



Powerful witness, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Rev Alan McDonald and Bruce Kent. Faslane 2011.

'Our own Scottish Bishops have often echoed the peace demands of Pope Benedict, and Pope John Paul before him, and I am here to repeat it once more. Here at the gates of Faslane, there is no better place to say that it is not courageous of Britain to have these dreadful weapons of mass destruction. It is shameful to have them. If our government wished to truly be courageous it would unilaterally give up its nuclear deterrent, giving the witness and impetus for other nations to do the same'.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Speech at Faslane, April 2011

... the Church has made clear its growing abhorrence of nuclear weapons. It is now recognized that they are incompatible with the peace we seek for the 21st century. In the 2001 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Conference, the Holy See Delegation stated:

'The most perilous of all the old Cold War assumptions carried into the new age is the belief that the strategy of nuclear deterrence is essential to a nation's security. Maintaining nuclear deterrence into the 21st century will not aid but impede peace. Nuclear deterrence prevents genuine nuclear disarmament. It maintains an unacceptable hegemony over non-nuclear development for the poorest half of the world's population. It is a fundamental obstacle to achieving a new age of global security.

'International law and the Church's Just War principles have always recognized that limitation and proportionality must be respected in warfare. But the very point of a nuclear weapon is to kill massively; the killing and the poisonous radiation cannot be contained (Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Chernobyl are permanent ominous reminders)... I think it is appropriate to restate the position of the Holy See expressed back in 1997, that "If biological weapons, chemical weapons, and now landmines can be done away with, so too can nuclear weapons." This is the challenge before the international community today. It is the challenge before the Church today, and it is the challenge facing all people of goodwill today, believers and non-believers alike'.

Archbishop Francis Chullikat the Holy See's representative at the UN.

Speech given in the USA, July 2011. Full text on the Security and Disarmament page of the Pax Christi website www.paxchristi.org.uk

Office Report

The Pax Christi International family grows

In November Pax Christi USA welcomed Sr Patricia Chappell SND de Namur as their new Executive Director. Sr Patricia comes with experience of anti-racism training and work with the National Black Sisters' Conference as well as leadership work in her own community.

In December 2011, the Executive Committee of Pax Christi International accepted two new member organisations to its international Pax Christi network: first, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Desk of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in Taiwan whose current programme priorities are: peace and ecology, human rights; and the second is El Servicio Paz y Justicia, Serpaj, Chile. Their priorities include the struggle against drugs traffic, rights of children, human rights, disarmament. This brings the total number of member organisations to one hundred and four.

Calling members in the London area

Have you ever considered volunteering at the office? For a few hours

a day or a month? We always have a variety of tasks that need doing such as photo-copying, mailings, dispatching publications, basic computer work, and always welcome extra support. We offer shared lunch with the team, travel costs and a friendly environment. If you are interested contact Fausta on 0208 203 4884

How I can spread the message of peace

A huge thank you to those who responded to this leaflet last year. We have seen a real surge of interest and activity with more members becoming parish contacts for Peace Sunday, running stalls in parishes, passing on materials to schools. This is much appreciated - and needed! Let us know if you would like more copies of this leaflet to pass on to others.

Do you pay by Standing Order?

If so, can you please ensure that you let us know of any changes you made to your mandate. Sometimes discrepancies arise in our records if changes are not communicated to the office.

Keep peace alive. Remember Pax Christi when making or up-dating your will

Please send me information on

Membership Publications Legacy

I enclose a donation of £_____ to support your work

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Return to Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY
Tel: 020 8203 4884 email: info@paxchristi.org.uk www.paxchristi.org.uk

Pax Christi - Our Values

Pax Christi members live by the biblically inspired values of **Peace, Reconciliation, Nonviolence.**

These values are supported by the witness of peacemakers down the ages and the experience of the Pax Christi community. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who are in sympathy with its values and work.

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Justpeace

PAX CHRISTI

International Catholic Movement for Peace

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30 year witness challenging nuclear weapons

When the group Catholic Peace Action began their Low Week Fast against nuclear weapons outside Westminster Cathedral in 1982, supported by members of Pax Christi, little did they know that the actions that arose from this, at the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, would still be taking place in 2012. Bread, ashes, flowers, chains, candles, charcoal, blood, are among the symbols that have been used in liturgies and acts of nonviolent civil disobedience challenging the UK government's nuclear defence policy. Thirty years of faithful persistence that will continue again this year on Ash Wednesday 22 February, supported by Pax Christi, Christian CND and the London Catholic Worker.

