



# The Holy Family of Bordeaux

## in Britain and Ireland

Glory to God alone in Jesus Christ through Mary and Saint Joseph

April 2016

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Srs. Lucilla, Sandra and Sophie attended the Migrants Mass at Westminster Cathedral

## EDITORIAL

The Paris Agreement on Climate change was open for signatures on 22 April which, appropriately, was Earth Day. A total of 175 countries signed, a record for a one-day signing of an international accord, the UN said. One hundred and ninety six nations were party to the talks in Paris. The agreement commits countries to cut global greenhouse gas emissions and slow the warming of the planet to just 2 degrees, or 1.5 degrees, if possible.



However, signing up to the Agreement is just the first step; countries must ratify its contents in their national parliaments so that it becomes part of domestic policy. For it to come into force 55 countries representing at least 55 per cent of global emissions must have formally ratified it. Once this is done they are bound by the Agreement.

Under the Agreement, countries set their own targets for reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The targets are not legally binding, but countries must update them every five years.

But, how confident can we be that governments will honour their pledges and not be coerced by big business into reducing or delaying them? It is noteworthy that in countries that have had elections, national or local, since the Paris Agreement climate change has hardly figured among the concerns raised by the public or in Party manifestos.

So, this is where the public play their part by supporting the many voluntary, non-profit organisations that mobilised them before and during COP21. These groups have already begun planning action and rallying the public to their banners.

Sites worth visiting: <https://350.org> - <http://www.nature.org/> - <http://www.foe.ie/>  
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/environment>

## Message from Sr. Gemma (Unit Leader)

### Amoris Laetitia

Pope Francis' much awaited document on family life was published this month. Reactions have been mixed. There was disappointment particularly among those who were hoping for clearer guidelines on issues like the admission of divorced and remarried Catholics to communion. The Pope says he understands those *"who prefer a more rigorous pastoral care which leaves no room for confusion... but this Exhortation cannot be expected to provide a new set of general rules, applicable to all cases..... simply a renewed encouragement to undertake a responsible, personal and pastoral discernment of particular cases"* (300). Divorced and remarried Catholics are *"not excommunicated"* and they should not be treated as such (261). Their situation should be examined on a case by case basis at local level.



There have been many positive comments about the document. *"The joy of Love" signals the start of a more flexible, understanding Church. No longer is it acceptable to "throw stones" of doctrine at those struggling in their personal lives and things are not just about the rules."* (The Tablet, 8 April 2016). There is no black and white. In the Pope's words: *"By thinking that everything is black and white, we sometimes close off the way of grace and of growth, and discourage paths of sanctification which give glory to God"* (305).

For me one of the most important points in this document is the emphasis on the primacy of individual conscience. The Pope remarks:

*"We find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations. We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them."* (37). The Pope believes that the magisterium should not tell people what to do but rather offer pastoral care by accompanying people, thus enabling them to discern God's activity in their lives. On our part we must make every effort to develop an enlightened conscience under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel and the teaching of the Church.

In this document the Pope is outlining his vision for a Church that is synodal at every level - with laity, pastors, and the bishop of Rome walking together, listening to one another, learning from one another and taking responsibility for proclaiming the Gospel. This vision is based on the conviction, that through baptism and confirmation, all Christians have been anointed by the Holy Spirit and that the entire Christian community is infallible when its members discern together and speak with one voice on matters of faith and morals.

He says: *"The 'sensus fidei' (sense of faith) makes it impossible to rigidly separate the 'ecclesia docens' (teaching church) and the 'ecclesia discens' (learning church) because even the flock has a 'nose' for discerning the new paths that the Lord is opening up to the Church."* (Pope Francis' Address at Commemorative Ceremony for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops, 17 October 2015).

While on the surface there are no great changes in doctrine, nevertheless this is a quietly revolutionary document written in the language and style we associate with Pope Francis – direct, compassionate, inclusive and pastoral. It restores the role of personal conscience and it calls for a more adult living out of our faith.

