



LIVE SIMPLY CARE DEEPLY

We are now able to share more details about this upcoming event and we invite all parishes to come and find out more about an award scheme with something for everyone in your parish to bring Hope in this Jubilee Year

A day to inspire renewal of everyone in your parish through living more simply, more sustainably, and in solidarity with those experiencing poverty.

All are invited to join this day to find out more about this inspirational award scheme which, through its flexibility, allows parishes to bring together individuals and parish groups to work together towards some common goals and to integrate the work they do into the liturgical life of the parish.

In the Leeds Diocese there are 5 parishes & one school that have obtained this award – wouldn't it be great to have more? . People from these parishes will be there so you will have the opportunity to find out what other parishes have done as part of this scheme and to think about what sort of things might work in your parish.

We're delighted that Christine Allen, CAFOD director, will be with us for this event. There will be a couple of short inputs but the day will mainly be workshop-based so attendees can actively participate and leave with their heads buzzing with ideas and clear actions to take back to their parish.

Wheeler Hall is joined to Leeds Cathedral with an entrance on St Ann's Street. It's less than a 10 min walk from Leeds City station. Parking is available in any of the city centre car parks.

Live Simply - Care Deeply
An award scheme with something for everyone in your parish to bring Hope in this Jubilee Year

Saturday 03 May 2025
10:30 - 3:30pm @ Wheeler Hall
Leeds Cathedral

A day to inspire renewal of everyone in your parish through

- living more simply,
- more sustainably, and
- in solidarity with those experiencing poverty

Use the QR code to find out more or go to the J&P website
www.leedsjp.org.uk

This day is organised by the SPARK Social Justice and Leeds Diocesan J&P Commission in partnership with existing LiveSimply parishes, CAFOD and with the endorsement of the SVP and Caritas Leeds.

SPARK SOCIAL JUSTICE
Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission
For the Common Good in our Common Home

SVP

Catholic Care
Caritas Leeds

CAFOD

The venue is fully accessible.

We'll provide hot drinks. Lunch will be a shared buffet so (if your dietary requirement allow it) please bring something to share which doesn't need to be heated up.

This day is free to attend but there will be a voluntary collection taken during the day to help defray the costs of putting it on.

This day is organised by SPARK Social Justice and the Leeds Diocesan J&P Commission in partnership with existing LiveSimply parishes, CAFOD and with the endorsement of the SVP and Caritas Leeds.

Use this link to find out more and register to attend:

[Live Simply - Care Deeply Tickets, Sat, May 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



EXCAVATING HOPE: THE 2025 ROMERO LECTURE

By Kathy Shaw, SPARK Project Manager

Presented in the Leeds Diocese by SPARK Social Justice working in partnership with Leeds Trinity University



Fr Luis Orlando Pérez Jiménez, who was introduced by Julian Filochowski, Chair of the Archbishop Romero Trust

Fr Luis Orlando Pérez Jiménez is a Jesuit priest from Mexico and has vast experience of work in the field of human rights in Latin America. He worked as a lawyer at the Human Rights Centre in Mexico City and his work with the Jesuit-run Centre exposed him to the plight of thousands of mothers who had lost their children because of forced disappearances and extra-judicial killings committed by Mexican military forces and organised crime. Now a doctoral student at the University College London Institute of the Americas, Fr Luis is researching these grave human rights violations, which have claimed over 100,000 victims in Mexico, and the culture of impunity surrounding it.

The title of the lecture “Excavating Hope” reflects the desperate and dangerous work

undertaken by 240 networks of mainly women across Mexico who are seeking answers and hoping to find the bodies of their loved ones. They connect locally and regionally to share information and support, building a community in the face of great challenges. This high-risk activism can and does result in threats and on occasion the risk of death. Simply being seen to support the search for the “disappeared” can be enough to bring consequences from organised crime, or corrupt government and police officials.

Fr Luis spoke powerfully of faith, hope and love. The critical connections and relationships sustaining these 2000 women searching for their loved ones, should be mirrored in our experiences of Church, “relationships are the key, if you don’t connect with someone, where is the reason to come back?”

