

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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



THIS MONTH'S NEWS

REMEMBERING JOCELYN

INDONESIAN LAWYER WINS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD FOR HIGHLIGHTING WEST PAPUA

PAN-AMAZONIAN REGION SYNOD

PAX CHRISTI WHANGAREI NEWS

DISARMING TIMES

FAITH IN ACTION: A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NZ AGM

Tēnā koutou katoa

Aotearoa is moving into the season of summer - the weather is warmer, the sun shining, and many are contemplating summer holidays and preparations for Christmas. At the same time, New Zealanders are fully aware of what is happening in Australia, our closest neighbour. Australia is struggling to contain and control large bushfires happening across multiple states. These fires have been raging for weeks with the loss of lives and homes. Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand extend their prayers and thoughts to our neighbours Australia asking that all are kept safe during this time.

Politics have inevitably been involved with the current Australian Government denying that Climate Change is linked to the current state of events. While this is happening in Australia, the New Zealand Government announced the Zero Carbon Bill - the aim being to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Climate is looming large in the consciousness for nearly everybody. It impacts everyday lives – from weather, water quality and availability, as well as food security. The reality is that if hard choices are not made now then impact on the most poor and vulnerable will be greater. Personal and collective strategies for the “Climate Emergency” facing our planet are needed if we are going to survive. The questions we must ask, ponder and act on are:

‘What can I do now to increase my resilience to changing climate? / what can I do now to in my lifestyle to reduce my carbon footprint?’

A final word: the Pax Christi Newsletter is now moving into a two-monthly edition. You will notice that this edition is bigger than previous. Our next edition will cover December/January.

Remembering Jocelyn

by Judith Crimmins

On October 3rd, 2019 Jocelyn Franklin, aged 93 died. Judith Crimmins, long time Pax Christi member wrote in the newsletter 'Communio' (edition April, May June 2011) about the contribution Jocelyn made to Justice and Peace issues within the wider NZ Church. This reflection has been reproduced, with the blessings of the author, as an unofficial obituary and memory of Jocelyn's life and impact on others.

I am conscious that there are people in Auckland who may not be aware of the incredible contribution that Jocelyn has made to the Church in Auckland, New Zealand and internationally. I describe her as being like the retired Bishop of Auckland. The following comments will explain why I make this description.

Very few people would know that Jocelyn was a convert to Catholicism at a young age. Her commitment to the Church is unparalleled by any other lay person I know of.

Soon after her conversion to Catholicism at a young age. Her commitment to the church is unparalleled by any other lay person that I know of. Soon after her conversion to Catholicism she came to Auckland from Whangarei to be a leader in the Catholic Youth Movement. In this role she influenced the lives of many people of that time.

Many of them became significant leaders in our country as judges, politicians, lawyers, social service people, teachers, university professors, religious... the list can go on and on.

Over the years Jocelyn's responsibilities in the diocese have also included Catholic Overseas Aid, The Commissions for Evangelisation, Justice and Development; Justice Peace and Development and Catholic Overseas Volunteer Service (COVS now Mahitahi). These agencies were diocesan and nationwide.

Because of her competence and commitment to this work and the trust in which Jocelyn was by held by Bishop Reginald Delargey (later to be Cardinal of New Zealand) she was appointed Head

of Department in the Diocese of Auckland. I understand that this is a first for a lay person not only in Auckland but in New Zealand. Until that time these types of positions were held by priests.

In her capacities as Director of the above agencies Jocelyn represented New Zealand at a number of overseas conferences and consultations including a number of times at the 4 yearly Caritas Internationalis Assemblies held in Rome. She was also a prominent person at the Lay Congress in Rome about 1966-67 which followed Vatican 2. She also visited Church agencies in developing countries so that the knowledge of and the commitment to the philosophy of Cardijn (she had met him) led her to develop many deep and lasting friendships with people like Maisie and Frank Sheed and other leaders in the 'Cardijn' world.

