



Justice and Peace Newsletter

Archdiocese of Liverpool

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ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: "Coping with the Cuts"

After years of worry and of thinking that maybe the cuts weren't so bad after all, we've finally reached the time when they are beginning to take effect. And the effects are going to be devastating for thousands of people in our archdiocese and for millions of people across the country.

The J&P Commission has decided to focus on the cuts at our Annual Assembly to be held at LACE on Saturday 25th May, from 10.00 — 4.00.

If you want to become:

- A little better informed about what is going on
- More confident about the facts so that you are more able to join in discussion
- Able to make informed decisions on these vital matters

then we hope that you will join the J&P Commission and friends at this year's Annual Assembly.

It's not possible to list the cuts properly or to give a full account of their effects in a single sheet newsletter. Full information will be available at the Annual Assembly and we hope that many people will be there to share their own experiences, their observations and their ideas for how we can respond.

What should we do?

The whole issue of poverty in the UK raises many questions for us as Christians. It has been easier for us to be concerned for people who live overseas. Most of our churches raise money for CAFOD and other organisations that help to alleviate the suffering of people who live in ABSOLUTE POVERTY.

We are not so well organised when it comes to our own country and what is known as RELATIVE POVERTY. It is probably true that nobody in the UK is ever going to die of starvation but that is not a very high standard to set ourselves.

The founders of the Welfare State in 1945 said: *"To keep people out of poverty, people must have an income which enables them to participate in the life of the community They must be able, for example, to keep themselves reasonably fed, and well enough dressed to maintain their self-respect, and to attend interviews for jobs with confidence. Their homes must be reasonably warm; their children should not feel shamed by the quality of their clothing; the family must be able to visit relatives, and to give them something on their birthdays and at Christmas time; they must be able to read newspapers ... they must be able to live in a way which ensures, so far as possible, that public officials treat them with the courtesy due to every member of the community."*

More that 60 years later this attitude is still controversial.



Jesus in the breadline

Several UK newspapers write about the **deserving poor** and the **undeserving poor** with some politicians describing benefits as a **life style choice**. Their own Government research says 0.7% of benefits expenditure is fraud.

Any amount of fraud is too much fraud but that same argument applies to those who avoid paying tax ... although that is seen as 'tax management'. What is certain is that many families are being forced to live on less money, parents will go without, children will be excluded from activities, domestic debt will mount, and misery will increase.



One of the big concerns of Justice and Peace is how we can bring our faith into the whole of our lives. How does following Jesus change the way in which we behave?

Our Catholic church here in the UK was heavily involved in the care of the poor after the Emancipation Act. We have heroes and saints in plenty: Cardinal Manning in Westminster, Fr Ignatius Spencer CP in Birmingham, Fr James Nugent here in Liverpool.

Today we are challenged to respond to: Universal Credit, Benefit Reform, Bedroom Tax, Disabled Living Allowance, Benefits freeze, Council Tax

FORTHCOMING EVENTS For more info on any of these events, ring 0151 522 1080

<p>25th May</p> <p>10 — 4</p> <p>Lunch provided</p>	<p>JUSTICE & PEACE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY</p> <p>“Coping with the Cuts”</p> <p>Welcome by Fr John McLoughlin</p> <p>MORNING: Description and analysis of the situation</p> <p>AFTERNOON: Possible responses</p> <p>Theological reflection by Fr Tom Cullinan</p> <p>Liturgies led by J&P Commission</p> <p>Guest speakers:</p> <p>Sir Bert Massie CBE (Disability Rights campaigner)</p> <p>Marie Grey (Lodge Lane Credit Union)</p> <p>Marie Reynolds (Nugent Care)</p> <p>Rev Ruth Stock (St Bride’s Team ministry)</p> <p>Kevin Duffy (Parish Power)</p> <p>Pat Duffy (Health worker)</p> <p>Information stalls:</p> <p>Nugent Care, CAFOD, Progressio, Merseyside CND, SVP, Palestinian Crafts, MARCAP, J&P, Craighead Institute, etc,</p>	<p>LACE</p> <p>Croxteth Drive</p> <p>Sefton Park</p> <p>Liverpool</p> <p>L17 1AA</p> <p>This is a free event.</p> <p>There are costs and we would be grateful for a donation of £10 to cover the cost of the venue, the refreshments and the lunch.</p> <p>Attendance at this day does not depend on ability to pay</p>
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DIRECTIONS

FROM THE M62 (approx 3 miles to LACE)

At end of M62 bear sharp left onto A5058, Queen’s Drive. Go straight on.

Take 3rd exit at Fiveways pub. (Sign posted: **Airport**)

Carry on along Queen’s Drive. At next roundabout take 2nd exit (Sign posted: **City Centre and Tunnels**)

Immediately move into right filter lane

Follow the signs for **City and Sefton Park**

Continue on A562 Smithdown Rd, Kwik Save on right, pass under railway bridge.

Turn sharp left after Total petrol station, at traffic lights, into Greenbank Drive (Sefton Park), Green Park Hotel facing you.

Bear right into Croxteth Drive, after Lathbury Lane. Turn right into Croxteth Drive.

LACE is on the right just before the flats



Reaching the Conference Centre by Bus * the 80, 80A & 180 are Easy Access buses*

Route numbers 74, 75, 75E, 80, 80A, 176 and 180 all travel past the Conference Centre at LACE. From the city centre these buses can be caught from the bus station and follow the same route (with the exception of 176) as listed if you were travelling by car from the city centre, joining on to Lime Street from Elliot Street (next to the St John’s Shopping Centre).