Young and old, lay and religious, nurses, retired folk, students, parents, missionaries, academics, doctors, teachers, peace-workers have been among those who have made the deep connection between their own lives, their personal responsibility and nuclear weapons - a connection that for some may have led to court-rooms and prison cells.

The liturgical cycle and special days and anniversaries have been the focal point for these actions. On Martin Luther King Day a group one year attempted to take a large lighted candle into the building - with the message, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". Another year, following a 72-hour fast at both the MoD and Westminster Cathedral, a group presented loaves of bread and flowers to the then Minister of Defence, Michael Heseltine, as an invitation to feed the hungry and bring life rather than death to the world. The most sustained action has been on Ash Wednesday. In 1988 a priest participant preached a homily to his parishioners, setting out his understanding of the witness, "Ash Wednesday is an annual cry for mercy. We use ashes, a potent symbol. We promise to do something to mend our lives. In this matter of nuclear weapons we are not powerless. We can do something... on Ash Wednesday, after celebrating here with you, I will join others in a liturgy at the MoD and attempt to mark the wall with a simple cross in charcoal, or write the word 'Repent'. There will be no violence, no shouting. It will not be a demo, or a picket. It will be a religious act that connects Ash Wednesday with the nerve centre of nuclear war preparations. A small resistance, in the name of Christ."

From Pax Christi Metro New York we read of a similar 30-year journey, again using an established day and traditional liturgical format. Rosemarie Pace describes their Good Friday witness with its theme this year of "Lessons of the Cross: how do I do for others what Jesus is doing for me? How am I called to live in this world?"

It was perhaps easier to mobilise people to action in the 1980s. Still in the time of the cold war, the time of cruise



Resistance and prayer at the MoD.

missiles and Star Wars, there was fulsome reflection and debate on nuclear weapons. Pope John Paul II sent a message to the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament in 1982 stating that nuclear deterrence could not be an acceptable long-term basis for peace but rather a bridge on the way to nuclear disarmament as required under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Tim Duffy in his reflection from Scotland reminds us that in the same year the Bishops' Conference of Scotland wrote of the immorality of the use and threatened use of nuclear weapons. The Church of England produced their *Church and the Bomb: Nuclear weapons and Christian Conscience* while in the US Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen spoke of nuclear war preparations as the global crucifixion of Jesus, while withholding part of his tax in opposition to the nuclear arms race. 1983 saw the publication of the influential *The Challenge of Peace: God's promise and our response*, from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the US.

The reflection, campaigning and action continue - you can find out more inside. Our challenge is to find ways of communicating both the urgency and the possibility of nuclear disarmament today! If you have your own thoughts on how Pax Christi might best approach this do share them with us.

Pat Gaffney, General Secretary

News from the US and Scotland

Lessons of the Cross - Good Friday in New York

In New York City on Good Friday one of the largest Stations of the Cross occurs as a public procession which, in 1983, gave birth to Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY). At that time, over 600 joined the Peace Walk across the entire width of Manhattan from the United Nations to the U.S.S. Intrepid. They prayed the traditional 14 Stations, sang Lenten hymns, and heard the words of such modern-day prophets as Dag Hammarskjöld, Edith Stein, Dietrich Bonhöffer, and Thomas Merton. Each stop was a significant location, whether economic, social, or military, and, after the last Station, several participants engaged in civil disobedience at the Riverside Research Institute, a think tank for "Star Wars" development.

In 2012, about the same number of people will again gather for the 30th consecutive Good Friday Way of the Cross organized by PCMNY and now co-sponsored by over 40 religious congregations, organizations, and parishes. People of all ages, races and nationalities, who truly represent the full spectrum of humanity, the church incarnate, the people of God, will follow in Jesus' footsteps.

The overriding theme will be "Lessons of the Cross: how do I do for others what Jesus is doing for me? How am I called to live in this world?" Reflections and prayers prepared by 15 different Pax Christi groups link the scripture readings to questions at each Station, such as: How do I speak truth to power? How do I forgive and reconcile with those who hurt me?

We distribute fliers to explain what we're doing. Passers-by vary from those who seem annoyed because we're in their way, or don't like our message, to others who are curious or show interest, compliment our music and witness, ask for our booklet, or even join us for a while.