You will see from the above that Jocelyn has a commitment to the development of lay people. Her work with COVS and later work were extensions of this. In 1976 Bishop Mackey enabled Jocelyn to fulfil one of her dreams by making available 2 diocesan houses in St Mary's Rd for a residential lay community to be formed. This was her response to the call of lay people seeking education in their role in the Church as well as a response to the call of Vatican II encouraging lay people to understand their apostolate in the world. And so the Catholic Lay Training Centre (CLTC) was born.



Photo. Cathnews.co.nz

Remembering Jocelyn cont...

The objectives of CLTC were to form leaders within the lay community who were both contemplative and apostolic. It proved indeed to be a place where lay people could train themselves for an effective apostolate in the world through sharing their skills and insights while being in a place where the challenges of the Gospel could be taken seriously. This provided laity with formation particularly in areas of peace, social justice, development and evangelization. At that time there were no opportunities for lay people to undertake any formal theological study. (The Catholic Institute of Theology came about much later.)

The Centre, through Jocelyn's leadership, touched the lives of many people from many walks of life – teenagers to people in their 60's; professionals and trades-people; single people, married couples. Many are now in leadership roles within their local area (in New Zealand and overseas) and in the national and international Church as well as the secular community. Sr Mary of the Eucharist – Catherine Murphy is but one 'graduate' from the CLTC who chose to become a religious. Mt Tabor Trust modeled on L'Arche is but one other initiative that arose directly from CLTC. There are countless examples.

The shared living experiences and opportunities for discernment and liturgical leadership were open to anyone. As well, retreat weekends and prayer evening were held. The key to formation was found in the living experience of each person. All this may sound a bit long winded but I feel it is important to describe all this so people can understand the importance of Jocelyn's work in the Church and the world.

Jocelyn is a resident of The Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home, in Herne Bay, Auckland. We give thanks for her ministry to the Auckland Diocese.

Judith Crimmins, June 2011.

Indonesian Lawyer wins Human Rights award for highlighting West Papua.

In late October, Veronica Koman was awarded Australia's Sir Ronald Wilson Human Rights Award.

Veronica Koman is currently living in Australia after receiving threats in Indonesia.

Indonesia's government have accused her of spreading false information online.

In accepting the award, she has dedicated it to the victims of a security crackdown in West Papua due to riots. Twenty-two political prisoners have also been charged with treason. During the ceremony, she mentioned:

"I have the West Papuan people to thank for changing my life. They have taught me how to be resilient, how to keep fighting, how to keep going in circumstances where many outsiders may feel they have to stop"

Source material : RNZ 24 Oct 2019

Pan- Amazonian Region Synod, Rome, October 2019.

Pax Christi Whangarei News

by Mike & Liz Beezley

The Synod on the Pan- Amazonian Region concluded in Rome on Sunday 27th October. This synod is considered a Kairos moment for the Church. Synod participants looked forward to attempt to deepen relationships and provide healing on justice and peace issues not only within the Church but also in the natural world – Our Common Home. The Global Catholic Climate Movement have suggested the following key points to come out of the synod are:

- A concept of “**ecological sin,**” which is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 340-344, says that the Creator established the world as a web of dependence. **When we break that web,** all are harmed, and we turn from our Creator’s love.
 - We have **compassion for the people who have been victimized by ecological sin,** and especially for the indigenous people who suffer invaded, degraded lands and broken families.
 - **Divesting** from fossil fuels and reducing our overall dependence on fossil fuels, as well as **living more simply and sustainably,** are concrete ways to recover from this sin.
 - **Our God is merciful,** and we can recover.
- Integral ecology,** which sees the deep connections between how we relate to God, each other, and our common home, is the way forward.

Source: Global Catholic Climate Movement.

An unofficial working translation of the final document can be found at <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/edward-pentin/full-english-text-of-amazon-synods-final-document>

Pax Christi meet every 1st Monday of the month. We are a small group with 8 active members.

Much of our work this year has centred around forming relationships with the local Muslim community following the Christchurch massacre. Members attended the memorial service held at a Laurie Hall Park, and also visited the local mosque at their open day. We also invited members to attend our monthly meeting. Two women attended our July meeting. We also hosted a meal at our home and invited members of the Muslim community to come along. Five women came along and we all had a time of sharing our faith journeys with the group.

