

# CATHOLIC WORKER

'Faith, Works, Love, Mercy'

## Politics



The Catholic Worker do not do Politics. We don't support an individual party or stand for parliament. Politics in this sense where the pursuit of power is never far away is not our cup of tea. As Peter Maurin said, 'the Catholic Worker Movement fosters Catholic social action and not Catholic political action'. Various contributors in this issue give their thoughts on politics starting with *Church and State*. How much can we as Catholics be involved in political power? The week before going to the polls *On the eve of election blues* reflects on voting and the meaning of activism.

As followers of Christ however we have to be concerned with the good of others and how society can be bettered by establishing a social order shaped in the light of the Good News. To do this Catholic Workers first and foremost try to live the Life by establishing houses of hospitality (or in our case a soup kitchen and place of welcome) and acting at a personal cost to ourselves to help bring this about.

The use and threatened use of violence seems everywhere. Dorothy Day, despite the pain and disruption it caused declared the Catholic Worker to be pacifist in World War II. Fellow Catholic

Worker Ammon Hennasy was disappointed in those Catholic Workers who abandoned their pacifist ideals in World War II saying 'A pacifist between wars is like a vegetarian between meals'. Dorothy Day when asked to give a definitive

definition of Pacifism said "I can write no other than this: unless we use the weapons of the spirit, denying ourselves and taking up our cross and following Jesus, dying with Him and rising with Him, men will go on fighting, and often from the highest motives, believing that they are fighting defensive wars for justice and in self-defence against present or future aggression."

In *The Divine Mercy – A Lesson For Our Times* the concept of Divine Mercy is explored with St Faustina and how it can lead us to an understanding of Pacifism.

Violence is at its most terrible when applied through nuclear weapons. The Bishops of Scotland in a letter prior to

the Election said that 'The use of weapons of mass destruction is a serious crime against God and against humanity.' In *One small step..* getting rid of these weapons from Scotland, the UK and

the world is discussed.

The arms trade is like no other business as its merchandise relies on its effectiveness to kill and maim, to spy on and suppress. Finally in this edition an article about a sinister aspect of the arms trade which enables states to spy on their people in *Protection or suppression*.



SAINT TELEMACHUS  
PEACE MAKER

## STOP THE ARMS TRADE

Saturday

10th Sept. 2017

10am to 3pm

At the statue of Donald Dewar  
in front of Royal Concert Hall,  
Buchanan Street, Glasgow.



Join us for some or all of the time as we raise awareness of one of the worlds largest Arms Fairs, DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International) taking place in London from 12-15 September 2017, allowing buyers and sellers to network and make deals.

DSEI last took place in September 2015, and featured 1,500 exhibitors from around the world, displaying arms ranging from sniper rifles to tanks to combat aircraft to warships. They were joined by "trade visitors" and military delegations, including those from human rights abusing regimes and countries involved in conflict.

'We have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade'. Pope Francis  
More information at:  
[www.catholicworker.org.uk](http://www.catholicworker.org.uk)

## Church and State

Sociologist Jacques Ellul identified what he termed 'conformity to tomorrow'. This involves a moderate opposition to the existing political power and also the ability to identify with the most attractive trend in society. While this might seem to be an independent political stand, in reality it is an expression of avant-garde conformism. For years the dominant driver in British society has been a liberal-humanist materialism, a trend which shows no sign of slowing. It operates in all of our major political parties.

Where the Tory and Labour leaderships have accommodated themselves to these pressures, a recent casualty has been the ex-leader of the Lib Dems, Tim



*Ex-leader of the Lib Dems Tim Farron*

Farron. His Christian faith proved incompatible with liberal inclusiveness. The mainstream media mercilessly probed the faultlines between the two until Farron first shifted position and finally resigned.

There are a number of prominent Catholic politicians today but most hold views which diverge from issues of both personal morality and wider Catholic social teaching. Year on year, professing a Christian faith becomes more a liability for those who would aspire to political office. The question arises, can practising Catholics in good faith pursue a career in politics? Or should they?

A story has been told by Cardinal

George of Chicago that when as a young priest he was excited by the prospect of witnessing the first Catholic US president, he was told by Catholic Worker Dorothy Day, "Young man, I believe Mr. Kennedy has chosen very badly. No serious Catholic would want to be President of the United States."

