

Live Below The Poverty Line.

This is a campaign to create awareness and raise the funds for some of the 1.2 billion people around the globe who live below the Global Poverty Line – that's the New Zealand equivalent of \$2.25 per day. That's \$2.25 for food, shelter, transport, education, healthcare...absolutely everything. Live below the Poverty Line partners with different organisations who work to help people out of poverty. For these people, living \$2.25 a day isn't a choice, it's reality....From 6-10 October, thousands of Kiwis will be spending \$2.25 per day for 5 days on food and drink. By getting people to sponsor this crazy venture, we

will raise awareness and funds to help more people over the poverty line.....' (Christian World Service background to the campaign).

Further details about this campaign and which organisations are participating can be found at grace.manning@cws.org.nz Two things are worthy of comment: why Anglicans should consider partnering with Christian World Service, and the relationship of working to eradicate poverty overseas and reduce inequality in this country.

Christian World Service has the formal support of a number of denominations in this country, including the Anglican Church. As an ecumenical organisation it is a member of ACT Alliance, an international ecumenical network. One of its great strengths is that it is able to immediately link up with existing local knowledge and networks that are essential to community development type aid and development work especially in a major crisis.

The exciting buzz of joining in a fun, and yes, perhaps slightly 'crazy' campaign such as Live Below the Poverty Line, could lead us to drop the ball on addressing the high levels of inequality in New Zealand: especially if we start distinguishing between 'deserving' and 'less deserving' poor. Organisations such as Caritas (National Catholic organisation) and Christian World Service can be relied on to identify the links between the common causes of poverty overseas and here. They also offer theological and biblical social justice resources to support parishioners and other people of good will into long term commitment against poverty here and overseas. As the publicity suggests, we could choose to work collectively in this campaign, perhaps ecumenically: whether as families, parish or secular groups.

Being True to the Gospel and Honouring the Treaty. Listening together, working together.

When: Saturday, 4 October 2014 8:30am to 5:00pm

What: Guest speakers and group discussion on the topic.

Where: Nga Kete Wananga Marae, Manukau Institute of Technology, Auckland

Who: Christians of all denominations

Kaupapa: Reason for the hui - This year, 2014, we celebrate 200 years of the Gospel coming to Aotearoa New Zealand. Next year, 2015, is 175 years since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Christians were closely involved in the events around the Treaty signing and have, therefore, a special role of guardianship for the Treaty relationship. This hui is an opportunity for Christians to consider together what honouring the Treaty partnership means for us today. All welcome.

September 2014



Do Justice!!

“Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly With Your God” Micah 6:8

A Newsletter on Social Justice Issues

Welcome to the September edition of Do Justice for 2014. This newsletter prepared by Auckland Diocesan Social Justice Group looks at various Social Justice Issues.

The Coming General Election

In less than three weeks the shape of New Zealand politics will be decided for the next three years. If you are eligible to vote do so as both a citizen and a Christian. There have been recent Electoral Forums at Pitt Street Methodists in cooperation with St Matthew's in the City and in St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral organised by the Cathedral and the Social justice Group. Both forums invited all the political parties to be represented and it was good to hear the spectrum of views on important issues. The Cathedral Forum focused on two issues that the Auckland Synod debated and passed motions on at last year's Synod – Inequality and Climate Change and we heard direct from the party representatives without the filter of the media. Not all the parties supported the conclusions of Synod but a number

did, it is important that we continue to discuss and take positions on important issues through Synod. The statements that the various parties were asked to support or otherwise were:

Living Wage

My Party is committed to a Living Wage in the core public service and to support all Employers adopting a Living Wage by paying a Living Wage to directly employed staff and workers employed by contractors delivering services on a regular and on-going basis.

Fossil Fuels

Acknowledging the long term damage that the use of Fossil Fuels on the Earth's climate my Party is committed to reducing the extraction and productions of fossil fuels by not making investments or providing financial or regulatory support for corporations engaged in such activities



This year Synod will be discussing Child Poverty, Fairness for Aged Care Workers and Affordable Housing particularly for the elderly.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

Catholic Social Teaching is something we Anglicans often hear mentioned by Catholic colleagues who sometimes describe it as the 'best kept secret' of the church. So it was with considerable interest that a member of the Auckland Diocesan Social Justice Group recently took up the invitation to participate in an Auckland Catholic Justice & Peace Commission four hour workshop. This experience complemented many years of Anglicans, Catholics and others working together in the Talking Cents Group and the more recent planning for a joint Catholic/Anglican Social Justice Conference in July 2015.

