

To advertise please telephone 0161 820 5722

UK must do more to fight trafficking after bodies found

Andy Drozdziaik

A Catholic refugee organisation and a Scottish bishop are calling on the UK Government to make “safe and legal routes” available for refugees attempting to come to the UK.

The issue has come to the forefront after 39 Vietnamese people were found dead in a lorry container in Essex last week. It is also the three-year anniversary of the demolition of refugee camp known as ‘the jungle’ in Calais.

Referring to the Essex tragedy, Sarah Teather, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) UK, said: “This horrendous tragedy highlights the urgent need for more safe and legal routes to migrate and to seek asylum.”

“The desperation of those in the container is an indictment of our failure to provide sanctuary to those in flight for their lives.”

JRS is an international Catholic organisation, which seeks to support refugees. The organisation has a particular concern for asylum seekers who are detained under immigration rules.

“If the government wants to ensure this does not happen again, it is not enough to focus only on criminal gangs—it must ensure that those seek-

Floral tributes left on Eastern Avenue, Grays, Essex, where 39 bodies were discovered in a lorry.
PA PHOTO/KIRSTY O'CONNOR



ing sanctuary in Britain can get here safely,” she said.

“It must build bridges, not walls.”

Meanwhile, Bishop William Nolan of Galloway, President of the Scottish Catholic Church’s Justice and Peace Commission, has expressed concern over the ‘desperate’ situation of the Calais refugees.

“Three years ago, the French and

UK governments demolished the refugee camp known as ‘the jungle’. Many thousands of people were dispersed across France, and the infrastructure of support and solidarity provided by so many volunteers was destroyed. Three years on, the situation in Calais, Dunkirk and other areas is more desperate than ever,” he said.

Stories of clothes, shoes and personal items being destroyed and refugees being treated aggressively have become commonplace.

“The policies of attrition – wearing down refugees through harsh treatment, including eviction from places of shelter; confiscation of possessions; assault and use of pepper spray – are forcing already vulnerable people to increasingly desperate measures,” Bishop Nolan added. “Human rights activists helping refugees are also being harassed.”

He underlined the need for the government to intervene and take immediate action for those in Calais.

“Three years since the jungle was destroyed, and with no progress being made, I once again join the calls made on our government that safe and legal routes must be established, and that an infrastructure which allows for dignified living for those in Calais must be a priority,” he said.

Call for new action on human trafficking and modern slavery

Tom Lomax

A major Catholic conference on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery took place on 15th October in London. Seventy-six representatives from the Catholic Church in England and Wales and other organisations shared and reflected on their experience in this field, to prepare new approaches and responses to what Pope Francis has called, “a scourge which continues to cause untold human suffering.”

Cardinal Vincent Nichols joined experts from the fields of policy, frontline services, ethical investment and those working to eradicate the phenomenon from supply chains. Discussions concluded with a call for new directions based on the good work of organisations working with the Church.

There were contributions from the Santa Marta Group, Caritas Salford, The Medaille Trust, JRS UK, Caritas Westminster’s Bakhita House, and women@thewell. Andrew Adams (CCLA) and Sion Hall, former Head of the East Lancashire Police Anti-trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery Unit addressed the issues of public engagement, partnership and eradication of the phenomenon from supply chains and

investments. The Arise Foundation spoke of the vital importance of partnership from the local to the international level, highlighting the enormous strengths the Church has to achieve this.

The first UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, now Senior Advisor to the Santa Marta Group of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, spoke of the 150 million children today being exploited worldwide with 20,000 dying every year through slavery. Yet, little action is taken against organisations that exploit children. Hyland remarked starkly: “Globally, 99.98 per cent of human trafficking goes without prosecution so why wouldn’t a criminal do it if they will get away with it?” He called for action at all levels.