The error made by the Christian politician is to assume that the Church is called to run society in collaboration with the State. The world already has sufficient people with political ambition. Christians have no mandate to impose their will over their brothers and sisters, using shabby power politics, backed by the ultimate threat of force. They have more important things to do. The Church is called to show the World the better way of Christ's Kingdom.

Catholic Workers essentially take a decentralist, non-violent approach to politics, always with a bias to the poor and marginalised. This does not involve utopian dreams of an ideal society. The State in some form is maybe a necessity. What is required is a personal commitment to take action at the lowest level possible for effectiveness, as well as to resist the State's inevitable tendency to concentrate power to itself. Politically this approach complements the economic ideas of Ernst Schumacher, author of 'Small is Beautiful' and a convert to Catholicism.

Christ resisted the Devil's temptation in the wilderness to accepting political power. We will fulfill the Church's purpose to the extent that we avoid assimilation by the State.

So no, Christians should avoid party political ambitions as much as they are able. There is more than enough proper politics involved in enacting Catholic Social Teaching.

*Martyn Sabell*

### **Get involved:**

#### **Round Table Discussions**

On the 3rd Tuesday of every month we meet to discuss a topic and help us together to clarify our thoughts.

We meet at 6:15. Please email us for details of where we'll be meeting.

#### **Soup Kitchen**

Help out at our weekly Soup Kitchen in Cadogan Street, Glasgow City Centre

#### **Place of Welcome for Refugees: Saturdays 9am-1pm**

Help teach English at Garnethill Multicultural Centre (Basement) 21 Rose Street Glasgow or just socialise.

#### **Monthly Witness at Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base**

Join us on the first Saturday of each month at 2:30pm outside the North Gate.

#### **Website:**

[www.catholicworker.org.uk](http://www.catholicworker.org.uk) **Email:** [glw@catholicworker.org.uk](mailto:glw@catholicworker.org.uk)

**Twitter:** @CatholicWorkerG

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/glasgowcatholicworker](http://www.facebook.com/glasgowcatholicworker)

#### **Donating to the Catholic Worker**

We exclusively depend on donations from people who support our aims and vision. We do not pay anyone for the work they do and do not in principle register as a charity. Any money donated helps us to pay rent and costs we need cash for. If you would like to contribute money to our work you can transfer donations to us using your bank's phone or online service:

#### **Account name:**

Catholic Worker Glasgow

**Bank:** Triodos Bank

**Account number:** 20467753

**Sort code:** 16-58-10

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## One Small Step.....

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There are many dangers threatening our planet - global warming, climate change, environmental degradation, the masses of plastic floating in our oceans, and so on. Not to speak of the social and political problems - poverty, hunger, abuse of women and children, oppression and exploitation, and, of course, bloody war raging over many lands.

Now, there are two things needed to tackle all of these problems. Firstly, a change of heart, metanoia or repentance, (to use an old fashioned word), and secondly, time. It takes a long time to turn a huge liner onto a completely different course. The H Bomb robs us of any time, and, therefore of any further

That is why the Nobel prize-winning physicist Andrei Sakharov, the "Father" of the Soviet H Bomb said "The struggle against nuclear war must take precedence over every other human activity and interest".

So, nuclear disarmament is not a personal obsession of mine, like collecting cigarette cards, or building model railways, or trainspotting. Even less is it a nostalgia trip to a lost world of flower power, flares, love-ins, and the music of Donovan and Dylan. The hydrogen bomb is the most immediate, and most important, moral issue. It dwarfs all others. That is why it must take precedence.

Amidst all the political turmoil that the UK is experiencing now, momentous events are taking place on the world stage. On July 7th, the United Nations

ing, I have constantly met the response which goes "Yes, of course, these are terrible weapons and we must get rid of them but it must be by a multilateral approach, not by a reckless unilateralism" This is ritually repeated ad nauseam, as an article of faith.

The plain truth is that far as the UK is concerned, multilateralism simply does not exist. No British nuclear weapon has even been put on any negotiating table - ever. America and Russia have considerably reduced their nuclear arsenals. (They can now blow up the world only 5 times over, not 15).

