

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation

*I cannot do all the good that the world needs,
but the world needs all the good I can do.*

Spring 2017

Greetings!

Thank you to everyone who sent us feedback following the last JPIC Newsletter – a while ago now. Apologies for the long silence, we are back on top of things now!

Thank you also to those of you who have indicated your willingness to be the JPIC coordinator in your area. Please make sure that everyone in your area is able to read a copy of the Newsletter in one form or another. Some people were concerned about the cost of printing this in colour – it is fine to change the setting to black and white.

Again, we look forward to hearing from you – inspiring stories from your Area and how these link with our Principles, activities for prayer, ideas for action – especially across an Area or across our NZ Province.

Peace and all that is good,

*Pip Colgan (convenor), Peter Bargh, Margaret Bedggood,
Marion Fairbrass, John Heberton, Blair Matheson &
Brother Damian SSF*



Parihaka

Since the last Newsletter and our National Retreat at Parihaka, a lot has been happening in this tiny Taranaki settlement.

While on the retreat we learned of the Parihaka Network: Nga Manu Korihi - a network with groups in various parts of the country, dedicated to supporting Parihaka and to educating all New Zealanders about what happened there during the New Zealand Land Wars - in particular the invasion of Parihaka on November 5, 1881. In May, I went back to Parihaka with Helene Young, to the network's AGM where we pledged the support of TSSF's Aotearoa section of the Pacific Province. If you are interested in being involved with the network's activities, please contact Pip.



On June 9 this year, the Government went to Parihaka to formally acknowledge and apologise for all that took place in 1881. It was an extraordinary day which culminated in the signing of a 'Deed of Reconciliation'. This is an amazing document which contains the historical summary and Crown apology, and a legacy statement from Parihaka's perspective, the key phases in the history of the settlement, the principles that guided — and continue to guide — the Parihaka community, and the future aspirations for this unique settlement. If you are interested in this, the document can be found online by searching for: [Parihaka Te Kawanata o Rongo Deed of Reconciliation \[PDF, 1.8 MB\]](#) . If you would prefer to read a report of the day and the text of just the Crown apology, this can be found by searching for: "Apology to Parihaka: 'The Crown responded to peace with tyranny'."

This year, for the first time, New Zealand will be commemorating the New Zealand Wars. The date set in legislation for this is October 28 – the date on which the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1835. It is hoped that a Peace 'week' will be established, from 28 October to 5 November, Parihaka Day. There is still much discussion to be had, but it is hoped this will lead to formal recognition in legislation.

It has been suggested that we could have a Franciscan presence at some of the annual pilgrimages / celebrations / remembrances, to stand in solidarity in the way of peace and reconciliation that Maori are initiating. The stories are our stories as well, although likely they will sound very different, but it feels important that through knowing both sides of a story we can begin to go forward together.

SO - could we begin to compile a list of significant dates, places and happenings so that TSSF people who are not too far away can take part? Please would you forward these to the JPIC team so we can share them with all.

Pip Colgan

Parihaka Day

For many years around November 5th, our youth group would ask if we could celebrate Guy Fawkes Day with a fireworks display (very controlled, of course - we gather on our lawn which is next to an historic wooden church!) And for many years this was our tradition. This all changed in 2005, when we took a group of young people to Parihaka to stay on one of the marae, to kōrero with the people, and to help restore an old church there. As we listened to one of the kuia tell of the events that unfolded on November 5th 1881, many of us were shocked at this story which had been hidden (suppressed?) from our history books - those of us who had studied history at school had certainly never encountered it in that context!

On returning home, we vowed that we would continue to tell the story of Parihaka even though it is an uncomfortable story for many Pākehā to tell. We decided that each year, instead of celebrating Guy Fawkes Day (which had begun to raise some tricky theological questions), we would retell the story of Parihaka and remember those whose lives were forever changed by what happened on that day. So now, each November 5th, we talk about Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi. We talk about the spirit of non-violence. And we remember all those who continue to struggle against injustice using non-violence as a form of resistance. And the fireworks? We still have them. Because gunpowder should be used to fuel fireworks - not guns.

Em Colgan

E.J.P. and our Franciscan Journey

It is great to report to the Franciscan EPJ and to share what we as a Church can do together.

The Environment Justice and Peace Network at the Waiapu Cathedral has been in place for over 20 years and includes mainly Cathedral Parishioners but others from the wider Churches representing Roman Catholic, Presbyterian Methodist and other Anglican Parishes. As a Franciscan, this was a group I found a place.

The Cathedral EPJ group continues to look at ways in which they can work together. There was a beach clean-up from all the Napier churches earlier in the year; a letter sent to the Islamic Federation of Aotearoa offering our love and support after terrorist attacks in Europe; a letter to our local Council around Easter trading and we put in place meetings around the election.

They work closely with the Eastland EPJ and I shared that the TSSF Chapter have begun a journey with those in our Franciscan family. It would be good that we could liaise.

This group is also responsible for the week of prayer for World peace and this year the newly formed Interfaith group has become involved. Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Bahai, Latter Day Saints and possibly Sikh and Hindu. As well, the Cathedral has set aside Peace month, beginning with remembering Parihaka in November with a special service.

