

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE KI A TAATOU KATOAA/ WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL EVERYWHERE



Tēnā koutou katoa

*Ka kitea a Matariki, ka rere te korokoro
When Matariki is seen, the lamprey migrates.*

The Māori New Year, Matariki (June 15 - June 24) is nearly upon us...it is generally a time of celebration and reflection. It provides a platform for storytelling and renewal.

This issue of Pax Christ Aotearoa Newsletter is a reflection on our environment and oceans and the issue of human induced pollution affecting both. As I reflect on the whakataukī above...I wonder about how the world has changed so much...What signs could we use today to help us plant food crops, or to lift food crops for our own food security? Would we notice if birds like the lamprey were to disappear? Are we taking note of the unpredictability of weather that could be damaging to food crops? What will happen in parts of the world that still use the emergence of the star cluster Pleiades as a sign for planting or lifting up food crops – particularly when climate is more variable because of human induced warming?

Also, at the time of putting this newsletter together a historic first will be happening in Singapore – the meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un.

Can this historic meeting bring the possibility of peace about on the Korean peninsular? The possibility of peace is always to be desired...and we can only hope that this may be realised...and then truly we can celebrate a new dawn.

THIS MONTH'S NEWS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE EARTH

WORLD OCEANS DAY

2018 GWANJU HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Making a Difference in the Earth

by Kevin McBride

Last Tuesday, 5 June, was World Environment Day, but you would hardly have known it. There was no discernible mention of it in mainline news media, television's self-acclaimed 'current affairs' slots continued their facile 'human interest' infotainment and I haven't yet been induced to seek serious social commentary in social media.

As a result, it was late on the afternoon of Tuesday the Fifth when I became aware of the importance of the day, our annual opportunity to reflect and act on the greatest crisis to confront humanity since nuclear bomb testing began in the 1940s. I was attending a meeting at Pompallier Centre in Auckland and we were asked to share a "Reflection for Catholic Parishes for World Environment Day 2018", which is based on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si'", "On Care for our Common Home". The reflection pulled out a number of quotations from the encyclical: asking what kind of world we want to leave for our children; inviting us to change direction by caring for our common home; asking how we "can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded".

Pope Francis went on to set out 10 steps we can take towards a more sustainable world:

- celebrate nature;
- educate ourselves to love the earth
- protect nature
- live simply
- conduct business ethically
- use energy with consideration
- travel wisely
- watch your waste
- tread gently on the earth.

Urging us to believe we can make a difference, Pope Francis concludes with "A Prayer for our Earth":

Father, foster in us a love for your creation: animals small and tall; the soil, trees, plants of every hue; water, mountains, deserts too.

The wisdom to care for our earth and to nurture our young to do the same. The sense to use only what we need without excess; to share more, covet less.

The understanding that 'being' is more important than 'having'.

And the grace to live in harmony, with one another, with nature, with You.

Amen

So now, it is over to us.

World Oceans Day... Why is it important?

by Bridget Crisp

Earth is commonly known as the blue planet; the reason is that a large proportion is made up of water.

This could be called one global ocean that has five distinct sub regions: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic and Southern Oceans. The ocean environment is important to life processes on the planet...it influences the weather patterns and temperatures as well as providing important food sources to a considerable proportion of the global human population.

Ocean health is under threat from a variety of various sources – pollution, warming from climate change leading to ocean acidification and bleaching of corals, overfishing and deep-sea mining (for oil, gas and a number of other precious metals).

The primary focus of the 2018 World Ocean Day theme is ‘Preventing Plastic Pollution’.

Plastic waste is the primary threat facing today’s world and is becoming more and more evident with the growing plastic island gyres in the world’s oceans as well as washed up plastic being found on



Photo B Crisp

World Oceans Day... Why is it important? cont.

the remotest beaches of the globe. Plastic has even been found in some of the deepest ocean trenches. Plastic impedes a healthy ecosystem to flourish as a result we are now seeing many marine animals suffering starvation due to the reality of having stomachs full of plastic. During this month of June, I encourage you to reflect on our growing problem – the use of plastic, primarily plastic packaging in our everyday lives. It is not about recycling anymore – it is about reduction. There is a need to persuade central government to lift their game. Enforcing the Waste Minimisation Act would be a great first step – but can we do better? We also need Central government and our city councils to invest in building an operational plastic recycling waste plant to deal with our own rubbish. So, as we recycle and pick up plastic rubbish when we admire creation...please reflect on other strategies that can reduce our

plastic footprint. The final word is from Laudato Si... ‘Blessed Pope Paul VI referred to the ecological concern as “a tragic consequence” of unchecked human activity: “Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation”. (4)

2018

David Wakim Lecture

The guest lecture for the annual David Wakim Lecture 2018 can now be confirmed - Deborah Manning.

Deborah is a well known lawyer and barrister in New Zealand, Deborah specialises in Human Rights, refugee and immigration law. The lecture will be held at St Columba Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland on Thursday 27th September...so mark your diaries!

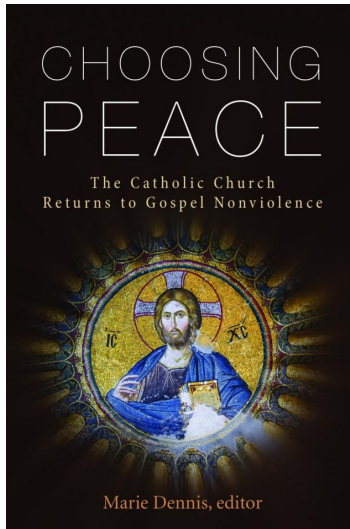
Worth Reading

Pax Christi continues to endorse ...

Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence.

Editor: Marie Dennis

Published May 2018 by Orbis Books.



UN Climate Change Report 2017 has been released, laying out key achievements of 2017 and pointing to future of climate change progress.

Download your copy from:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNClimateChange_annualreport2017_final.pdf



2018 Gwanju Human Rights Award

‘Fr. Nandana Manatunga of Human Rights and Media Resource Center, Sri Lanka (an associate member of the Pax Christi International movement) is the 2018 recipient of this prestigious award.

This award, given by the South Korean May 18th Memorial Foundation recognizes individuals, groups or institutions in Korea or abroad who have contributed in promoting and advancing human rights, democracy and peace through their work.

The work approach of Fr. Nandana is a holistic three-body approach called "Victim- Centered Activity". This involves providing security for young victims to restore their sanity and lives. It also includes surrounding victims with assistance from a professional support group (e.g. counselors, doctors, lawyers etc.) and the use of the media center to transform public attitudes.

additional source material by Sen Nguyen, *Gwangju News*

Pax Christi

Aotearoa New Zealand

Pax Christi is an independent Catholic social justice organisation. We work hard to address issues of peace and justice at a local, regional and global level.

If you want to know more about Pax Christi, to join meetings, or to set up group meetings in your area, please contact paxnz@xtra.co.nz or ring 09 377 5541.

Pax Christi relies on volunteers & donations to enable the work to continue.

To make an online donation our a/c name and number is:
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 03-01730353-867-00
 (contact us for a receipt for tax purposes)
 Your support is greatly appreciated.

Editor: Bridget Crisp rsm
 Promotor/Manager of Pax Christi Aotearoa NZ.

Diary Dates

12th June World day against child labour

15th June - 24th June
Matariki: Te Tau Hou Māori

20th June World Refugee Day

18th July Nelson Mandela /Freedom of Speech

30th July World Day against Trafficking of in Persons.

Next Month's newsletter will look at the theme for Freedom of Speech as we remember Nelson Mandela Any contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Please email paxnz@xtra.co.nz.

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