The Celtic knots pre-dated Christianity but in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries B.C. they were used to denote faith, declare love and unity, and protect against evil spirits. They also represent infinity and eternity because Celtic knots do not contain beginnings or ends. They are often used as designs for wedding rings and ornaments.



## IN A STATE OF EXODUS

Although we are constantly being reminded that we live in a world of rapid change there are still areas where change is exasperatingly slow. While it is almost impossible to keep up with advances in technology, we become frustrated with the long waits imposed on us by the red tape of bureaucracy. This has been the experience of those involved in the “Exodus” team and those looking for ways to help the refugees and asylum seekers in our countries.

The initial aim of the team, as they began their work was to identify areas of need in Britain and Ireland in which the *Holy Family* was already involved, and to identify new ones, especially in light of the refugee crisis. The results, were thorough and comprehensive. As the Chapter commitment is one that involves the whole Unit, it was important that all members be informed of any proposed initiatives. Meetings have been held in both countries, with participation by sisters, lay associates and at least one secular.

Representatives from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), who have wide experience in dealing with refugees and asylum seekers gave information and guidelines on how to receive them into our houses. They gave briefings on their work, and how we might become involved with them or other organisations. The response was enthusiastic. Already, sisters are involved in accompaniment/counselling, language teaching, visiting centres for asylum seekers and continue to be a presence at meetings and rallies in favour of refugees and migrants. And, needless to say, all pray.

In Ireland, the Red Cross has been given the task, in close collaboration with the Department of Justice, to organise the re-settlement of refugees mainly from Syria. Hundreds of people, including *Holy Family* communities, who ‘pledged a bed’ for refugees over a year ago are wondering if they will ever be called upon to honour the pledge, so slow is the process of accepting them into the country. Like the refugees, we wait in hope.

There has been progress in the UK which you can read about on page 4.



## WELCOMING THE STRANGER

**T**he Selby Road Community were delighted to give a very warm *Holy Family* welcome to Florence, an asylum seeker from Nigeria, who arrived on 19 April.

Prior to her arrival, the community met with Jo Carter, the Grace Hosting Manager of LASSN (Leeds Asylum Seekers Network). This organisation receives referrals from Red Cross, Leeds and PAFRAS (Positive Action For Refugees and Asylum Seekers). Jo familiarised us with the guidelines concerning opening up our home to a guest, and LASSN has been supporting households/communities for over 10 years without serious incident. Anne Marie and Pauline have done some training and commented on our big welcoming presence in the house is most



Selby Road, as some will know, is buses into Leeds centre and, having her about freely. She has friends in the and she is also a member of a church friendly, out-going person, good to

particularly well placed for getting own key, Florence is able to move Leeds/Bradford area whom she visits choir in Chapel Allerton. She is a very have around

To welcome Florence is to live more General and Provincial Chapters of 2014. Each of us in Selby Rd is hearing in a newer way the call to Mission/Communion, and deepening it in our lives. This means being inserted into the reality of suffering people, giving ourselves for oneness and communion. Wholeness respects uniqueness and diversity in everything - culture, thinking, religion, in every person and being. Vowed for Mission 2014.

"Hospitality means opening your heart to others and sharing what you have, sharing a part of yourself, sharing life." JRS supporters.

Pauline Byrne, Selby Rd.



*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Heb. 13: 2*





## CARDINAL PRESIDES AT ANNUAL MIGRANTS MASS

On 2 May many of the migrant population of London descended on Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. This mass is an annual event on the London scene, and is very popular with many organisations who support and care for migrants.

Our involvement as sisters stems from our association through group work with all the various carers and providers who support these organisations. Also, it involves our corporate commitment as sisters in the accompaniment and mission of communion with all those who are needy and living in inhuman conditions, including migrants, refugees, displaced persons, the marginalised, the trafficked and all those deprived of dignity.