The Community Affairs detective in charge has known us for most of the 30 years. He loves us and the event. Other officers seem to respect us, but the ordinary cops on the beat are harder to read. Some talk during the Stations, ignore us and, frankly, sometimes annoy us, because they're a distraction.

We used to get better press coverage. Nowadays it might be a photo in a paper or a film clip (for the TV video collage of Good Friday services) that doesn't necessarily identify anyone.



Good Friday procession in New York

Practical arrangements? Our event starts at 8.30am and ends around noon to allow people to get to the 3pm service in their parishes, if they wish. We use a flatbed truck as our stage, which is driven from stop to stop. On the flatbed we have musicians and a sound engineer with a complete sound system. (We get a permit to amplify the Stations.)

We start near the United Nations (also near the Sudanese Mission to the UN) and later stop near the Nigerian Mission, lots of shops, in front of Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company, Grand Central Station and the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the main branch of the NY Public Library and Bryant Park, Times Square (where there's a military recruiting station), and the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Coincidentally (or not) we start from Holy Family Church and end near Holy Cross Church. However the PCMNY Way of the Cross does not end with death but with a 15th Station in anticipation of Jesus' Resurrection. We hear the message of an angel to the women: "Don't be afraid... Go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead." We too must go forth, living the "Lessons of the Cross".

Resources for peacemaking

Lenten reflection/study on Trident produced by Scottish Clergy Against Nuclear Arms (www.scana.org.uk) On this site you can also find full texts of speeches given by Church leaders at the Faslane nuclear base on Scotland. (See diary 31 March 2012)

ICAN UK (www.icanw.org.uk) of which Pax Christi is a member, was set up to raise awareness of the need for a nuclear weapons abolition treaty and works to promote a nuclear weapons convention and produce educational resources. The website has useful facts and figures as well as short video presentations that could be used with groups or in schools. The latest video is:

Why Fees Cost a Bomb (www.feescostabomb.org.uk) This is a very useful resource looking at

the opportunity costs of nuclear weapons or education, social projects etc. It includes an invitation to a students to enter a competition to communicate a message that education rather than Trident should be the priority! A project of ICAN, CND and CAAT.

Nuclear Information Service (nuclearinfo.org/view/more/about) works to promote public awareness and foster debate on nuclear disarmament. Has information on government policy, what is happening at the Atomic Weapons Establishments in Aldermaston and Burghfield, and up-dates on Trident and other nuclear developments.

The Drone Wars Briefing by Chris Cole. Published by Drones Wars UK, this excellent briefing explores some of the key issues arising from the growing use

of armed unmanned drones in a detailed, accessible way. Available from Drone Wars UK, 20 Wilkins Road, Oxford OX4 2HX. Price £3.00

Elements of Peace is a new youth work resource from Pax Christi. It is a collection of mini-workshops, activities and reflections designed to introduce young people to key themes in Christian peace-making. These activities are perfect for a confirmation programme, RE lesson, parish youth project or group where young people are looking to explore and deepen their faith. Price £2.00 per set. Can also be downloaded from the Education for Peace page of our website www.paxchristi.org.uk

Why does the UK need to be involved in this at all? The answer, of course, is that it doesn't, any more than it needs Trident or Supercarriers. The problem is how to break free of the system that makes them so attractive. All of these programmes are furtive, to say the least, so more awareness is the first step. They also create work for highly-skilled technicians. The Church could legitimately raise questions of individual morality. The 'study of war', as Isaiah put it, is still with us.

Raise the issues with MPs - they don't always know what is going on. Keep an eye on developments - the internet can help greatly. See Web Resources

Rosemarie Pace, Director of Pax Christi Metro New York.

Scotland and the UK's policy of nuclear deterrence

The thousand-year relationship between England and Scotland has not always been peaceable. In 1745, when Jacobite forces reached Derby, the pro-Hanoverian audience in theatres in London added a verse to their new national anthem: May he sedition hush, /and like a torrent crush, /Rebellious Scots to crush, /God save the King.

For the last fifty years Scotland has been at the fore of the UK's policy of nuclear deterrence: first hosting the US submarines at Holy Loch; and latterly maintaining the UK submarine deterrent in the Faslane base on the River Clyde. During the Cold War, this made 70% of Scotland's population a nuclear target.

In the 1980s, at the height of European nuclear deployment, the Vatican temporised at the UN with an acceptance of deterrence as a step on the road to disarmament. This policy, rooted in ethical proportionalism, was frankly disingenuous in the face of existing and aspiring nuclear powers which were never going to disarm.