What has become very apparent that Franciscans with our Benedictine Brothers and Sisters have a common goal of bringing together people of different persuasions who also have a passion for peace, justice and environment issues. The Spirituality Centre at Waiapu Cathedral under the direction of Erice Fairbrother OHC and myself representing TSSF see Environment Justice and Peace as part of their work as well as offering Spiritual Direction, Supervision, Quiet Days, still point meditation as well as liaising with local peace groups. We also have a close affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church and their EPJ network. We have joined them for a Christian Muslim dialogue with Str. Catherine the R.C. liaison spokesperson for Interfaith; An afternoon with different displays emphasising ways to be more environmentally friendly, and Dr Richard Egan who came to share spirituality in those with serious illness, with the dying and the aged.

Peace and all good,

Dorothy

HYMN

Care is the cure.

It is slow,

It is raw,

It is pure.

It is simple and bare.

It is real.

It is bold,

It is there.

Nothing is newer

Or older.

Or wiser,

Or truer.

Care is the cure.



Leunig

Update of news from FRRME.

The ancient Christian Community in Iraq has been decimated, in 2003 there were 1.5 million Christians, now there are less than 200,000. Three million people are homeless. Christians are not supported by the International Community, but by the kindness of fellow Christians in the West. Through our partnerships with Syrian Orthodox and Armenian Churches as well as our work at St. Georges, Baghdad, we are feeding 7,048 Iraqi Christians.

At St. Georges where our work began and where we fund a health clinic the congregation celebrated Easter among worsening sectarian violence. On Good Friday a bomb in Al-Maalet district killed 2 people and injured 4, despite this 100,s of people came to Church to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter Service was led by Rt Rev Michael Lewis, Bishop of the Anglican diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

We provided 600 tracksuits for school children in Ankawa 2 camp in Erbil and 150 football kits to a group of young men in Harsham camp.

At a processing camp near Mosul called Hassan Sham, 40 cradles for new born babies were provided. They need to be kept off the ground. We use local carpenters to make these cradles, giving them much needed work.

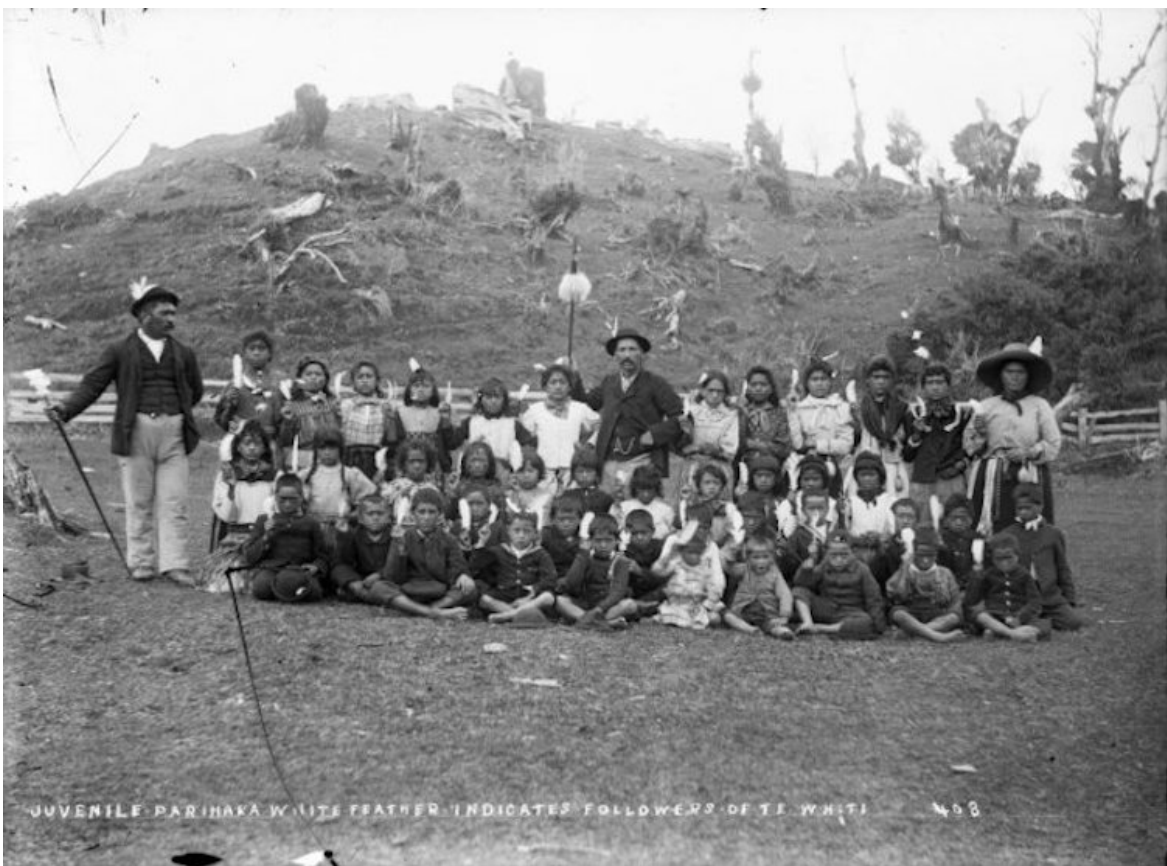
Our work feeding Christian families in Jordan continues with more families arriving daily. They receive no assistance and we are lobbying European parliament to the plight of Christians in the Middle East.

Please keep these people and the work of the FRRME in your prayers.

Diane Brown



Armed constabulary prepare to advance on Parihaka in late 1881. (Alexander Turnbull Library, PA1-q-183-19)



Te Whiti's son-in-law Taare Waitara with a class of children in the early 20th century. Many wear or display a white feather symbolising non-violence.