Britain has always operated a "new lamps for old policy". We upgrade our weapons, decreasing the numbers, yes, but increasing lethality and usability. Thus, the obsolete free-fall W177 was replaced by the superior Polaris missile,

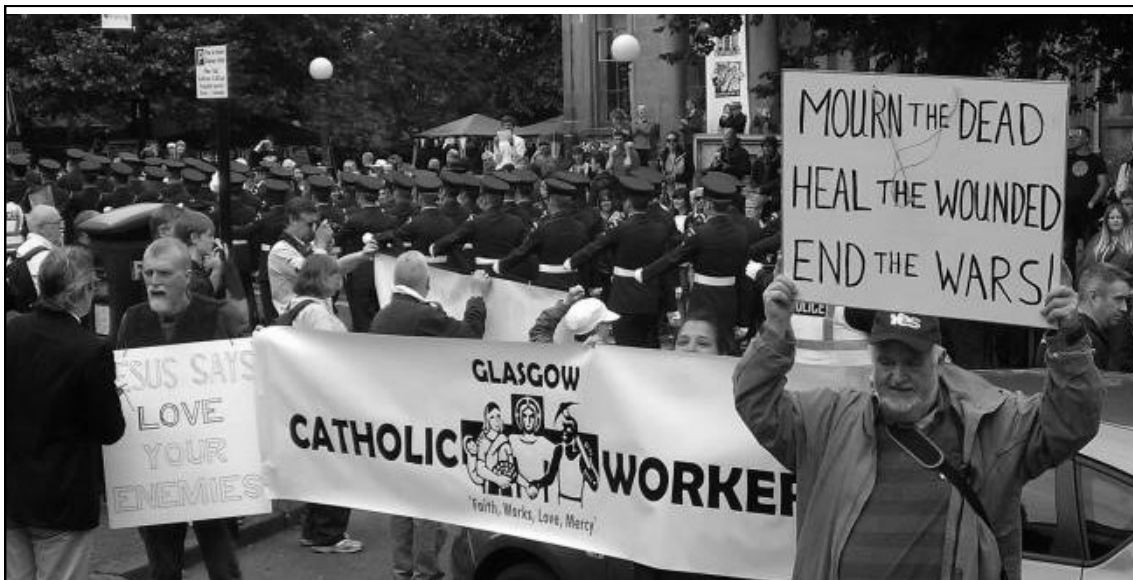
Polaris was upgraded by Chevaline, and Chevaline replaced with Trident.

When Trident was introduced in 1994, the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence described it as "a significant enhancement (my emphasis) of the UK's nuclear capability". This is in spite of the fact that the UK government has already agreed,

"to work in good faith for the elimination of nuclear weapons" in Article VI of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) which we signed, way back in 1968.

So, where are the "multilateralists" today? All the Unionist (British Nationalist) parties are committed to maintaining Trident and its replacement in 2025, when it reaches its "use by" date. The UK will continue to be a nuclear power indefinitely, they hope.

In Scotland, the Scottish Labour party is



*Catholic Workers at Armed Forces Day, Stirling*

chance of repentance.

Right now, while you are reading this, a young man sits at a control panel in a submarine deep under the surface of the ocean, waiting for the command to launch. When he does, it will be the end of everything. All our plans, hopes, and dreams presuppose the continued existence of this stage we live on - our planet. The use of even a fraction of our stockpile of nuclear weapons will devastate the environment, and, in effect, sterilize the planet.

will make the most important decision it has ever made since its foundation in 1945 after WWII. On that day, more than 130 nations will agree on an International Treaty banning all nuclear weapons worldwide. The UK and the USA are boycotting this discussion, as are the other nuclear-armed states. But the motion will pass. We just might have a future after all. Either we have a future without nuclear weapons, or we have no future at all. Simple.

In all my long weary years of campaign-

opposed to Trident, but its leader, Kezia Dugdale supports it. Whereas in England, the labour leader Jeremy Corbyn (Vice-President of CND) is against Trident, while the party supports it. Go figure.

As Defence is a reserved matter, in the event of a Labour victory in any future election, what the English labour party decides will be UK policy.

The SNP, the Greens, the SSP and other parties that support independence, maintain a principled moral objection to Trident. They don't want it, here or anywhere else.

The redoubtable Bruce Kent once said: "As an Englishman, I support Scottish Independence, because it seems to me to be the best way to get rid of Trident". He was right. Trident cannot be relocated to England - it doesn't have the mountains we have at Coulport, where 180 nuclear bombs are buried deep underground. An independent Scotland with a written constitution prohibiting nuclear weapons from its lands and waters means an end to this, the absolute evil.