In response to Pope Francis’s invitation to stand in solidarity with Migrants and Refugees and join people worldwide to walk a million kilometres we invited people to join us in a walk around the Loop. About 36 people attended.

We have also been supportive of the Palestinian Solidarity Network Aotearoa (PSNA.) Mike represented Whangarei at the National Seminar on Palestinian Solidarity in Christchurch on June 22. Four members of our Pax Christi group attend the local monthly meetings. As a group we promoted and co organised to host Julie Webb-Pullman to present a visual and oral report of her work as a War Crimes investigator in Gaza. The presentation was well attended with 30 people attending. Many have signed up to receive the PSNA and local newsletters.

One of our members will be accompanying a member of the PSNA Whangarei to visit our local MP Shane Reti to talk about the situation

Pax Christi Whangarei News cont...

between Palestine and Gaza and present him with the booklet "Let's talk about Israel/Palestine"

Mike and Liz attended a movie evening in Kerikeri entitled "Notes to Eternity.". It was a documentary on the situation between Israel and Palestine.

Representatives of Pax Christi attended the evening in Auckland for the presentation of the Caritas "State of the Environment Report for Oceania 2019". They have the booklets "Seeds of Hope" for distribution



Mike and Liz Beezly at the Environment Report Launch, St Mary's Catholic Church, Papakura. Photo B Crisp.

Disarming Times

by Kevin McBride

During the 1990s, a brutal conflict was raging between Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) claiming to represent the indigenous people of Bougainville and the Papua-New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF), acting on behalf of their government and the owners of the Panguna copper mine, a large multinational enterprise extracting copper from Bougainville soil. Towards the end of the decade, the complex situation involving BRA, PNGDF, a London-based mercenary group (Sandline International) supporting the PNG government and gangs of *rascols*, criminal opportunists, had created between 15-20,000 casualties, largely among the civilian populace. Things showed no sign of improvement until a meeting held at Burnham Military Camp, New Zealand, resulted in the deployment of the Truce monitoring Group, a force of unarmed personnel, including men and women, to Bougainville. The inclusion of women was an efficacious move, as Bougainville has a traditional matrilineal society, but the general demeanour of the group with its emphasis on cross-cultural connections and dialogue was more effective than armed conquest could ever have been. It can well be said to have enhanced the success of subsequent peace talks and the holding of the peace arrangements to the present day, in spite of several flare-ups in divisions among the various PNG and Bougainvillean leaders. Pax Christi feels that this example provides a good model for addressing divisive and disruptive issues at the community level.

Recent instances of the criminal use of arms, culminating in the March 2019 Christchurch massacre, have led to a demand on the part of some groups and individuals for the NZ Police to join their counterparts in various countries whose police go armed in the streets. This suggestion has been a moot point for a long time as the prevalence of a wide quantity and range of weaponry in the community leads to an increase in levels of anxiety. In most cases, this increase is not backed by statistics but the horror of the Christchurch affair and unsupported opinion in both formal and informal media have given rise to a claim that, for the safety of the wider community, police on patrol should be clearly armed as they are in places like USA and Australia. Up to now, New Zealand has followed the example of places like UK, where police on the beat don't obviously carry weapons.

Disarming Times cont...

On Saturday 2 November, a rally against the expressed intention of Police Commissioner, Mike Bush to have militarised police patrolling some of our communities brought the question, “to arm or not to arm?”, to the surface together with the question, “will it make our communities safer?”

Supporters of the rally would answer in the negative, adding that it would intensify the existing vulnerability of Maori and Pasifika people to be victims of an existing police tendency to use violence against them. Action Station, a social commentary outlet, contends that 66% of people fired at by police in the last ten years were Maori or Pasifika. There is a real danger than an extension of the proposed armed police patrols could lead us to the situation in the United States where more than one thousand people, more often non-white, are killed by police. Of these, more than 60% are unarmed or involved in some form of mental health crisis, requiring medical, not armed intervention.

Pax Christi supports a petition created by Action Station calling on the Prime Minister and Minister for Police to stop the trials of armed patrols in selected communities, noting that they tend to have high concentrations of Maori and Pasifika people. We would recommend that funds and personnel available for arming and deploying armed police be transferred to dedicated teams of Maori and Pasifika community leaders aimed at increasing their capacity to develop effective culturally-sensitive consultation and control means to resolve disruptive issues through traditional forms of dialogue and negotiation. We can also see great advantage in working with various churches and religious bodies which can have a strong influence on their Pasifika and Maori followers.