Sr. Lucilla and friends support migrants

The Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Nichols, and four other bishops. It was originated 10 years ago by the hierarchy as a call to solidarity with refugees and to welcome them into the UK, while providing adequate means for their welfare. The event has reminded people of the invaluable contribution of so many migrants to the city's society and economy. Church leadership, especially under Pope Francis has championed the rights of the under-privileged for decades but the recent traumas involving Syrian refugees and international asylum seekers have brought matters to a head. Our politicians are not responding positively but people are. So, belonging to specified groups which cater for the needy has become a priority for committed Christians and caring individuals. Groups such as: "Citizens UK", "Caritas Westminster", the Jesuit Refugee Service, Cardinal Hume

Centre, the S.V.P., "Refugee Welcome", and T.E.L.C.O (an East London Cooperative) have all joined forces to promote the welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and the exploited workers of our cities.

Our Mass began with personal testimonies from 2 people who had fled their countries - Iraq and Colombia - some 10 years ago and were still awaiting correct documentation. They were being supported by generous donors sympathetic to their cause. However, our country's rigid laws make it difficult to gain citizenship. The officiating priests, many from 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, applauded their sharing loudly. Maybe their own personal stories, too, could have matched these with their experiences of cruelty, torture and persecution.

The mass was beautifully choreographed by cantors, singers, and Vietnamese child dancers from Asia and the African countries, colourfully dressed in national costumes. Their songs and hymns were vibrant and the musical accompaniment of drums, pipes and organ, added to the melodic singing. Each group had processed rhythmically into the church, carrying banners and iconic symbols of their groups. It was difficult to classify the types of people, as they were from so many ethnic backgrounds. But their faith was so evident in their reverence and devotion during the mass. Schoolchildren from Hackney spoke the Intercessions



Srs. Lucilla and Carmel

in their various languages. The Gospel referred to the gift of the Spirit helping us to become witnesses to Jesus Christ but with the promise of persecution.

In his homily Cardinal Vincent Nichols spoke of the need for prayer for the migrants and all those whose lives were at risk during these troubled times, referring to St. Joseph as their patron. Even the route travelled by Paul in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, across the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece, was the first pathway to Europe used by missionaries to bring the Christian message from Palestine. Nowadays it is the same route by which escapees from barbarous regimes flee the conflicts raging around them. It is up to our governments to respond and to show compassion, generosity and respect to those in need.

Unfortunately, fear, often the response and treated as packages and than persons. Our to respond generously, abandoned in camps and to acknowledge the made by each migrant change of heart was in supporting welfare of the living wage, homes and providing education for these encourage the voice of conditions in which live, and to seek for just economic problems. The



Srs. Lucilla, Sandra and Sophie with Franciscans and parishioner from Woodford

solutions to local problems was the best way to tackle economic problems. We as Christians should never stay silent when children are perishing, and again we should pray that authorities would have resettlement and work programmes for the support and the rescue of these needy people.

Of course there are risks posed to the host countries, but Nichols continued saying we should have eyes of faith to recognise that all these people are precious and are endowed with specific gifts; the principles of compassion and justice far outweigh any negatives. He finished with a scriptural quote:

“The Lord takes delight in his people, in the face of adversity, he crowns the poor with salvation”.

The Mass ended with yet another procession out of the Cathedral where several activists signed up clerics, bishops and more lay people to become totally involved in this great work. It was a privilege as a *Holy Family* sister to see so many of our sisters and Lay Associates there so committed to the work of supporting our Migrant population in London, and benefitting from the prayerful work of so many other sisters in the Province.

Sandra Harrington, Woodford

instead of welcome, was people were often commodities rather mission as Church was to pray for those and on the sea voyages, value and contribution to their host country. A needed by governments reforms, the promotion building affordable adequate schools and families. We need to protest against the migrants are forced to solutions to their response of local

## 2016 COMMEMORATIONS

In the year 2000 we entered a decade of commemorations. We are remembering people whose lives and achievements made a difference in their time and whose influence lives on today. We are remembering events that changed the course of history and profoundly affected the lives of a nation's citizens.

The Easter Rising of 1916 in Ireland is one such event. As we are aware, it is being remembered at present with emotion. But, after a hundred years, it is possible to look at it more objectively in a thoughtful, even-handed, analytic way, giving due respect to all who died during the weeks of fighting, including civilians, women and children, as well as soldiers of the British army and police force.