Nor is it a "NIMBY" issue. John Ainslie has demonstrated this in his expert report "Trident - Nowhere to go". Using the MoD's own assessments, this document analyses why alternative locations to Faslane and Coulport are simply not tenable. Alternative locations discussed include the 2012 Olympics sailing venue, National Trust land, and densely populated residential areas. There is simply nowhere for Trident to go.

This can be our splendid gift to our English cousins and to the world - to free the UK from its enslavement to nuclear idolatry. The UK would then be in a position to exert pressure on the French to abandon the folly of their "force de frappe", and create a nuclear free Europe, which could then join the other global nuclear free regions.

It is not often realized just how many

parts of the world are already nuclear-free. The entire continent of Africa became nuclear free by the Treaty of Pelindaba (1996); the South Pacific, Australia, New Zealand by the Treaty of Rarotonga (1985); the whole of South America by the Treaty of Tlatelolco (1967), and Southeast Asia, by the Treaty of Bangkok (1995). The nuclear armed states are the "rogue states".

A nuclear-free Scotland will be a major step in the drive to remove the threat of global nuclear suicide from the world. This places an enormous moral responsibility on us. As Christians, we must know where we stand - and stand there.



*Two thirds of United Nations member states are on course to conclude a treaty on the banning of nuclear weapons this year— but no UK government presence, just an empty seat.*

There really is no alternative. As the Canberra Commission of 1996 said: "The proposition that nuclear weapons can be retained in perpetuity and never used - accidentally or by decision - defies credibility. The only complete defence is the elimination of nuclear weapons and assurance that they will never be used."\*

On July 17th, the world will make a momentous step by forging a treaty banning all nuclear weapons. As Christians we should be pressurising our government to support this movement. If not us, then who?

*Brian Quail*

## On the eve on an election blues

Lately, I've been reading some Noam Chomsky to cheer myself up and also remind me that there's more to political activism than just voting.

I'm not sure about you but I've found this entire UK general election campaign to be totally depressing. Perhaps the trauma of waking up to the consecutive disasters of the Indyref no vote, the previous Tory election victory, the Trump victory and Brexit, remains strong in my subconscious.

Even the local campaign in my own area seems extremely cynical and quite negative. For example, if we're being totally honest, the suggestion that this SNP Gov are "Tartan Tories" who freely choose to close hospital wards, underfund education and make cuts to other services for purely ideological reasons just doesn't seem credible with regards to what we already know about the



*Dorothy Day*

individuals within a Government which has been solidly populist and centre left for decades.

Do I think they will make cuts? Yes, absolutely! But why?

Well they have to, all Governments make cuts. Even Corbyn's Momentum controlled Labour will need to make cuts to services if they get in, they simply must do as to be able to govern.

For example, you may recall back in the 90s we enjoyed a period of strong investment all the while suffering huge cuts to services such as Inverclyde Royal Hospital in my own town (from which the hospital has never really recovered) and cuts to other services too.

This was when Labour ran Westminster AND Holyrood under, what has to be said were, mostly honest and decent men like Dewar, McLeish,

McConnell. Also, including mostly all Labour controlled Councils, MPs' and MSPs'. (Back then, the plan was to simply place the blame on the health board not central government)

This is because no matter what anyone tells you, it's a capitalist system which is controlled primarily by the market regardless of who happens to hold office.

And so, every five years we simply change the administrators who are forced to operate within the same budget constraints. And so, each party will balance the books slightly differently by making different investments and different cuts in different places.

Some Governments are slightly left of centre and others are more right of centre, so their priorities are slightly different, yet it all makes very little difference.

The other problem is the amount of duplicitous behaviour that goes on during election time. The SNP candidate knows fine well cuts are coming straight after the election but refuses

to acknowledge the fact. Meanwhile the Labour candidate knows fine well that a backbench MP in London can do practically zero about a devolved matters such as health and education yet still campaigns on a platform of reversing SNP cuts.

And so, for six weeks we have to endure faux protest campaigns outside the hospital and the college from a Labour candidate (who, I've never actually seen or met during 25 years of protesting or campaigning against local cuts?) who after Thursday will



probably never be seen protesting locally ever again.