Worth Reading



The Caritas State of the Environment Report 2019 "Seeds of Hope".

Caritas has publishes a state of the environment report for the Oceania (i.e Pacific Ocean region) since 2014. The 2019 report can be download from the Caritas website <https://caritas.org.nz/state-environment-oceania-2019-report> . For anyone wanting to the know what is happening in this region, in terms of the impact of the environment from climate change then these reports are a very good place to begin.

Faith in Action: A Religious Response to the Climate Emergency.

In Canberra, Australia from the 8th – 10th November, the first inaugural interfaith conference was held by ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change). Several people of different faiths came together to discuss action strategies in highlighting the climate emergency to the Australian people, but primarily to the Australian Government.

The conference open with different faith leaders opening the conference with prayer, followed by a welcome from Aboriginal Leader Wally Bell, who then informed participants of the spirituality of the first peoples of the Canberra Area. This was then followed by a video documentary on how Aboriginal Spirituality has practices that protect the environment.

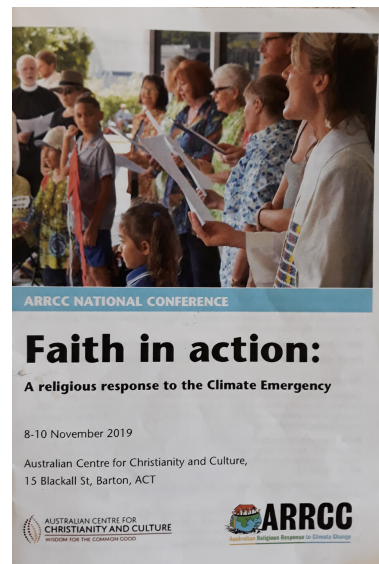
The first keynote speaker, the following day, discussed the scientific reality of what was happening in Australia now – Professor Lesley Hughes. The steady increase of CO2 in the atmosphere due to human activity leading to an increase of temperature and acidity in the seas. The bleaching of coral reefs and the loss of mangroves from some area and the increase of mangroves in areas that have never had mangroves was some of the highlighted point from Professor Hughes's presentation.

Another keynote speaker at the conference was Associate Professor Mehmet Ozalip, who spoke on the Islamic religious response to reality of climate change. Professor Ozalip focused on the Islamic environmental ethics in his presentation on a religious response. Key within his presentation was that humans are considered accountable for environmental destruction; that humanity has fostered a one-way relationship with the earth instead of a two-way relationship thus creating an imbalance, and that harm on the environment is greater than the benefit. That is, that the level of harm that climate change represents is now a threat to human existence and life.

The second half of the conference programme focused on actions that individuals and faith groups have put into place in response to climate change. Of interest in this session was identifying the different levels of action there is in any response and then looking at strategies (if you are a group organizer) to move people/participants to higher levels of active response.

The conference covered a lot of ground within the climate justice area within a short period of time. Although focusing on the Australian context, there were valuable insights which will be of benefit to the those who work in the climate justice area within the New Zealand context.

Bridget Crisp



Lesley Hughes & Mehmet Ozalip.

photos: B Crisp

Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 16th November, Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand held their AGM at Te Waipuna Puawai, Mercy Oasis, in Ellerslie Auckland. Members from Pax Christi Whangarei, as well as one long-term member from Australia were present for day.

As well as dealing with business associated with the AGM, Pax Christi also celebrated 25 years of presence in New Zealand as well as held some small group discussion on future strategic direction.

Below is photo collage of the day celebrated...



Photos : B Crisp

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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Your support is greatly appreciated.

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Diary Dates

- 2nd Dec** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 10th Dec** Human Rights Day
- 18th Dec** International Migrants Day
- 1st Jan** World Day of Peace
- 8th Jan** International Awareness Day for Human Trafficking



Next Month's newsletter will cover Dec and Jan. Any contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Please email paxnz@xtra.co.nz.