One exercise some people have engaged in, and which schoolchildren were invited to do, is to write their own version for today of the Proclamation of Irish Independence, read by Patrick Pearse on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, outside the GPO in Dublin. A version written by a student of Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge is on page 6. Below, for comparison, is the original Proclamation

**POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN  
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC  
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND**

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades in arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien Government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline, and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government:

THOMAS J. CLARKE

SEAN Mac DIARMADA THOMAS MacDONAGH

P. H. PEARSE EAMONN CEANNT

JAMES CONNOLLY JOSEPH PLUNKETT



## MODERN DAY 1916 PROCLAMATION



EIRE 1916  
IRELAND 2016

### Re-imagined ideals of 1916 for 2016

**PEOPLE OF IRELAND:** In the name of all the generations gone before us, for those who gave their lives for our independence and sovereignty, Ireland now calls on her sons and daughters to support the tricolour and hold fast to our national ideals. Thomas Meagher raised the first tricolour in 1848 in Waterford. That first flag signified the ardent hope for a lasting truce between the orange and the green. He hoped that the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic could be “clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood”. In 2016, we too ardently declare that we must continue to strive to respect the religious beliefs of all, to keep the bonds of mutual respect and brotherhood fastened; Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish. People of religion and people of none, with tolerance and patience, the belief values of all will be respected equally.

If we fail in this core belief, we will allow a vacuum of intolerance and sectarianism to grow. We have witnessed recent atrocities committed by those who champion ignorance, hatred and violence. We have seen how cults and extremists can threaten the peace of the many. We know from our own turbulent history in Ireland how sectarian violence can maim, terrify and murder our nation’s innocents. We offer solidarity and support to our fellow nations who have been the victims of recent terror attacks.

In our multicultural Ireland of 2016, we stand together, shoulder to shoulder, united in our hope for authentic gender equality. We ask the people of Ireland to fight as a nation against poverty, social injustice and discrimination. Equal gender rights must be lived out as a reality. They need to expand into the workplace, to the professional and the personal and to become embedded and prioritised as our cultural norm. We should never let others compromise our constitutional and civic rights. We affirm the rights of all the people of Ireland to be treated equally, regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation.

We have the right to demand integrity and justice from our politicians and law makers. We are not pawns to be used for political or financial gain. We demand equal representation in Dail Éireann. Elected representatives must act for the good of the people with honesty, sincerity and the strength of character needed to avoid the temptations of corruption and greed. As a social democratic Republic, we cannot forget the needs of the elderly, our children, the disabled and the vulnerable in society. We must give them a voice! We must ensure that there is a high standard of provision of health for all.

We assert our right to free education. If we do not give the resources, time and attention to all educational professionals to allow them to provide the very best practice that they can, we do our children and the future generations of children a great disservice and injustice. Our history tells us that we must continue to educate ourselves in order to grow, change and improve. Education must be inclusive so that the voices of all are heard and respected and that there is access to the same facilities, resources and opportunities.

We must remain custodians of our constitution. Our Bunreacht na hÉireann is a visionary document for a wonderful nation. However, it is a living document that must be amended to keep reflecting the changing needs of the Irish people. We have the power to amend that cornerstone document in referendums but we must take this civic responsibility seriously. We must strive to remain active, informed and responsible citizens.

Let our nation be a beacon of light for equal rights and a vanguard for the voices of minorities. Let us take pride in our Hibernian identity.

Is mise Éire.

Amy Hughes, 5<sup>th</sup> Year, Holy Family Secondary School



## VISIT TO MARTILLAC



For the past year in Holy Family Secondary School our staff have been involved in a programme under the guidance of the Alliance for Catholic Education, Ireland, (ACE). Part of the process involves reflection on the animating principles, core values and root beliefs which guide our school. To deepen the sense of our Identity we are encouraged to return to the Vision and Dream of our Founder, so with this in mind I contacted Martillac and began the process of planning a visit there. During our Easter break I travelled to Martillac with Angela Ryan, our School Principal, her Deputy Catherine Rochford, RE Teacher Helena O'Callaghan and retired teacher Edel Mulligan who is a Lay Associate.