For me, this is the absolute worst aspect of the whole pantomime - putting an x in a box after 6 weeks of intensive electioneering every 5 years should not be our only expression of power or political activism.

Yet, despite all this cynicism, the promise of an Clem Attlee style 1945 national renewal being offered by Corbyn remains a very strong vision of hope.

Perhaps on Thursday I may surrender myself to this vision of hope and vote for Corbyn in the somewhat misguided hope that he will turn on his own party and dump the renewal of Trident on day one.

Nonetheless, I'm reminded of the fact that I am, at heart, first and foremost a Catholic Worker and therefore aligned to Christian anarchism and pacifism.

Our dearest founder Dorothy Day tell us - "We need to overthrow this

rotten, decadent, putrid industrial capitalist system, not perpetuate it with our votes".

Similarly, Catholic Worker and former Iowa mayor Brian Terrell expands on this idea when he writes - "She was not bound to choose between greater and lesser evils, and neither are we. The pollsters are wrong -- our choice is not between being a silent bystander or a collaborator with one degree of evil or another".

Brian reminds us that "Day's anarchism is the antidote to the paralysis of those who reach the conclusion that electoral politics are a meaningless charade; it is encouragement to those tempted to abandon hope when they discover that their hope in the system was misplaced all along."

Finally, Terrell goes on to say, "Day considered the ballot and decided that it was not worth her time. Fasting and prayer, on the other hand, she found worthwhile, along with sharing resources in community, breaking bread with the hungry and welcoming the stranger, tending gardens and engaging in daring acts of nonviolent protest. These activities constitute a practical political program that she could embrace. It is a program that, unlike the paltry and soon to be betrayed promises of the corporate political parties, holds infinite potential to bring peace and healing to this tortured planet".

Good luck to all who vote in good faith next week, regardless of who you vote for. And good luck to all, who in good faith, don't vote at all but continue the struggle after the electioneering has ended.

*Ross Ahlfeld*

# The Divine Mercy – A Lesson For Our Times

In the early 1930s an uneducated, unknown nun in Poland named Sister Faustina began to see visions, and hear voices. Jesus came to her and spoke to her. He said to her “You are the secretary of my mercy....to make known to souls the great mercy that I have for them”. He asked her to have His picture painted with rays of light emanating from His heart, showing how blood and water burst forth from His



*Sister Faustina with her family (1935).*

body to offer us His overwhelming forgiveness. Almost a century later, the Divine Mercy devotion has captured the hearts and imaginations of millions of people throughout the world, and the chaplet, as taught to now-Saint Faustina, is being said daily, asking God for mercy for the whole world.

“Private revelations”, such as Saint Faustina had, have always had a place in the Church. While nobody is mandated to believe or follow the private revelations of the mystics, we are allowed and often encouraged to follow Church approved revelations. As long as the Church is able to put its stamp of approval on the teachings, showing that they are in line with Scripture and the dogma of the Church, then any faithful Catholic is free to follow the revelations and form a devotion. The

key to understanding private revelations is that they do not teach anything new – they are meant to reinforce the teachings of the scriptures and of the Church, and they are offered at various times and places as God sees a need to reinforce His word. Not all Catholics choose to express their spirituality by following a particular Saint, mystic, or devotion – but for many Catholics, the prayers associated with private revelations help them to worship Jesus in a committed and passionate way.

When Jesus came to Saint Faustina, she, like many mystics before her, had doubts as to the credibility of what she was hearing. As anyone would, she asked herself if this was the genuine

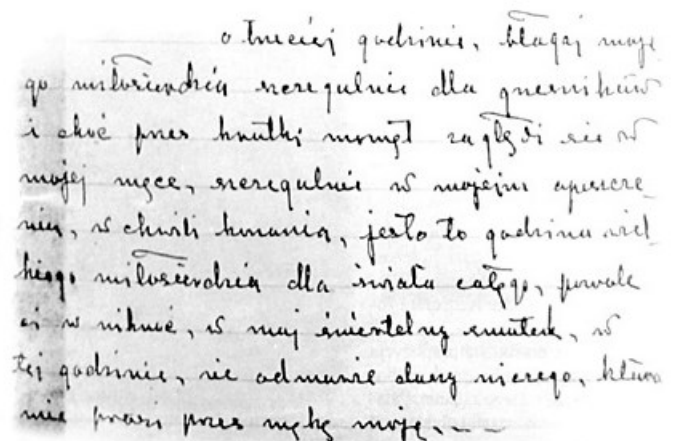
voice of God. She had to rely on her superiors and her confessors to help her have confidence in the message from Jesus. She knew what she was hearing was beautiful, and awe inspiring, and in line with all she had learned about Jesus her whole life – that God’s mercy is abundant, overwhelming, and beyond anything mere mortals can