In 1982, the Scottish Bishops' Conference issued a pastoral letter (reaffirmed in 2007) whose central contention was that 'if it is immoral to use these weapons it is also immoral to threaten their

use.' This is consistent with Vatican II (*Gaudium et Spes*, n80), a teaching which most Episcopal conferences either side lined or disregarded; and which the Vatican has only fully emphasised in the last 15 years.

Polls taken in recent years suggest that two thirds or more of Scots are consistently opposed to UK nuclear policy. The UK press is interested in Scotland's future, not least in defence terms. An article on prospects for an independent Scotland by Hamish McDonnell entitled 'Bye Bye England...' appeared in early December in *The Independent*. At the last time of looking this attracted 5157 comments. A more recent article on Alec Salmond by Jonathan Freedland in *The Guardian* attracted almost 1700 comments. Very few articles elicit this level of response, even if much of it is less than sympathetic to Scotland.

Further constitutional change is inevitable in Scotland in the near future, not excluding independence, or more properly an end to the Treaty of Union of 1707. This could make room for ditching the old post-imperial notions of defence which only serve the wealthy and powerful; and to develop an existing strand of nonviolent conflict resolution which would be more appropriate than militarism for a small country.

The current SNP government is opposed to Trident and is open to alternatives to NATO membership. The culture, however, remains militaristic, with its economic and political requirements, tinged with a persistent and dangerous nostalgia for regimental glory. National superiority is an infantile delusion that will always require force. We are all ultimately citizens of one kingdom - the kingdom of God. This does not preclude taking pride in where we live. Rather it encourages us to find the right level of government (subsidiarity) for the flourishing of human dignity and the common good; the peace of shalom and of Christ - life in all its fullness.

Tim Duffy, Research & Development Officer, Justice & Peace Scotland

Find out more here www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Diary

22 February (Ash Wednesday) National
An annual liturgy and witness of Repentance and Resistance to nuclear war preparations will take place at the Ministry of Defence, London and other military sites. Confirm time with the office.

10 March (Sat) Bristol
'Treasure in the Field - Spiritual capital and sustainable living'. With Jonathon Porritt (Forum for the Future) and Tim Gorrington (Professor of Theology, Exeter University). St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PD (Bristol Parkway Station). Bookings: £15 / £5 under 25 / £10 CEL members 0845 459 8460 or bookings@christian-ecology.org.uk

10 March (Sat) London
'Practical Engagement in Justice & Peace' - for anyone who is, or wants to be, involved in a parish. Workshops on campaigns, Catholic Social Teaching, Live Simply and poverty. 9.30 - 3.30 pm in Amigo Hall, Southwark Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road SE1. Organised by J & P Westminster, Brentwood and Southwark.

15 March (Thurs) London
'Peace in my lifetime: wars, terrorism and violence. Getting rid of war addiction and drones'. Half day conference 3 - 9 pm. Venue: Euston Hilton Hotel, Upper Woburn Place WC1. Details: www.unitingforpeace.com

17 March (Sat) London
'Archbishop Oscar Romero: utterly radical and utterly orthodox; a saint for the 21st century'. Study day with Julian Filochowski and Michael Campbell Johnston SJ. 11 - 4.30 pm at the Jesuit Centre, Mount Street W1

24 March (Sat) London
Ecumenical service in memory of Archbishop Romero. 11 am at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. Peter Price, Anglican Bishop of Bath and Wells will give the address.

31 March (Sat) Faslane, Scotland
Easter Witness for Peace. Short act of worship, speakers including Very Rev Alan McDonald, Bruce Kent and Kathy Galloway. From noon - open to all. Organised by Scottish Clergy Against Nuclear Arms.

15 May (Tues) International Conscientious Objectors Day
<http://www.wri-irg.org/co/15may.htm>

19 May (Sat) Bristol
Pax Christi Annual General Meeting. Open to all. 10.30 - 4.00pm at St Nicholas of Tolentino Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE. Speaker, Oliver McTernan, co-founder and CEO of Forward Thinking, An organisation set up to promote a more inclusive peace process in the Middle East and to facilitate a global dialogue between the religious and secular worlds.

3 June (Sun) National
CAAT Christian Network - Arms Trade day of Prayer. Linked to 4th June International Day for Children as Victims of War. More info: www.caat.org.uk

If you want to organise a local event the Pax Christi Peace Planner (<http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/map1.php>) can suggest significant dates to choose and what focus to give it.