Oscar Romero brings an inspiration of collective action through a united community, as a “a Prophet of Hope”. Fr Luis spoke about Oscar Romero, a privileged Archbishop who could have stepped back from the atrocities he witnessed but instead was inspired to action by the community he served. Fr Luis described his own experiences and the inspiration he has through his faith and through being with people who had few material benefits but were determined to fight for their rights. He challenged us to be part of the solution, “be a witness” and in doing so “to encounter God, the source of our hope”.

Rev'd Jon Swales read his poem at the event echoing the key themes of the evening.



He is an ordained Priest in the Church of England and founder of Lighthouse West Yorkshire, a church community with a special focus on those struggling with addiction and mental health issues in Leeds. Set up in 2014, Lighthouse now supports over a hundred people with multiple and complex needs, working closely with both St George's Church and St George's Crypt. Jon was recognised in the 2022 New Year's Honours and was awarded an MBE for services to the city, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

You can read John's poem by viewing the online version of this article:

[21 Mar – Oscar Romero Lecture – Diocese of Leeds: Justice and Peace Commission](#)



One of the people attending was *Cath Mahoney from the Holy Rosary church community in Chapeltown*. She reflects on the points in Fr. Luis Orlando's lecture that particularly struck her:

He started by telling us about the day he went into the Jesuit Noviciate in Mexico and was confronted by a series of photographs of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the 6 Jesuit priests and the 2 women who were murdered by the Salvadoran army at the university in San Salvador in the 1980s and others who had been murdered because of their stand for justice. They were all martyred. For him, this

was a very striking and sobering realisation. The context in Mexico is one where organised criminal gangs operate drugs smuggling and human trafficking and where gang related murders are commonplace.

Fr Luis spoke about his support for the movement of Mexican women who are searching for the bodies of their 'disappeared' children (almost all sons). They search for places where bodies have been buried, and excavate these graves to find and identify the human remains in the hope that they can be returned to their loved ones for a respectful funeral and a known resting place. The women literally excavate 'hope'. He communicated and shared his admiration and respect for these ordinary women and their extraordinary courage and commitment in the face of the loss of their children. The mothers find their courage and hope in the support and solidarity that they experience from and with other mothers. They have formed strong networks across Mexico, sharing information and intelligence through WhatsApp groups. Local groups of women meet and talk, sing and pray together, their faith sustaining them for their work. Fr Luis said that the women are especially devoted to Our Lady of Guadeloupe. A representative of the women met Pope Francis in Rome and this encounter highlighted their work to the Mexican Bishops.

The mothers are searching for 'the lost sheep' that Jesus spoke about in the parable and Fr Luis hears the people as God's voice and sees God at work through these women.

I was left full of admiration and sorrow for these women, but wondering what hope there is for a Mexico (and wider world) where violence is not the only occupation open to young men and where mothers are not driven to dig the earth to find their murdered sons.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND ACT OF REPENTANCE

By Carol Burns, Leeds Diocese Pax Christi

Although there has been a Pax Christi Ash Wednesday Service in London for over 30 years, 2025 was the first time we have organised one in Leeds.

We gathered outside Holy Trinity Church on Boar Lane as a public witness to our commitment to ending the possession of nuclear weapons.



We prayed for our leaders, and ourselves to do everything we can to end nuclear war preparations and to give priority to those most disadvantaged in our world.

We are inspired by Pope Francis in 2023 in his 'Urbi et Orbi' message when he said 'To say yes to the Prince of Peace, then, means saying no to war, to every war and to do so with courage, to the very mindset of war, an aimless voyage, a defeat without victors and inexcusable folly'.

Our service included a time for repentance, a time for remembrance and those present tied purple ribbons to a wooden cross as a symbol of all those affected by conflicts throughout the world.