truly understand. The Lord continuously told her that all we have to do is trust in God – throw ourselves into Him in trust and love – and He will forgive us all our sins and put us in a state of grace in our final moments on this earth. Slowly, Saint Faustina learned that her visions were genuine and that she had a special role in suffering for the world, praying for the world, and sharing the message of the Lord’s mercy.

There has been much written about the Divine Mercy since Saint Pope John

Paul II declared Faustina a Saint and declared Divine Mercy Sunday the first Sunday after Easter. Saint Faustina’s diary itself in which she recorded her visions is a long and beautiful read. Yet one doesn’t have to read the whole diary to understand the heart of the message. To understand the message we just need to meditate on the words of our Lord as spoken to Faustina: “Today, I am sending you with My mercy to the people of the whole world. I do not wish to punish mankind, but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my Merciful heart.” I have chosen you to “make known to souls the great mercy that I have for them, and to exhort them to trust in the bottomless depth of my mercy.”

One of the most compelling aspects of the diary is God’s insistence to Faustina that there is not a sinner in this world who is beyond the reach of His love. On the contrary – He claims to love sinners the most, if only they will trust in Him. “I perform works of mercy in every soul. The greater the sinner, the greater He has a right to My mercy”. “Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be scarlet.” Jesus repeated multiple times that He came for

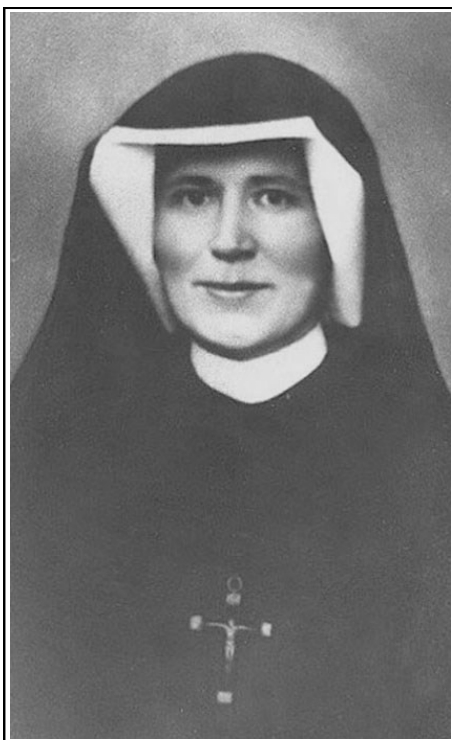


*An excerpt from the manuscript of the diary of Saint Sister Faustina*

the despairing soul, and that if someone responds to His grace – even with the smallest part of their being – he will never turn His back on them. He said there was an urgency to His message that the world needed to hear



immediately – and certainly, with the onset of the horrors of World War II and the suffering of Europe and beyond we can see why God came to this humble sister and claimed the world was in urgent need of this reminder of His love.



*Sister Faustina*

As I meditate on the Divine Mercy it occurs to me that the urgency of the message remains for us today. We are living in despairing times – as friends have expressed to me, they are almost afraid to turn on their news in the morning. With war waging in the Middle East, terrorist bombs killing innocent children in our own country, far right groups taking the lives of Muslims as they pray during Ramadan; with the fire in the Grenfell tower block, and the tragic loss of life, seemingly caused by the callousness of a world driven to save money instead of caring for the

poor - it seems that the message of God's all-embracing love might be the only message that can save us.

One of the most difficult aspects of truly living and believing in the Divine Mercy is that it is on offer to everyone – and that means everyone. It is on offer to the young man who set off a bomb in Manchester killing innocent children. It is on offer to the politicians who ordered the barbaric bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is on offer to the Nazi guardsmen who walked innocent families to their deaths in the gas chambers, and on offer to the far-right extremists who drove a van into Muslim worshipers in the very early hours of this very morning. It is on offer to the Priests who abused children and is on offer to the men and women who design, promote, and sell weapons of mass destruction. It is for all of us.

