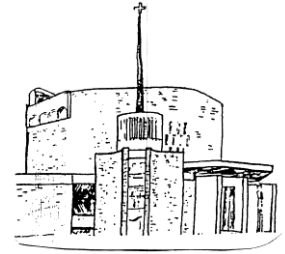


St Anselm's Church

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Parish Priest
Fr. Gerard Mitchell S.J.

Parish Administrator
Mrs Jacqui Carr

7th April 2017

Dear Friends,

I write as Chair of the Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination [CNCAD]. The Network evolved from our joint celebration with 'Southall Churches Together' for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity [WPCU] 2013, having 'Dalits and Caste Discrimination' as its theme.

In February 2014, the Network conducted a 2 day international conference on 'Christian Responsibility to Dalits and Caste Discrimination', at Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, London. Amongst others, prominent speakers were Bishops both from UK and India, and Members of the House of Lords.

The 2014 conference covered the Global and UK context, including the awaited implementation of the Equalities Act provision outlawing caste discrimination in the UK. It also highlighted the scale of the Global perspective, as one third of the Global poor are Dalits [Scheduled Castes / Tribes (SC/ST); Other / Backward Communities (O/BC)].

The WPCU, UN bodies such as Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, European Union and the Catholic Bishops Conference of India [CBCI] have condemned the caste system. However, much more needs to be done to abolish this centuries' old, evil and dehumanising practice, and to mainstream its victims.

The 2014 conference decided to plan a follow-up London conference for 2017. Our aim is to further deepen awareness of Christian responsibility regarding Dalits and Caste Discrimination and commitment to their cause.

We are delighted that confirmed speakers include: Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican; Bishop Patrick Lynch; Lord Bishop Richard Harries; Bishops Neethinathan, Antony Poola, and Sarat Chandra Nayak (from India). We have also invited representatives from different Christian communities and their official charities. This 2 days international conference will again be held at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, London, on Tuesday, 9th and Wednesday, 10th May 2017, from 10am - 5pm.

I would be delighted if you were to participate in the conference.

Voice of Dalit International (VODI) [Email: vodi@vodintl.org.uk] have been appointed as conference administrators.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,



Fr Gerard Mitchell SJ