

# PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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



## THIS MONTH'S NEWS

### RANGI DAVIS' REFLECTION ON THE PAX CHRISTI ASIA PACIFIC CONSULTATION HELD IN MANILA, PHILLIPINES.

### KEVIN MCBRIDE REFLECTS ON WAITANGI DAY 2018

Salaam alaikum!

Peace be unto you!

Our home the Earth, needs peace. Distrust and conflict abound throughout the world. Caught in the middle of most of the world's tension is migrants and refugees. Many of Pope Francis' public addresses have mentioned refugees and migrants, highlighting the need for society to not forget them.....

'So many other footsteps are hidden in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary. We see the tracks of entire families forced to set out in our own day. We see the tracks of millions of persons who do not choose to go away but, driven from their land, leave behind their dear ones. In many cases this departure is filled with hope, hope for the future; yet for many others this departure can only have one name: survival. Surviving the Herod's of today, who, to impose their power and increase their wealth, see no problem in shedding innocent blood.' (Pope Francis, 24th December 2017)

Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand, relaunches its monthly newsletter with reflection on Refugees and Migrants. All peoples in this land have a personal history and connection to Refugees or Migrants. How do we embrace anew our own rich cultural history? How do we embrace in a positive and creative way the rich cultural history of newly arrived people to Aotearoa?

Pope Francis, during the Christmas Eve homily, challenges us, within the context of the baby Jesus, '...to be messengers of hope. God invites us to become sentinels for all those bowed down by despair born of encountering so many closed doors. In this child, God makes us agents of his hospitality.' (Pope Francis, 24th December 2017). How will we respond to this? Greetings to you all, and blessings for the year ahead.

# REFLECTING ON THE PAX CHRISTI ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION, MANILA, PHILIPPINES (NOV 27 - DEC 1 2017).

by Rangi Davis

Ko te mea tuatahi me hoatu whakamoemiti ki to tatou matua nui i te rangi na te mea i tae pai ai matou tae noa ki te hokinga mai ki te kainga. Ko te mea tuarua ka hoatu whakawhetai ki a Pax Christi Aotearoa mo tenei honore whakahirahira i tera haerenga ahau ki tawaahi me aku hoa tira haere a Kevin raua ko Bridget. No reira tena koutou katoa.



Participants of the Pax Christi Asia Pacific Consultation in front of the Peoples Power Monument in Manila. Rangi Davis is the third person from the left , kneeling.

First of all, I give thanks and praise to our God for keeping us safe in our travelling journey across to the other side of the world and back home again. Secondly I want to thank Pax Christi Auckland for this awesome privilege to attend the Conference and for my caring travel companions Kevin and Bridget. Thank you all immensely. As I listened I felt deep disturbing emotions about each speaker's contents. I became aware of my huge knowledge gap and ignorance of the extent and intensity of violence against humanity happening across the globe even as we met and spoke. Sure I watch it on TV but it is not the same as when you are able to sit in front of people who have been present amidst the violence, who have watched it happen in front of their eyes and even fear for their own lives. This is a reality in some violent spots of beautiful countries. I had to breathe and shake my head as if in disbelief. I cannot even begin to know how the impacts of violence must feel for the people and their families it affects. I was impressed by the skills, knowledge, story sharing, talent of all the people in the room. Lawyers, Priests, Religious Sisters, Technicians, Bishop, Social workers, Counselors, Climate Technicians, Engineers, Strategists, Journalists etc. Thirty gifted people working tirelessly and absolutely focused on a World without war. A Non Violent world. A world working towards peace.

## Reflecting on the Pax Christi Asia Pacific Regional Consultation, Manila, PHILIPPINES (Nov 27 - Dec 1 2017) cont.

by Rangi Davis

I felt sooooo out of my depth, like swimming for my life in a raging river and others watching from the banks, wanting to do something but not able to. The challenge for the rescuer is to lose your own life helping another in the unknown or to let it go. Such painful decisions for humans to make who have a conscience I thought. How awful for humans to have to weave their lives amidst violent circumstances every day in some places of the world, faced with no sense of direction, nothing to plan for, nothing to vision ahead with and maybe just lose hope and dream the dream.

