1980s Gerry offered his 'retreats for peace people' to individuals and groups. He felt these were important because, "it seems sometimes as if all we've achieved is a shattering of our own peace of mind. So while we look to God for hope and inspiration, we need also to see God in our rage and despair".

In 1987 Gerry walked to Jerusalem to raise funds for Pax Christi, later writing

his book of his experiences. Two of our most popular resources were written by Gerry, Letting the Word Become Flesh, daily reflections for Advent and Show me your Face, daily reflections for Lent which was re-published with SCIAF in 2009.

Since his death we have received tributes to Gerry from members, some saying they 'came to' Pax Christi through Gerry, others reflecting on his humour and his humanity. Gerry's funeral took place at Farm Street on 17 November, he was buried at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales.

Pat Gaffney



Barbara Ward (1914-1981)

One of the few women to appear recently on a British stamp is Barbara Ward. This daughter of a Catholic mother and Quaker father worked behind the scenes among important figures of her time. "You can get a lot done if you don't care who gets the credit," she said.

I have chosen Barbara Ward because she provided the detailed information world leaders and the Church could use to tackle justice and peace issues, environmental concerns and faith and freedom developments. Her peace-making qualities started with her engaging personality, grasp of detail, hard work and humility. David Runnalls, who worked for her for many years, says on Youtube: "She knew everybody. She had a huge coterie of supporters. Influential people listened to her. She didn't tell tales out of school."

She was one of the figures behind the inclusion of justice and peace in the final stages of Vatican II, which led to the setting up of the Pontifical Justice and Peace Commission in January, 1967.

Barbara Ward was born in York in 1941 and educated in Paris and Germany before going up to Oxford. She gained a first class honours degree in a new course: Politics, Philosophy and Economics in 1935. She wrote her first book in 1938 and joined *The Economist* in 1939, where she became the first woman foreign editor. In 1950 she married Robert Jackson who had a distinguished career in the UN.

Her views were considered at a presidential level in the USA from the time she was sent there by the British government to promote the war effort in WWII.

Her best-known book was *The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations*, published in 1962. In the final chapter: *Not by Bread Alone*, she said: "The complacency of the West which limits our ability to understand the needs and hopes of the millions who have not yet found their way into the modern world has its roots in the fact that the West progressed under conditions of maximum convenience, relatively underpopulated, endowed with natural resources."

As the Second Vatican Council proceeded she grew increasingly anxious that the Catholic Church should both



make a statement about tackling world poverty and set up a Commission to put this into effect. As a woman she was not allowed to address the Cardinals on this topic (ten years later she addressed the Synod of Bishops) but her draft recommending such a step was incorporated into Article 90 at the close of the Council. It read: "the Council regards it as most opportune that some agency of the universal Church be set up for the world-wide promotion of justice for the poor and of Christ's love for them. The role of such an organization will be to stimulate the Catholic community to foster progress in needy regions, and social justice on the international scene."

Vatican II finished in September 1965. She and, among others, Cardinal Heenan of Westminster promoted the idea of an agency in the Vatican to promote social justice and development. On 6 January, 1967 the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace was established by Pope Paul. She was the first director of the International Institute for Environment and Development, based in London. She died in 1981.

Veronica Whitty, Pax Christi member, Newcastle

Peacemaking Resources and Actions

Barbara Ward: Her Life and Letters by Jean Gartlan. 2010, Continuum

Two video links here: one where Barbara speaks herself, one with David Runnell interview

www.iied.org/iied-founder-barbara-ward

Peace People who Changed the World by Valerie Flessati & Pat Gaffney.

Mahyew. Price £14.00 from the Pax Christi office.

Advent or Christmas markets. It is not too late to order Pax Christi cards and olive wood goods for markets and parish stalls! Take advantage of the sale or return system and contact Peter Hickey on 0208 203 4884 or orders@paxchristi.org.uk

The Bethlehem Pack. Produced by Amos Trust. Prayers, readings, reflections on what is happening

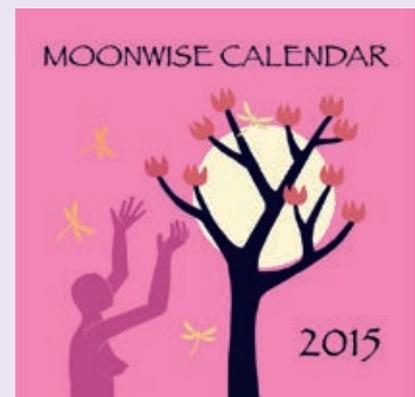
today. www.amostrust.org/resources/free-resource-packs-downloads/the-bethlehem-pack-2014

