

## LIVING JPIC DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### Introduction

During the Covid-19 pandemic, as in the rest of the world, we have been learning how to do things differently, especially in the area of Justice and Peace. However, in some ways it has helped us to redefine who we are and what are the priorities which motivate us. These priorities have not changed even though we have adapted to a new way of working.

One of the most important adaptations has been familiarising ourselves with a new language. For many of us in the UK the words “zoom” and “webinar” have enabled us to stay connected with life outside our own homes. The other significant change has been recognising

and celebrating the encyclicals of Pope Francis, especially *Laudato Si'*

As a consequence of this we have appreciated and enjoyed webinars from your Office in Rome, especially the European Webinar on Anti Trafficking, which involved some of our young people from our schools, and the Season of Creation including your beautiful prayer. There can be no doubt that we have all become more aware of Climate Change and our personal and collective responsibility for our planet. More recently Noelle's interview in which she spoke of the importance of Education at all levels was available to us via Youtube and Jane Livesey's presentation on Mary Ward and Pope Francis was available, through the power of the Internet, to the many who were unable to attend the meeting in York.

Llandudno community have sent their own contribution as an attachment with this one



**What follows is a overview of the life and ministry of our Region as we move into another phase of lockdown.**

### Integrity of Creation

Some people have made their own *Laudato Si'* gardens and have sent photographs to Rome as requested. The Llandudno community have sent their own contribution as an attachment.

As a Region we have all become more ware of the dangers of Climate Change and the simple things we can do in our every day lives to help save our planet. We engaged in the Season of Creation as a community and in collaboration with our schools through various prayer services and presentations

### Loreto Drawn Together

Loreto Drawn Together is a Parent-Infant Psychotherapy & Art Psychotherapy Project that offers emotional support to parents and their infants who may be struggling in their relationships due to a mother's experience of postnatal

depression or feeling overwhelmed by being a new parent. We aim to keep the babies at the centre of the work so that healthy relationships with parents and infants can flourish as good attachments will support the developmental progress of the infants. Our usual practice is to meet on a once weekly basis with parents and their infants in a specially designated room set up with age appropriate toys. The pandemic brought the face-to-face sessions to a halt due to the lockdown. Nevertheless, sessions continued using zoom as our online platform. We are pleased to report that all our parents and infants attended the online sessions. Our feedback suggests this was a positive experience and that we provided a 'port in the storm' for our families.

Due to the Covid 19 guidelines and restrictions we are unable to access our rooms at the Family Centres. However, we are now negotiating the hiring of new rooms in our locality in order to see our most urgent cases. We are grateful to our Loreto English Region and to the Mary Ward International Fund for the financial support which enables us to carry out our work.

**Jen Bromham IBVM**

### **Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Trafficked Persons**

Those who work with some of the most vulnerable members of our society have carried on through Skype, Zoom and personal contact, where this has been safe during the pandemic:

- The work of Eileen and Gill includes teaching English, helping to obtain official documentation, supporting refugees in the political arena as well as providing for material needs, supported by the communities in which they live.
- Maryagnes is working in the insidious world of trafficked girls. She is also studying for an MA in order to gain more insights into the root causes and current legislation. She has already gained experience of working at a 'Safe House'
- Imelda Poole, working in Albania, continues to lead her team into this underworld of exploitation and slavery

### **Parish and Community**

- Patricia Lane is still involved in activities in the parish of Bala, North Wales, where there has been no priest for several years. Patricia has a great relationship with the local churches including the Church-in-Wales (Equivalent to the Anglican Church in England) and the local vicar regularly brings her afternoon tea!
- Dorothy Butler, who lives in Scotland but is supported by her community in London, is involved in collaborating with her local area in Edinburgh.

Dorothy frequently reminds us of our responsibility for our planet and its beauty by sending us a quotation from literature, , a photograph or a line from the Pope's Encyclicals . More recently she created beautiful lavender bags in conjunction with a local high school and sent one each to every member of the Region. It was a beautiful way of connecting us with her and with each other at this time.

### **Spirituality and Formation**

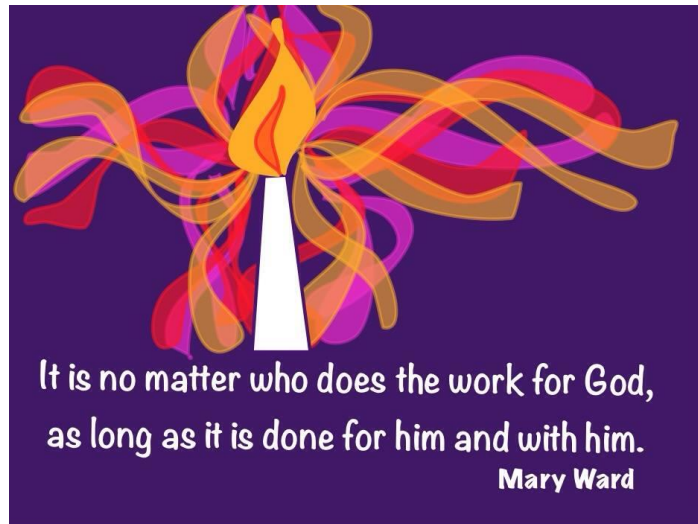
- Nuala Gannon as a formator for young people from different Asian countries and is responsible for the Spirituality and Liturgical formation of the students. In addition Nuala is coordinator of the Pastoral Specialist Track which includes input on '**Joy of the Gospel**' - incorporating faith, evangelisation, catechesis and facilitation skills for parish groups.
- Una Coogan is part of the chaplaincy team at Birmingham University
- Hospital chaplaincy with Bernie Boland and Catherine Fay , safety regulations permitting
- The Loreto Retreat Centre: under the management and leadership of Ann Mullen and Ewa Bem the Centre provides formation on many levels including opportunities for retreats, workshops and individual spiritual direction throughout the year
- Friends of Mary Ward: a relatively recent but very important component in our Mary Ward family which we share with the Congregation of Jesus
- Our schools:. We support all who work in our educational establishments especially, but not exclusively, through our Trust Board and our Governors. Mary Ward's values remain at the heart of our schools and live on through our past pupils

### **Conclusion**

We are an ageing group and small in number. However, many of those mentioned in this article are at least eighty years old and still involved in active ministry. We also work in administration through leadership at regional, community and financial levels.

In addition to Imelda and Nuala working abroad, Eileen O'Doherty is helping to care for her brother in Northern Ireland.

We are indeed a community in dispersal. Since I began this article a member of the Llandudno community has died. Sister Genevieve Moran was 105 years old. Her long life was a symbol of that which enables each of us to reach out to others and can be summed up in the following words of Mary Ward and the creative genius of Susan Daily IBVM:



Text: Kathryn Keigher ibvm