From the moment I made contact with warm welcome. On arrival at Bordeaux Pierre who held aloft a sign with the name in safe hands!! None of my companions had there was short we made use of every Slaven to be our guide. Mary gave us a most Hermitage and the Island We were very with the Contemplative Community in their Chapel. My companions were really impressed with the standard of accommodation, the food and the sense of hospitality, all at such a very reasonable cost ... these ladies are used to travelling and they recognize and appreciate value for money when they see it. We were blessed with good weather



Genevieve in Martillac we were assured of a Airport we were met by the aptly named MRS CUSKELLY in bold, so we knew we were ever been to La Solitude and as our time minute. Before going I had booked Mary interesting and informative visit to the fortunate also to be invited to attend Mass

too, not one drop of rain. Of course, no trip to Martillac is complete without an opportunity to visit the vineyard and make a purchase or two, a liquid souvenir, one might say !!So my companions plan to impress their guests at some future celebration when they produce a bottle labelled "Domaine de la Solitude".



Pierre Bienvenu Noailles and friends

The overall impression of Martillac is perhaps best summed up in the words of one of the group: "Martillac is now a real place and Pierre Bienvenu a real man with so much vision which is still so relevant for today". We also seemed to get a new sense of the centrality of our First Mothers in the unfolding of the story, this is particularly significant for us in our all-Girls school and since returning we have begun to discuss how we can make the stories and ideals of our First Mothers/Sisters more visible in our school. The present reality in Martillac gives a great sense of vibrancy, with a very up to date and well used Conference Centre and the presence of young Contemplative Sisters together with a number of young African women discerning their vocation. My companions were very impressed and inspired, a bit envious too and wishing this was all a little closer to home where we could avail more of the magnificent surroundings and facilities. A lot of work has been done in "cleaning up" round the Island and hearing

the Cuckoo there further enhanced its beauty for us.

After two days in Martillac it was off to Bordeaux where in order to make optimum use of our time we booked into a small hotel overnight. We were so fortunate with the location of the hotel, walking distance from all the places we wanted to see. With Áine's booklet, "IN HIS FOOTSTEPS", in hand and with the luxury of having Catherine, a French Teacher, among our group we made great progress in Bordeaux and were blessed with meeting many people who were so welcoming once they found out who we were. In the Cathedral we were so fortunate to happen to meet the Sacristan who brought us to see the Baptismal Font and invited us to feel welcome to spend time there, this was very special for us and much appreciated. Using ÁINE'S booklet as our Sat Nav we made our way to rue Paul Louis Lande.

We were taking photos outside Number 33 when a lady asked us if we would like to come inside. We had a most interesting visit with the Directress showing us round and explaining the workings of this hostel, now known as “The Leaven”. Perhaps the highlight of our Bordeaux visit was our time at 12 rue de Saintonge. We owe this in no small measure to Edel, Lay Associate, who in her very best French/English approached some teachers who were having a “smoking break” outside and whatever transpired not only did we get the grand tour of the building but also got to meet the teachers from the English Department, give and get contact details and begin a conversation about “student exchange” – a most worthwhile visit with a real sense of “let’s not waste any time”.



On our final day in Bordeaux, Good Friday, we joined in an outdoor Way of the Cross making our way through the busy streets to finish at the Cathedral. It was indeed a very beautiful experience beginning with a relatively small crowd who were joined along the route by literally thousands of people, all walking so respectfully and silently with stops for readings, prayers and singing. We were acutely aware of the very visible presence of Armed Police all along the route, no doubt on high alert following recent atrocities in Paris and Brussels. Thankfully this was a deeply prayerful and uplifting event in the city. We felt very blessed to be part of such a gathering.