Advent Reflections produced by Anne O'Connor, Shrewsbury Commission for Justice, Peace and Social responsibility <http://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/resources>

Christmas Cards to prisoners of conscience. Produced by Action by Christians Against Torture. A comprehensive list of prisoners, their contact details and clear guidance on how to send cards and messages. You can contact them at 19 The Square, Knowle Park, Bristol BS4 2ST. Tel: 0117 971 0379 or uk.acat@gmail.com

Moonwise Calendar 2015. Beautifully illustrated by Pax Christi member Maggie Organ and compiled by William

Morris. The months are named after trees, in an amended version of Robert Graves' Irish tree cycle. The calendar aims to 'keep you in touch with natural cycles in the sky, earth and yourself'. Price £13.50 plus £1.50 postage from www.moonwise.co.uk



One Who Laughs at War: Story of a Peacemaker Saint

The first thing that drew me to Anuarite Nengapeta's story was her name: Anuarite means "one who laughs at war". Interestingly, it was not the name given to her at birth, but her sister's name, which became hers through a clerical error at school. Her name, and its meaning, found her.

Anuarite was born in 1936 in Wamba, D.R. Congo. She entered the convent of Holy Family Sisters in Bafwabaka in 1959 and took the name Sr. Marie Clementine. In 1964, the Mulele rebellion broke out and the nuns were loaded into a truck by Simba rebels and taken to Isiro, under guise of protecting them. Anuarite was singled out by one of the rebel leaders, Colonel Ngalo, to be his wife. She refused. Another leader, Colonel Pierre Olombe was called on to help persuade Anuarite. In the process he decided he wanted her for himself and tried to rape her. Anuarite resisted and said she would rather die than break her vow of chastity. She was badly beaten and continued to resist. Between beatings she said to Olombe: "I forgive you for you know not what you are doing." Olombe became infuriated and ordered soldiers to stab Anuarite with their bayonettes. He then shot her in the chest and she died later.

Anuarite's experience is the story of so many women who experience extreme violence, both within the context of war and outside of it. How can a story of attempted rape and acute physical violence be one of peace?

I see in Anuarite's response to her situation the qualities of peacemaker and the spirit of nonviolence. She is centered in a love that enabled her to respond to the man who killed her with compassion and mercy. She is dignified and respectful, recognising Olombe's humanity and human limitations whilst maintaining her own dignity. She is patiently determined in challenging the injustice of what was being done to her. She is rooted in truth, courageous in speaking it and is prepared to absorb suffering rather than recant her truth. In forgiving Olombe she is hopeful and may possibly change him. She also shows an inner peace and acceptance of her truth and destiny.

I am reminded of the Bhagavad Gita: "If you want to see the brave, look for those who can forgive. If you want to see the heroic, look at those who can love in return for hatred."



Anuarite's story shows how, even in the extreme darkness of war and the depths of humanity's capacity for evil, there is light. Anuarite's act of forgiveness and faith during terrible violence has been a deep source of inspiration for her sisters and many of the Congolese people trying to recover from years of suffering. In 1999, she became the first Congolese woman canonised by the Catholic Church. In 2009 the Anuarite Woman of Courage Prize was established to recognize and honour the vital contribution of women to the development of democratic society in the DRC.

With First World War commemorations all around us, it feels more pertinent than ever to delve into our traditions to find alternative narratives; to refashion stories of war to uncover the presence of peace and its makers. The 1st of December this year marks the 50th anniversary of Anuarite's death and offers one such opportunity. What other saints of peacemaking can you identify?

Helen Gilbert, member of Pax Christi Executive Committee

Diary

5 December, Cheltenham

Talk by Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi on war, conflict and the degradation of our planet. Organised by Cheltenham Christian Ecology Link. 7.30, The Old Priory, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3LE

8 December, London

Annual Pax Christi Advent Service and Christmas Market, 7.30, St Aloysius Church, Euston. There will be a rehearsal for singers and players from 6.15 on the night and for singers on 30 November between 2.30 - 4.30 at St Aloysius.

12 December, Birmingham

Archbishop Romero Lecture 2014 with Lord Rowan Williams on the theme 'A saint for the whole people

of God: Romero and the ecumenical future'. 7.00pm, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham B4 6EU

9-11 January 2015, Derbyshire

Refugees Misery or Hope: Christian Aware Annual Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. Book for whole or part of the conference.

More details: barbarabutler@christiansaware.co.uk or www.christiansaware.co.uk

18 January, England and Wales

Pax Christi - Peace Sunday to be celebrated around England and Wales. Resources on website.

