

To advertise in *The Catholic Universe* contact **Andrea Black** on 0161 820 5722 or email [andrea.black@thecatholicuniverse.com](mailto:andrea.black@thecatholicuniverse.com)

# Assistant to St Teresa of Calcutta dies after alleged Swansea attack

A charity worker who was an assistant to St Teresa of Calcutta has died from injuries sustained after he was allegedly attacked in Swansea city centre.

Mark Bloomfield, 54, was found injured in High Street in Swansea city centre on Thursday 18th July following an incident which led to one man being charged with causing grievous bodily harm.

Last week the family of Mr Bloomfield, originally from Stratford Upon Avon, paid tribute to his charity work across the world, which included working for famous nun and missionary St Teresa of Calcutta, also known as Mother Teresa, in India.

The tribute said: 'Mark Bloomfield built a legacy that will continue to live on in the countless lives that he encountered.'

As special assistant to Mother Teresa in Calcutta, he was an essential contributor to her mission and to those she cared for.

'In India, he organised free cataract surgery camps and founded schools

that gave rare access to education for girls. In Africa, he helped preserve wild game by introducing ultralight aircraft to combat the onslaught of poachers.

'He will be remembered for all of this and more by his mother and three siblings.'

The family said Mr Bloomfield, who died in hospital on Saturday 20th July, would continue to have an impact on others' lives as a registered organ donor.

South Wales Police are investigating the incident linked to his death near the Full Moon pub on Swansea's High Street on Thursday 18th June at around 3pm, and are appealing to the public for more information.

Colin Thomas Payne, 61, from Swansea, is currently remanded in custody having been charged with causing grievous bodily harm.

A 21-year-old man and a 50-year-old woman were both arrested in connection with the matter and are currently released under investigation.

Detective Chief Inspector Darren George said: "My sincere condolences are passed to Mr Bloomfield's family, after he sadly passed away as a result of his injuries.

"A major incident room has been set up at Cockett Police Station and I am keen to hear from anyone who was inside the Full Moon Public House on High Street, Swansea, between 11.30am and 3.15pm on Thursday 18th July, and who may have witnessed an altercation taking place.

"I am also keen to hear from anyone who was on High Street later in the day, between 2pm and 3.15pm, who may have witnessed an incident outside the Full Moon Public House.

Anyone with dashcam, mobile phone or CCTV footage from High Street, between 1pm and 3.15pm, is also urged to contact us.

"No matter how insignificant your information or content may seem, please do come forward as it could make all the difference to the investigation and to the victim's family."



Photo: CNS/Nancy Wiechec

## Protect us from poverty, PM urged

**Nick Benson**

Boris Johnson has been urged to protect all of society from poverty and end the five-week wait for Universal Credit.

The Trussell Trust, which supports a nationwide network of food banks across the UK, has called on the new Prime Minister to commit to his promise of putting the poorest first.

"During the leadership campaign Boris Johnson told us 'the poorest come first'. As our Prime Minister, he now has an opportunity to put those words into action and create a new vision for our country – one that unlocks people from poverty and protects us all from needing a food bank," said Emma Revie, the Trussell Trust's chief executive.

"In particular, we need Universal Credit to be the poverty-fighting reform that was intended," said Ms Revie. "The most urgent problem to address is the five-week wait for Universal Credit. More and more people are being pushed to the doors of food banks while waiting for a first payment.

"Our new Prime Minister can change this by ending the wait. At the heart of any plan for our country's future must be a commitment to protect all of us from poverty."

# Christian Peace Organisations network in call for global peace

**Nick Benson**

Pax Christi – the international Catholic movement for peace – has urged Boris Johnson to prioritise peace.

The call comes as members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, including Pax Christi, have written an open letter urging the new government to work to ensure a peaceful resolution to the current tensions with Iran, as well as seeking security throughout the United Kingdom as Brexit discussions continue.

Theresa Alessandro, director of Pax Christi, noted that the movement has been following the process of the election of Boris Johnson as the new Tory leader and Prime Minister "with interest".

"Our interest is in what his appointment can mean for the work of peace," Ms Alessandro told *The Catholic Universe*.

"Pax Christi is the movement for peace in the Catholic Church but much of our work is carried out in collaboration with faith-based and secular peace networks where we share common values of peace based on justice, reconciliation and nonviolence. The Network of Christian Peace Organisations is one such network. We also work internationally. Through Pax Christi International we have a voice at the United Nations, the African Union and the Council of Europe.

"We are aware of increased divisions, uncertainty and poverty here in the UK, alongside serious concern for the climate," Ms Alessandro continued.

"Often our international relationships seem to have been characterised



by violence or threats of violence. The risk of nuclear weapon use is reported by the UN to have increased to the highest level for generations.

"As part of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, Pax Christi has written to Boris Johnson inviting him to prioritise peace from the beginning of his time of leadership.

"The principles of justice, reconciliation and nonviolence seem more fitting than ever."

The letter, co-ordinated by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, calls on Mr Johnson to 'prioritise the work of authentic peace'.

In the letter the groups warn the new Prime Minister that 'communities are being fragmented by financial hardship and political uncertainty'. They also point out that as Iran continues to hold a British oil tanker in the gulf and tensions between the United States and Iran continue to escalate, there is an increasing chance that Britain could be drawn in to further conflict in the Middle East with

disastrous consequences, which could see the UK 'stumbling into another war'.

'All the while, unresolved questions around Brexit continue to threaten a peace so painstakingly built in Northern Ireland,' they continue, adding that it opens up wider questions about how security is currently defined both collectively and internationally.

'As the tensions with Iran clearly demonstrate, the need for continued diplomatic efforts to control and reduce the spread of nuclear weapons will continue to need constant attention,' they write.

'As you lay out your agenda for the coming weeks, we ask that you prioritise the work of authentic peace. One built on justice and reconciliation. We ask that you seek peace by peaceful means, prioritising respectful dialogue, the use of international systems and networks and the measured and thoughtful deployment of negotiators and mediators.

'Then ensure you give sufficient time and attention for these approaches to make a difference.'

Speaking on Wednesday 24th July, John Cooper, director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation said: "As the new Prime Minister takes office this afternoon we pray for the wisdom, strength and courage to seek peaceful solutions to the problems our country faces.

"We believe there is a different way of conducting international relations, focussing on bringing people together and dialogue rather than conflict and division. We encourage the Prime Minister to provide this leadership."

**THIS WOMAN'S ONLY CRIME WAS CONFESSING CHRIST**

**Across Pakistan Christian women are raped, thrown out of their homes and accused of blasphemy for refusing to abandon their Christian Faith. Please help them. ACN is providing legal and emergency help for women jailed for their Faith in Jesus Christ.**

A registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and Scotland (SC040748)

**Aid to the Church in Need**  
12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA  
☎ 020 8642 8668 | [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org) | [acn@acnuk.org](mailto:acn@acnuk.org)

Rev/Sr/Mr/Mrs/Miss .....  
Address: .....  
.....Postcode: .....

**I enclose  £100  £50  £25  Other £.....  
to help suffering Christians in Pakistan.**

*giftaid it* Please send me information about gift aiding my donation and/or setting up a Standing Order

I enclose a cheque to Aid to the Church in Need **OR** please debit my VISA/MasterCard/Amex/Maestro \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: ...../..... Valid From Date: ...../..... Issue No: ..... (Maestro)

CVV (last block of digits): \_\_\_\_ ( ) Signature: .....

A19P2UN3