We remembered those in Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of Congo and many others throughout the world. It was encouraging to be joined by young people from Corpus Christi Catholic College who held our banners including one that proclaimed 'Say Yes to Peace and No to War'. Our service ended with singing Ubi Caritas and a sign of peace to each other.

DO MORE

If you are interested in organising your own service then get some ideas by using the link below to download the service leaflet used.

https://www.leedsjp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ash_wednesday_Leeds-2025-v-3.docx



SOCIAL JUSTICE WITH SIXTH FORMERS

by Notre Dame Social Justice Group

On Wednesday 19th March, Kathy from [SPARK](#) visited our Social Justice Group to support the group to develop ideas and events based on local issues.



SPARK is a faith informed social justice group for people aged 18-30 in the Yorkshire area and it supports younger Catholics with taking action on the issues that they care about.

The SPARK project is currently looking to branch out into supporting students aged 16-18 and their visit to Notre Dame was the first time meeting with students of this age group.

Kathy discussed previous events SPARK have run in Leeds, opportunities that are open to our students, and helped the Social Justice Group narrow down events that they would like to be involved in.



Members of the Notre Dame Social Justice Group (with lead teacher for the group, Kat Laycock and Kathy lurking in the background!)

Following this, the Social Justice Group are now organising an event that will run later this year, to showcase local issues that impact Notre Dame students and ways we can help.

Kathy Shaw, SPARK manager, says

"As part of the new SPARK Pipeline Project, this week we met the Social Justice group at Notre Dame Sixth Form College looking at exciting ways to include the age group 16 to 18 years.

The Social Justice group are interested in organising a marketplace event and future leadership activities, with a focus on their particular interest of poverty in the UK.

Working closely with key staff, Kat Laycock, and Notre Dame Chaplaincy, we are listening to what these group members want to achieve and finding ways to support their passion for social justice."

Watch this space for a Social Justice event soon!

Huge thank you to our Lay Chaplain, Anne Merry, who organised this event to support

To find out more about the SPARK Social Justice Project see their website

<https://sparksocialjustice.org.uk/wp/>

If your parish or school is interested in finding out more then email Kathy directly

sparks.jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

the group.



RE-DEDICATION OF BR GUY JARROSSON'S (1926 – 2013) GRAVESTONE)

By Joe Burns, Commission Member

Br Guy Jarrosson, a long time supporter of J&P in the Leeds Diocese, was a Little Brother of Jesus of St. Charles de Foucault. For many years he and his fellow brother, Xavier, lived in a house in Wortley. Their vocation called them to serve God amongst working people. Xavier had skills in woodwork and Br Guy worked at Yorkshire Chemicals on Kirkstall road in Leeds (now demolished). For a number of years he was a union shop steward.

From the start of the Commission in 1973, Br Guy was involved. He spent many years as a Commission member. During the 1980s he

was lead person in a group examining the world of work and issues of justice in the workplace. He was also part of a working group that sought to understand and promote a greater understanding of the injustices suffered by Catholics in Northern Ireland. He continued to support the Commission's work until his death in 2013.

His gravestone had become eroded to the point where it was unreadable. Friends paid for a more sturdy replacement and a short re-dedication service was held on 20 February, attended by J&P supporters and members of the local parish (Holy Family) who remembered him. We were delighted that Br. Xavier was able to come across from Lille (where he now lives) and join everyone for this event.



Old friends and J&P supporters gather round the new gravestone for prayers led by Fr Neil Byrne and Fr Peter Rosser

CLIMATE BREAKDOWN AND THE MILITARY

by Tim Devereux

Tim is a member of the Leeds Diocese pax Christi group and has recently stood down as chair of MAW (The Movement for the Abolition of War).



It was Bruce Kent who first got me involved in the war/climate breakdown issue. I had been a member of CND and Pax Christi since the 70s, and Bruce recruited me to the Movement for the Abolition of War committee. One of MAW's campaigns is Climate Change and Military Emissions – we've made a DVD about it! (available for loan from the J&P office)

How does war contribute to climate change?