The first surprise in the CST seminar was to discover that CST is a living process. We were aware that it makes available some very important Papal documents about social justice produced over the centuries and that some individuals seem to have internalised them to the point where they can quickly recall statements on (for example) labour and working conditions. But we had not quite grasped the fact that episcopal statements continue to be added and concerns that may need more attention are identified.

The first Plenary session of the CST afternoon identified the positive focus of the seven main Principles of CST that had been distilled from this Body of Teaching by working out a common mind about comparative 'vices'! In the process it was suggested that **Stewardship of Creation** needed more attention, and that **Income Inequality** was the emerging concern in the coming General Election. Consequently there was strong Catholic support for the **Living Wage** campaign as one helpful strategy. Fascinatingly, these three issues were the focus of the Candidates Forum facilitated by Anglicans in St Mary's a few days later, with de-vestment in fossil fuels being the particular proposal around our commitment to creation.

The second surprise was to discover that there are various lists of Principles of Catholic Teaching: including one of 11 areas, and another of 7- for which a set of posters and study materials had been prepared by Caritas for the nation-wide Catholic Social Justice Week from 14-20 September.

The workshops that followed offered simple processes for using newspaper cuttings to identify key elements of an issue, how one or more Principles related to them, and what further action could be explored. One area that Anglicans may need to do more listening about, is what Catholics mean by the Common Good which CST defines as *'the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily'*¹ from the 2004 Compendium of Social Teaching of the Church. Last year this issue was discussed in some detail at a conference in Liverpool, England that involved philosophers, theologians and economists from most of the main churches including the Anglicans and

Catholics, the Anglican position was summarized as “...there can be no sense of the common good without a deep understanding of what we have in common. It is about our common humanity first, but it is also about maximising the commitment to shared values and a sense of community. Our society has tended to emphasise individual autonomy. This is not in itself wrong, but it should be balanced by valuing also the promotion of the common good in the interests of community, both current and future.”² Whilst there is clear agreement on the principles of the Common Good there would appear to be much that we could learn from each other on this very important subject, in particular the more inclusive approach of the Catholics.

We realise that the Anglican world is very different to a Papal led organisation, and re-reading the definition of social justice on the Auckland Diocesan³ website with appreciation of the Catholic position, perhaps we need to talk more about a life-giving Gospel in the heading of WHAT WE BELIEVE. Maybe this is something for our new Diocesan Mission and Ministry group to think about.

Joint statement by the Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Auckland on the Holy Land.

On 8th August 2014 the Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Auckland issued a joint statement on the ongoing situation in the Holy Land. The text of the statement can be found on the Diocesan Web Site.⁴

This statement flowed from some discussions that members of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission and the Anglican Social Justice Group had about the desperate situation in Gaza and the belief that the voice of the “Church” needed to be heard.

Since the issuing of the statement there has been a series of “truces” and talks about talks in Cairo and this is much better than the fighting of the previous month. But the situation must be fully resolved, the world cannot continue to accept that every 2 or 3 years the Palestinians in Gaza will become so frustrated at the continuing blockade of their country that they fire rockets at the Israel and the Israelis are goaded into retaliating. This latest round of tit for tat has been particularly hard for the children of Gaza with some 400 being killed.

Ultimately there can be only one solution to the situation and that is for both Israel and the Palestinians to recognise each other's right to exist and to agree clear borders between the two states. The Americans will not let Israel be overrun by the Arabs and the Arab countries in the Middle East will not let Israel completely annex Palestine and drive the Palestinians out. The role of the Arab Countries and the Americans is crucial to a solution as it will only be when both put sufficient pressure for peace that a long lasting agreement will be possible. The New Zealand Government may have an opportunity to advocate such a solution if we are successful in getting a seat on the Security Council of the United Nations.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_good

² <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/2010514/gs%201956%20-%20the%20common%20good.pdf>

³ <http://www.auckanglican.org.nz/resources-and-links/social-justice>

⁴ <http://www.auckanglican.org.nz/Anglican/media/Images/Bishops%20Letters/Anglican-and-Catholic-Bishops-statement-on-Holy-Land.pdf>