

July—
August
2009



Swindon Catholic Deanery Justice & Peace Group Newsletter

Chair: Julia Starczewski

Website: www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk/J+PGroup.htm

Upcoming Events:

Racial Justice Sunday

Sunday 13th September

Theme: "Who do you say I am?"
Mark 8:29

StandUp Against Poverty

Fri 16th—Sun 18th October

A follow-on from the Make Poverty History campaign. Stand up in assembly or Masses and simply read out the six Promises to the Poor. Register in advance so numbers can be counted towards a possible Guinness World Record. Details at www.just1.org.uk

BUPA Great South Run

Sun 25th October, Portsmouth

Join Team CAFOD in running 10 miles and fundraising to make a difference to the lives of some of the world's poorest people. Contact Helen Hinde on 0207 095 5333 or hhinde@cafod.org.uk by Aug 24th.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Students at St Joseph's College have sold well over £5000 worth of Fairtrade products during this Academic Year, and £500 has gone to the Subanen Project in the Philippines.

Deanery J&P Contacts:

Fr Liam Slattery, 01793-535089
Email: Toveyroad@aol.com

- **Holy Rood**
Julia Starczewski (Chair)
Noreen Bint (CAFOD Rep)
- **Holy Family**
Jean Roberts (CAFOD Rep)
- **St Thomas More, Marlborough**
Matthew Devlin (CAFOD Rep)
- **St Joseph's, Wroughton**
Steve Aftelak
- **St Mary's**
Frank Buchanan
Roger Dyson (CAFOD Rep)
Chris Topham
- **St Peter's**
Elizabeth & Robert Barrett
John Bennett (CAFOD Rep)
Clare-Marie Burchall
Louise Burke
Gitti & Eric Hayes
Hugo James

Deanery CAFOD Representative:

Mark Donovan, 01793-522709

Next J&P Group meetings:

1st Tuesday each month: next meetings on 1st Sept, 6th Oct, & 3rd Nov at Tovey Road Presbytery, 7:30-9:00pm.

"Look around you, you are the Church"

By Ozzie ffield



The Feast of Corpus Christi saw a wonderful celebration of diversity in our diocese and country, combining the Clifton celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) with the annual International Mass at St Peter's in West Swindon.

The pivotal moment came when Bishop Declan said, at the start of his homily, "Don't look at me; look around you, come on! You are the Church. You are the Body of Christ, you people who come from all corners of the world." There were about 300 people in the congregation, many in national dress. During Mass each national group took responsibility for singing a part, such as the Offertory, in their own cultural style.

"Wherever I go in the world, the Catholic Church is the place where I will find friends among strangers."



Prior to the Mass, there were workshops on asylum seekers and refugees, new migrants, national identity and cohesion, and song and dance from different cultures. Bishop Declan moved among people listening to their experiences. There were harrowing tales of injustice suffered by asylum seekers. One participant said: "The conclusion I came to was there is too much misunderstanding. So each of us has to do more to step over barriers and engage with people and cultures that we are unfamiliar with. It is a challenge. How can parishes assist in this process?"

The music workshop involved eight groups sharing what they play at their liturgies. I was moved by the insights that came from the singers and musicians.

CARJ has been raising consciousness about diversity among Catholics and promoting support for disadvantaged communities for 25 years.

**CARJ:
The
Changing
Face
of
Britain**



CAFOD's 20 years in Clifton



St Catherine's school choir at the CAFOD anniversary event.

CAFOD celebrated 20 years in the Clifton Diocese on June 4th by holding a celebration at St. Catherine's Primary School in Swindon. The school choir was there to wow the audience with their voices and songs inspired by the CAFOD theme 'live simply to simply live'. Congratulations CAFOD on 20 great years!