Dr Philip McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer of CSAN, said: “Catholic Dioceses, agencies and religious communities have been working for years to address this. In the UK alone, around 140,000 people are caught up in trafficking and modern-day slavery at any one time. The task is large but the links the Church has are extensive and will grow further to address this work. We shared our collective ex-

perience and our ideas for how we can make lasting impacts from the national to the community level, in practice and in policy.”

CSAN were delighted to have the support of CCLA as conference sponsor and host. Its Ethical Investment Team has just launched a report on combating slavery in investment. Andrew Adams said: “The inclusion of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in the products that are part of our everyday lives means that practically everything we purchase has a direct or indirect connection to slavery. At the same time, CCLA will be working with other investors to develop strategies to help companies keep their supply chains clean.”

Cardinal Vincent Nichols thanked those who had made the conference possible and called for a detailed public account of the good work of the Catholic Church in this field. He said: “The conference holds a great deal of promise and we need to work together to create a non-competitive, deeply respectful, shared vision. We need to congratulate ourselves on what we have done and move onto the hard work ahead.” He concluded by thanking those present for opening the door to the next phase.

To advertise in
The Catholic Times
please telephone
0161 820 5722

THE LATIN MASS SOCIETY
For the Promotion of the Traditional Roman Rite

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM**
will be conferred by Bishop John Sherrington
on Saturday 16th November at 11.30am
in St James', Spanish Place, London.
See our website for details and registration
www.lms.org.uk **020 7404 7284**

JOE WALSH TOURS
MEDJUGORJE 2020



MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGES
MAY - OCTOBER 2020 | 7 NIGHTS

from **£645**
per person

- Departures from **Manchester, London Gatwick, London Stansted & Bristol, Edinburgh & Leeds**
- **7 nights** guesthouse accommodation
- **Breakfast and evening meal served daily**
- **£100 off** when booked by **06 December 2019**
- Visit places relating to the visionaries and the **Hill of Apparitions, Podbrd, climb to Mt. Krizevac** and much more...

ENQUIRIES

Joe Walsh Tours
Tel: 0121 368 1335
Email: info@joewalshstours.co.uk

Joe Walsh Tours | www.joewalshstours.co.uk | info@joewalshstours.co.uk



Licensed by the Commission for Aviation Regulation, TO 052 and TA 0689 in compliance with the Package
Travel and Linked Travel Arrangement Package Regulation 2018.



For your peace of mind this newspaper now only accepts advertisements from tour operators if they are an agent for, or member, of ABTA ATOL or AITO and verified as such. We also suggest tours are booked with a credit card for your added security.



CARITAS IN ACTION

Pursuing the common good: How solidarity and subsidiarity can work together

Liz Bitakaramire

The third annual Caritas Festival on 27th September saw 39 schools descend on St Kentigern's Parish Centre, Manchester, to celebrate social action. Attended by Bishop John Arnold and led by Sr Judith Russi, Director of EducareM, this year saw the amalgamation of the Festival with the St Joseph's Penny Celebration, allowing schools to bring their Lenten donations along to contribute to Caritas's important work with those in need in the Diocese of Salford.

Those charities that came together in 2008 to form what is now Caritas Diocese of Salford have had a vital presence in the diocese since 1886. During the 19th century, Britain and the northwest saw both the benefits and disadvantages of the First and Second Industrial Revolutions come to a head. Poverty was rife and extreme, with a majority of the working classes packed into squalid and cramped living conditions. A cholera epidemic hit Manchester in 1832 and Dr Henry Gaultier found a link between the disease's prevalence and the impoverished conditions of the working classes.

This year's festival was perhaps the most important yet in terms of acknowledging the achievements of young people in bringing communities together. They will be the first generation to face the consequential loss of employment opportunities and other potential ethical issues resulting from the Third (electronics/IT) and coming Fourth (Digital/Artificial Intelligence) Industrial Revolutions.