We visited St Peters Local Parish where Church Leaders discussed their response and actions in relation to war on drugs. We listened intently to one mother of a daughter and three wives left with children sharing about their experiences of first hand witness to extrajudicial killings. There was not a dry eye in the room. We heard how one young man and his plight, struggle and change to become drug free is now a helper in the Drug Rehabilitation programme.

The priest echoed that these people are addicts and not criminals. They need professional help. Sobriety is not the answer but re-connection with their families, their communities and their God.

*"I am disturbingly challenged by the atrocious violence committed against human beings..."*

— RANGI DAVIS,  
PATRON, PAX CHRISTI  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The visit to Bantayog Ng Mga Bayani Museum was a deeply moving exercise and highlighted for me how Power, Greed and Corruption can kill many innocent people who stand up for human rights, justice and peace can be an evil means to personal gain. This museum was dedicated to people deemed heroes during the Martial Law period. The people power Monument spoke many words of bravery representing the thousands of Filipinos gathered to overthrow the dictator and restore democracy in the Philippines. As a newcomer I am disturbingly challenged by the atrocious violence committed against human beings and by seeking justice and peace, violence has to be highlighted and ways found to restore healing to the damage created by power and greed. I see now how non-violence groups working towards worldwide peace and justice need to be alongside of each other to combine their people and voice power strengths. Kia kaha Pax Christi International. amazing mahi. Talks, words and phrases that captured my imagination were 'Challenging Affluence' and 'Ending Poverty, Promoting Peaceful Societies, Towards a World Without War'. This talk opened my eyes to the possible destruction of the planet and its people and made the cold war feel really close. That we are all in this together.

## Did you know?

The Discastery for promoting Integral Human Development has produced a document '**Responding to Refugees and Migrants: Twenty Action Points**'. This document looks at policy practice that Nation States could adopt. There is a hope that many of the action points are adopted by the Global Compacts being worked on by the UN. To read this document in full go to [https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/stocktaking\\_holy\\_see.pdf](https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/stocktaking_holy_see.pdf)

## Refugees & Migrants

The plight of refugees and migrants has been at the forefront of many of Pope Francis' public addresses...check out the Pope's Christmas Eve Homily <http://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2017-12/pope-midnight-mass-.html> and his Peace Day 2018 message : [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/11/24/popes\\_message\\_for\\_2018\\_world\\_day\\_of\\_peace\\_is\\_released/1350878](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2017/11/24/popes_message_for_2018_world_day_of_peace_is_released/1350878)

## Manus Island Detention Centre: An update.

58 refugees are on their way to resettlement in the US. Another group of around 154 men, women and children are expected to follow from Australia's other detention centre in Nauru. Relocation of all the refugees in Australia's detention centres remain slow. Around 2000 refugees remain; 800 men on Manus Island and 1200 men, women and children on Nauru. New Zealand has kept open its offer to resettle some of the men on Manus Island but Australia continues to refuse the offer..

## Rohingya Refugee Crisis

Two months after an agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar for a plan on the voluntary return of Rohingyas' to Rakhine province - safeguards for the refugees have yet to be established. Unhindered access by humanitarian agencies to assess actual conditions as well as long term viability of return is needed to address legitimate safety concerns of any return of refugees. The UNHCR (Office for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) remains prepared to work with both governments in finding a long term solution to this crisis.

## Diary Dates

- **Jan 1** World Day of Peace.
- **Jan 14** World Day of Migrant's & Refugees.
- **Feb 6** Waitangi Day.
- **Feb 8** Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking.
- **Feb 14** Ash Wednesday. Season of Lent begins.

## THOUGHTS FOR WAITANGI DAY 2018.

by Kevin McBride

In an article written for "Stuff" (31 January 2018), Professor Carwyn Jones of Victoria University suggests that the "time's right to start developing a true partnership of Maori and non-Maori". In it, he quotes Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Governor-General Patsy Reddy who call respectively for "true partners in Aotearoa" and "considering what the Treaty relationship might look like". He concludes his article by saying "we have in the Treaty a framework for a respectful and productive partnership ...as applicable to Crown/Maori relationships in the 21st Century as it was in 1840." In his book, "New Treaty, New Traditions" (VUP 2016), Professor Jones delves more deeply into the importance of understanding Maori concepts underlying relationships if we are to develop a true partnership under *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*. He names five:

