

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

On Saturday 26 June Cardinal Keith O'Brien was at the Gillis Centre to celebrate Mass with people in the Archdiocese who are involved in promoting issues of justice and peace, both at home and abroad.

In a leopard-like chasuble, brilliant red stole and mitre splashed with red, the Cardinal would have looked completely at home in a company of African chiefs. He explained that the vestments had been given to him by a diocese in Malawi, and by wearing them he was acknowledging the ties between the people of Africa and ourselves. His crosier also recalled the commitment of our Archdiocese to people who needed support in different parts of the world, being inscribed *Bauchi* on one side and *El Salvador* on the other.

In his homily, using his crosier as a visual aid, the Cardinal contrasted the differing needs of these two places, both of which had been served by our diocesan priests. In *Bauchi*, where the population was mainly Muslim, our priests had been asked to go and support the Christian community and evangelise; in *El Salvador*, where the faith was well established, the need was for priests and people who would stand up for the rights and dignity of the poor. Other places abroad, like *Darfur*, had also been visited by the Cardinal on our behalf, but the preferential option for the poor did not exclude those closer to home. *Jericho House* and the *Homeless Project* run by *Sr Aelred* and the *Sisters of Mercy* at *St Catherine's* were among various initiatives in the Archdiocese to help those in our own community.

After Mass there was a group photograph and a more informal gathering for tea and chat. It was an opportunity to meet *Miriam McHardy*, who has taken over the Justice and Peace role from *Chris Boles* - although everyone was glad to see that *Chris* was still much in evidence.

SCIAF UPDATE

Haiti

Over £1.2 million has been raised by SCIAF'S Haiti appeal, half of which came from parishes. The priority in the first six months has been to provide medical assistance, tents, food and clean water. In the months ahead Haitians will, with support from SCIAF and partners, start to rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

WEE BOX

The WEE BOX, Big Change campaign is over for another year. The money you saved will help people in some of the poorest countries to free themselves from poverty and hunger - for good.

"I can now grow vegetables, breed chickens, pigs and goats, and the extra money means my children can go to school."

Speciose Ciza, Burundi

Robin Hood Tax

SCIAF is joining the Robin Hood Tax band of merry men and women to call for a tiny tax on financial sector transactions that would raise billions to tackle poverty and climate change. As the recession bites, and with the gaping hole left in government budgets by the bailout of the banks, this tiny tax could help safeguard commitments to ending poverty and tackling climate change. By taking 0.05% from large financial transactions - like hedge fund trades - the Robin Hood Tax could help people facing the effects of climate change to adapt and survive.

Already over 50,000 people across the UK have pledged their support for the tax.

Do you want to join our merry band? Sign up at

SCIAF bookmarks

There are some bookmarks at the back of the Hall with a summary of SCIAF'S Annual Report.

Thank you for all that you do to support SCIAF

www.sciaf.org.uk/robinhoodtax