Whilst conditions are less visibly brutal than in the 19th century, Britain is already in the grips of a poverty and mental-health epidemic with the number of pupils referred to CAHMS having doubled in the last two years and a predicted 5.2 million children expected to be living in poverty by 2022.

In January, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, talked about "emerging technologies" and the need "to avoid both the risk of reductionism of the human being and

the other even more dangerous risk of the substitution of the human." Professor Fr Paolo Benanti's examples of self-driving Uber cars and Cyberknife, a robot used for more targeted treatment of tumours, highlighted how promising technologies have the simultaneously detrimental effect of replacing the human person. 'Robot rights' have featured in discussions between the Pontifical Academy and the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies. Whilst some argue enthusiastically in favour, many are con-

cerned about a negative impact on communities and the dignity of the human person.

Marita Carballo, president of Argentina's National Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, explained, "An eye-to-eye connection, a hug, cannot be replaced by a robot" and that 'to look for emotional and social satisfaction in a robot may only increase isolation and would negatively impact interpersonal relationships'.

Catholic Social Teaching underpins everything Caritas does, prioritising

solidarity, subsidiarity and empowerment of local people for the common good. The Caritas Ambassador Programme provides real opportunities for our young people to take a lead in putting Catholic Social Teaching into practice.

The Caritas Festival introduces young people to networks of friendship and skills-sharing that will strengthen them for the future, and not just with their peers. The importance of inter-generational dialogue cannot be understated.

Work has already begun, linking our schools with beneficiaries from St Joseph's Welfare Older People's Befriending Service, who were VIP guests at this year's Festival. Young people benefit from the lived experience of their elders and in turn enrich the lives of the older generation. Young people work in their local communities not just to raise money for Caritas projects, but also to co-ordinate their own social-action projects, mutually benefiting their community and themselves. In the face of a new digital era, we want the next generation to have the skills and knowledge to create their own opportunities in a world whose future is yet undetermined.

■ Liz Bitakaramire is the Fundraising & Community Services Admin Officer for Caritas Diocese of Salford, which is a member of CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network), the Church's social action network in England and Wales. For further details contact info@caritassalford.org.uk www.caritassalford.org.uk

Elouise Hobbs

ENVIRONMENT

Woking community urges MP to act with climate petition

Over 700 Woking residents have signed a petition urging the government to act to tackle climate change and handed it to local Woking MP Jonathan Lord to share with parliament.

At an event held on 13th October, members of St Dunstan's parish were joined by local MP Jonathan Lord where they shared their views about the government's action to combat climate change.

The group were calling for net-zero emissions by 2045, which will help limit the UK's contribution to climate change and limit the worst effects of climate change on our health, homes and communities, and on people living in poverty around the world.

The petition was accepted by Mr Lord, who then spoke about some of the achievements of the past few years and the need for further action



(L-R) Parishioner Audra Schlachter, MP for Woking, Jonathan Lord, and Fr Simon.

and progress over the next few years.

He said: "While there is much to be done, the UK is doing really well in working towards reducing our carbon emissions, and investing in and moving towards renewable energy in particular.

"However, we realise there are many challenges ahead and I am very happy to present this petition to the Prime Minister, together with and on behalf of St Dunstan's Parish and CAFOD to raise your concerns and your desire for further and faster action by 2045."

Organised by volunteers from the charity CAFOD, who had helped gather the 707 signatures, the parish hopes their action will inspire others to raise their voices and share their

concerns with local parliamentary representatives.

Audra Schlachter, a parishioner and CAFOD volunteer who helped to organise the petition and presentation, said:

"We ask that this petition is taken to the Prime Minister to reflect our concern for our common home, and to show that we as the Catholic community of St Dunstan's realise the great responsibility we all have to make a positive change for our future as a global community."

This presentation was part of a wider campaign 'Our Common Home', run by the aid agency CAFOD, and the group's signatures will be added to the thousands already received. It is hoped these events will highlight the growing concern for the environment and start new conversations about climate change.