**Whanaungatanga** – relationships (between individuals; communities; past present and future generations; people and atua (gods); people and the natural world)

**Mana** – spiritually-sanctioned authority

**Tapu/noa** – respect for the spiritual character of all things

**Utu** – the principle of balance and reciprocity

**Manakitanga/ kaitiakitanga** – nurturing relationships; looking after people.

Following on the recent General Election and the installation of a new coalition government, many have commented on our need, as a country, to return to a (possibly mythical) era before the 1980s, when New Zealand was known as a nation built on egalitarian principles. Under post-Depression governments, like that led by Michael Joseph Savage, the story goes, the common good lay behind government efforts to provide social security for all its citizens. But market-led governments of all persuasions have, since the 1980s, been focussed on encouraging individual enterprise in the hope that increased productivity and wealth would be "trickled" down to all levels of society.

As a result, New Zealand has drifted further away from its founding principles, frequently showing world-leading statistics for child poverty and other indications of selfishness, individual greed and a deeply divided society.

In a speech to the Federation of Maori Authorities in November, Jacinda Ardern stated: "My vision is that we as a country realise the promise of the Treaty... I don't want this Government to rest until Māori and non-Māori are true partners in Aotearoa. Now, that isn't just about recognising historic rights or settling historic wrongs, it is about the quality of lives that people live."

*"We have in the Treaty a framework for a respectful and productive relationship"*

-PROF. CARWYN JONES  
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
WELLINGTON, NZ.

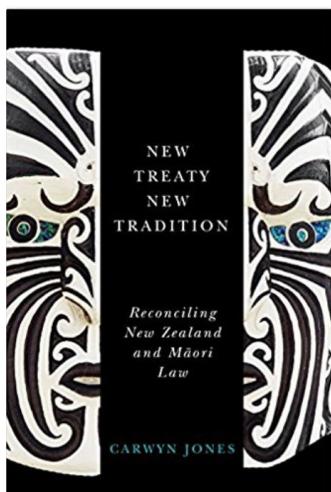
The true partnership she speaks of is embodied in the principles laid out by Carwyn Jones. They are the principles which underlay and motivated pre-Treaty Maori society and the principles which they expected to continue in the society envisaged by Maori signatories following *Te Tiriti*, in which Pakeha partners shared, in common with erstwhile Maori occupiers, the wealth of Aotearoa to the benefit of all.

These are the principles which Jacinda Ardern and her government must take on board if we are to return to the fulfilment of that vision.

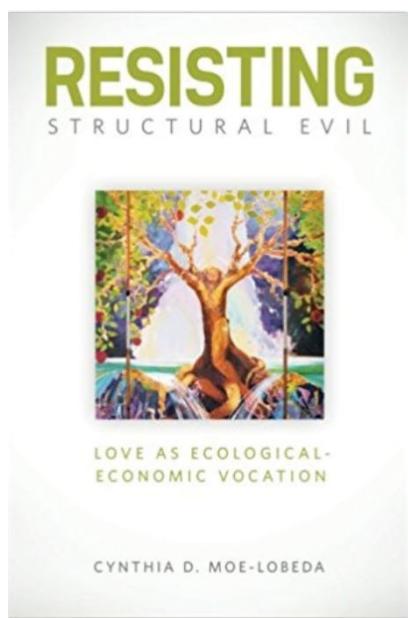
Waitangi Day gives us an annual review of where we stand in terms of the principles on which *Te Tiriti* was founded. It provides an opportunity to support any change needed to bring them back to the forefront of all levels of our social management, whether personal, communal or government, and to renew that vision of a respectful partnership which embodies the spirit of *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*

## Worth Reading

*New Treaty, New Traditions.  
Reconciling New Zealand and Māori  
Law.*  
by Carwyn Jones.  
Publisher: Victoria University Press,  
Dec 2016.



*Resisting Structural Evil: Love as  
Ecological-Economic Vocation.*  
by Cynthia D. Moe Lobeda.  
Publisher: Fortress Press 2013.



### PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NZ

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](mailto:paxnz@xtra.co.nz) or ring 09 377 5541.

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

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