"The elephant in the kitchen when it comes to Climate Change is clearly the world's military. The world spends something like 2 trillion US dollars a year on its military. At least half of that vast sum goes on military production with a massive CO2 output. The military are both a major cause of climate change and hence, of the conflicts which result from the movement of peoples as deserts spread." Bruce Kent

The trouble is, much of this is not reported - US negotiators managed to exclude military greenhouse gas emissions at the 1997 Kyoto climate conference. In Paris 2015, it was agreed that countries no longer have automatic exemption but neither are they obliged to declare military emissions. As Mark Carney remarked, "What gets measured gets managed" Disclosure is only the first step towards the real goal: reduction of these emissions.

How does climate change cause war?

The example of Syria illustrates this all too forcefully.

"Before the [Syrian Civil] war began, an extraordinary drought caused 75% of Syria's farms to fail and 85% of livestock to die

between 2006 and 2011", according to the United Nations. That drought also triggered a wave of migrants searching for jobs in urban areas, spreading instability throughout the country... The war has killed around half a million people, and displaced around 11 million others. It has utterly destroyed the country's infrastructure"

Climate breakdown refugees will be a big problem.

"Over the past 10 years, weather-related disasters have caused 220 million internal displacements – approximately 60,000 displacements per day. By 2040, the number of countries facing extreme climate-related hazards is expected to rise from three to 65, the majority of which are hosting displaced populations."







GET MORE INVOLVED

- Join MAW
- Join Pax Christi
- Join the National Justice and Peace Network
- Sign up for the Columban newsletter Vocation for Justice

Sometimes, we can't see the way to our destination and are beset by difficulties, but if we can just keep going, we'll get there!!



EVENTS

 Fri 04 Apr	<p>West Yorkshire Citizens AGM <i>Dixons Trinity Academy, Trinity Road, Bradford BD5 0BE 3:30pm – 5pm</i> Join Citizens as they reflect on a year of organising in the region, hearing stories from different Citizens members running campaigns across West Yorkshire. The J&P Commission are a member organisation so any J&P supporters are welcome to go along.</p>
 Tue 15 Apr	<p>Zoom J&P Stations of the Cross for Holy Week <i>Online via Zoom</i> An opportunity to join with others online in reflections on the Way of the Cross and how we continue to crucify Jesus in today’s world, instead of taking Him down from the cross. See the details on our website www.leedsjp.org.uk to find out the link.</p>
 Sat 03 May	<p>Live Simply Care Deeply. <i>Wheeler Hall, St.Anne’s Street Leeds LS2 8BE 10:30 – 3:30pm</i> A day to inspire your parish to commit to the Live Simply programme and live more simply, more sustainably, and in solidarity with those experiencing poverty. Use this link to find out more and to book a place: Live Simply - Care Deeply Tickets, Sat, May 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM Eventbrite</p>
 Sat 17 May	<p>Conversations about Nonviolence <i>Wheeler Hall, St Anne’s Street Leeds LS2 8BE 3pm to 5pm</i> This is a partnership event with the Leeds Palestinian Film Festival. It will include a speaker and a couple of short films. Full details and ticket booking will be available soon - keep an eye on our website</p>
 Fri 25th – Sun 27 Jul	<p>National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference: Just Peace <i>The Christian Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire</i> A weekend exploring peace with keynote speakers (including Dr Rowan-Williams) and workshops covering a range of aspects of Just Peace but challenging the inevitability of violence. If you are 30 or under then SPARK Social Justice has a limited number of sponsored places. See the NJPN website for details of this event and how to book:- https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</p>
 Sat 06 Sep	<p>NDEG ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ pilgrimage from Leeds Cathedral to Kirkstall Abbey. This is a ‘save the date’ notification for the next Northern Dioceses’ Environment Group in-person meeting. The idea is to meet up at Leeds Cathedral, walk down to the Leeds and Liverpool canal and then walk along the towpath to get to Kirkstall Abbey (about 4 miles in total) and do it as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’. More details to follow soon – but put it in your diary now if it sounds of interest.</p>

Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.