Overall our visit to Martillac and Bordeaux was most enjoyable and very beneficial. It certainly has sparked off many conversations about our identity as a Catholic school with long established Holy Family roots and traditions. We hope to continue to deepen our reflections among staff and pupils on how our Founders Vision and Dream can be lived out in today’s realities. The centrality of the *Holy Family* Women in the unfolding story is something we plan to pay much more attention to. With the experience of having Holy Family Youth in our school since 2012 we feel strongly that the time is right to build on this initiative; to widen our nets and look at the possibility of inviting back our HFY Groups who have moved on from school and begin to look at ways of continuing the contacts and living the ideals for those who may wish. We feel certain that Pierre Bienvenu is encouraging us on the journey and, as I saw on a poster recently,

“If ever there was a time to dream big, that time is now”.

Kate Cuskelly, Sonas Christost



*La Solitude*

*Holy Family Spiritual Centre*

*Two communities, one Apostolic  
and the other Contemplative,  
work and pray here.*





## ASSEMBLY AT LONDON OLYMPIC STADIUM

Many sisters, priests, politicians and interested lay people assembled at the Copper Box Stadium on 28 April last week for a 2-hour interview with the proposed London Mayoral candidates. By the time this is read all will be known, but in this contest all was to be gained or lost. Several parishioners including Sr. Sophie and I were ferried to the Copper Box Arena used by athletes in the Olympic Games of 2012, to meet and question the policies of our future Lord Mayor. Many children's choirs, including our St. Anthony's school in Woodford, and young people's music groups formed the background to this event. There was a great atmosphere in the stadium seating over 6,000 people of all ages. Many schools, parish groups, active campaigners for justice, the living wage, the rights of the unemployed, homeless groups, immigration workers etc. were involved in this meeting which was structured around securing rights for the aforementioned people.

Many organisers had worked tirelessly to organise a meeting which would highlight the plight of so many Londoners in securing basic rights in the above categories. A London Citizens Alliance campaign included 220 member groups from all over London whose task was to focus on the points of the meeting and ensure the candidates were answerable to their voters. Our group was TELCO (The East London Communities Organisation), one chaplain being Rev. John Armitage, a renowned Human Rights campaigner. The Group is very strong in our parish of St. Thomas's Woodford, including membership from Sophie and Celine, each playing an active role.



Zac and supporters

London is the most diverse city in the world, hosting over 50 different communities of 50,000 people. There are over 300 languages spoken and this diversity has great potential, said one candidate. Zac Goldsmith, from a renowned banking and business background, took the time to promote some of the ideas proposed but did not promise the full quotient of houses at affordable rents. He applied himself to promises to help workers to gain a living wage, and to providing more opportunities for our young people in industry, by appropriate training. On immigration questions he would welcome more refugees into our country, but felt that he should tackle

homelessness as a priority. He praised the work of ESOL classes in the capital, and wanted to promote citizenship classes and further education.

The second candidate was Sadiq Khan, another Human Rights lawyer and former resident of the East End. Two people from more diverse backgrounds could not be seen! Again, equal opportunities were promised and this time a pledge was given to personally oversee the work of re-building London with affordable homes especially for key workers (those engaged in life-enhancing jobs). Community Land Trusts were to be set up to help younger people buy their own homes. Promises were made to improve the quality of life for many people.

The whole Assembly were treated to outstanding contributions from 2 bishops from London plus interviews from Muslim women leaders and Anglican women priests. Some sisters from schools and parishes also contributed to the debate. Several detainee asylum seekers made their pleas for justice and recognition of their status.



Sadiq Khan declares his position on refugees

As 50% of our houses in Britain are situated in the London area, it is worthwhile to be familiar with the situation which confronts so many of its population.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 World Press Freedom Day	4	5	6	7
8 Ascension Day World Communica- tions Day	9	10	11	12	13	14 Cluster Meeting Aberdare
15 <b>Pentecost</b> International Day of Families	16	17	18 Blessing of the Association and the Councillors' Crosses by Pius IX (1851)	19 Cluster Meeting Rock Ferry & Wrexham	20 <b>Cluster Meeting</b> <b>Clane</b>	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22 (Trinity Sunday) Foundation of the first community – The Sisters of Loreto (1820)	23	24	25	26	27	28 Cluster Meeting  Leeds and Bradford
29	30	31				