24 January, London

Wrap Up Westminster. Mass protest in London against government plans to

spend £100 billion replacing the Trident nuclear weapons system. 1.00pm, Westminster. 'Wrapping' Parliament and the MoD followed by a rally and speakers in Parliament Square. Pax Christi will be taking part. More information www.cnduk.org

18 February, London

Ash Wednesday - annual service of Repentance and Resistance to nuclear war preparations at Ministry of Defence, London.

Check our website Calendar and Members' Report page for more news of events, and do let us have your news!

A busy summer for Pax Christi members

From Operation Protective Edge in Gaza to the ongoing violence in Syria, from air strikes over Iraq and investment in cluster munitions - Pax Christi members have been speaking out: contacting MPs and writing letters, organising vigils, joining a lobby of Parliament and creating times of prayer and fasting for peace. All of this is invaluable in challenging violence as a means of sorting out the problems of our world.

We have heard from MPs that they have never had such a volume of correspondence and petitions for Palestine as they received for the Gaza war this summer, possibly helping to create the climate for the vote in favour of the Recognition of Palestine which took place in October. This vote was also supported by Bishop Declan Lang on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference and Bishop Christopher Cocksworth on behalf of the Church of England Foreign Affairs.

In September we faced the vote on Iraq and at our urging many of you contacted your MP asking that they vote against the air strikes. Forty MPs did vote against this and we have since written to each one, thanking them for their stand, asking that they maintain pressure to prevent 'mission creep' and to challenge the inflammatory language, talk of 'hunting down' and 'degrading' ISIS, being used by both government ministers and the media. We also shared with them the Pax Netherlands briefing on Syria and Iraq. One of the key concerns, in relation to Palestine-Israel, Syria and Iraq is the continued trade in arms to these regions. Responses from the FCO and Mr Cameron to our letters on this have been extremely weak, failing to take any responsibility for the contribution of the arms trade to violence in these areas. It is important that we all maintain pressure on this issue and there is a very practical action noted below.

Our call to pray and fast for peace, which overlapped with the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, generated twenty-four events that we know of in different parts of the country with a marked increase in orders for materials for these events. At the all-day prayer and fast held opposite Downing Street on 2 October we gave away hundreds of leaflets and prayers.



Pax Christi Exec member Paul McGowan has been doing sterling work probing the Coventry Council to look at their pension investment in the arms trade, via companies such as Lockheed Martin. This includes letter-writing, vigils, 'sticker posting' and much more. Paul's experience can be shared perhaps encouraging you to start looking into your own local Council and how/where they invest? Paul would be happy to help and share strategies and approaches. You can read more on the Members News section of the website. Linked with this work Paul has provided material which enabled his MP to table an EDM on pension fund money and cluster munitions. To date twenty five MPs have signed. Invite your MP to sign. Details can be found here <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/376>.

Pat Gaffney

News from the office

Out and about with Pax Christi October - December.

Matt Jeziorski has been to Carmel College (St Helens), Holy Family (Walthamstow), Leighton Park School (Reading), St John's (Marlborough), Our Lady's (Hackney), St George's (Maida Vale), Christ the King: St Mary (Sidcup), Christ the King (Lewisham), All Hallows (Macclesfield), Holy Cross (Bury), Our Lady's (Preston), St Bede's (Lytham), St Richard Gwyn (Flint). Corpus Christi (Preston). Matt has also facilitated a workshop for Preston YCW and ran a school outreach training day (jointly with QPSW) in Manchester.

Pat Gaffney has spoken at/been to English Martyrs confirmation group (Southwark) St Teresa's School and St

Benedict's College (Colchester), St Mary's School (Ascot), Marist School (Sunningdale), Catholic People's Week AGM (Oxford), Kingston Peace Council, Muswell Hill Council of Churches, Cheltenham Christian Ecology Link group.

Peace Sunday 2015

This is your chance to make Pax Christi better known in your parish community. Please take a look at the enclosed order form and resource booklet and see what might be useful to you. All of this material will be posted on our website with the full World Peace Day message when it comes in December. Pax Christi has a lot to offer... we just need to let people know!

Pax Christi International at 70 years.

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of our movement and the World Assembly will be held in Bethlehem from 13-17 May, with talks, workshops, exposure visits around Bethlehem, the awarding of the 2015 Peace Prize and more. It is open to all Pax Christi members. From the British delegation we are considering adding a day or two to this Assembly programme. Costs are not confirmed but we are probably talking in the region of £850 (would include hotel/food/participation fees/some internal travel) without flights. If you would like to have more information please contact Pat Gaffney: coordinator@paxchristi.org.uk