God wants all of us. Anyone who turns to Him and accepts His love – anyone who trusts in Him, no matter what they have done in the past – can live in His love and eventually be with Him in glo-

to be merciful to others by act, by word, and by prayer. He has made each of us a vessel of His mercy and by our own compassionate hearts and by our own trust and prayers we can bring others into His heart. Indeed, the Lord claims that by saying the Divine Mercy Chaplet on someone's death bed, we can help Him in the final work of that soul's salvation. We are not passive individuals who are only to think about our own private salvation – we are actually vessels for the salvation of the world. By making use of the Sacraments, by prayer and by love we help each other to respond to God's offered graces. And we pray for our enemies and those that hurt us – and ask God to forgive them too.

As Catholic Workers, we see our pacifist beliefs and actions as strongly in line with the message of God's mercy. If, indeed, we are called to be merciful to others – no matter what they have done – then we have no mandate to ever act in violence against another person, another group, or another

*"...a soul should be faithful to prayer despite torments, dryness and temptations, because often the realization of God's great plans depends on such prayer. If we do not persevere in such prayer, we frustrate what the Lord wanted to do through us or within us. Let every soul remember these words: And being in anguish, He prayed longer" (Diary, 872)*

ry. If the Nazi guardsman or the Manchester bomber turned to God in trust before their deaths, even in the final second when God came before their eyes – then God forgave them – and did so abundantly. Many of us call ourselves Christian, yet many of us - in our flawed humanity - struggle with the abundance of God's love. We must continue to move our hearts towards accepting this level of God's love, for ourselves and others.

And what is our role in God's plan of overwhelming love? According to Saint Faustina God expects us to ask for His mercy; to be merciful to others; and to have total trust in His love. He asks us

country. When we look with clarity at the world around us – when we consider the history of war and destruction in the past century and continuing today – it becomes apparent that it is only forgiveness that can end the cycle of violence and move us closer to His Kingdom come. And to forgive and live in love, we must never forget the power of prayer.

Let us remember to pray daily, like Saint Faustina, "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, Have mercy on us, and on the world."

*Tamara Horsburgh*

More information at: [www.gla.ac.uk/services/catholicchaplaincy/divinemercy/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/catholicchaplaincy/divinemercy/)

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## Protection or suppression

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Israel military grade surveillance is operational in the centre of Glasgow. David Cameron's government paid an Israeli company closely linked to the Israeli military to deploy a powerful surveillance system in Glasgow City Centre. The Cameron Government made a grant of £24m to Glasgow to deploy the surveillance system, at a time of rising demand for food banks in the city and cuts to basic services.

According to Glasgow City Council, "a one-stop shop City Dashboard" will monitor, by CCTV and "integration of data...everything from foot and vehicle traffic to council tax collection and hospital waiting lists". There has until now been no debate in the Council on the need to develop a system of democratically accountable oversight of the uses and mis-uses of technology that takes intrusion to new levels.

The technology was developed by the Israeli military to enforce an illegal occupation and carry out what numerous human rights groups and the UNHRC has called crimes against humanity in Palestine. NICE Systems uses data from "multiple sources, including phone calls, mobile apps, emails, chat, social media, video, and transactions".

Do we want to live in a city "fully utilising the capabilities that NICE" has developed to crush and dispossess the



Palestinian people and carry out "crimes against humanity" according to Amnesty International and the UN Human Rights Council?

So malignant was the surveillance system that 43 Israeli soldiers from military Unit 8200 that spawned NICE Systems resigned, and revealed that the technology is part of a programme of "political persecution"

## Privacy fears over police use of face ID database

*Headline in Herald*

part of "the same job that the intelligence services of every undemocratic regime are doing."

The full extent of surveillance being carried out by Glasgow City Council remains unclear but NICE Security Group Vice-President Chris Wooten highlighted their "expertise in helping cities around the world manage day-to-day life, as well as large-scale events, from both a security and operational perspective. We...look forward to a continued partnership with the city of Glasgow...fully utilizing the

capabilities that NICE Situator can provide."

Glasgow City Council spokespersons have claimed that the full capabilities of the surveillance technology being purchased would not be utilised, but this raises obvious questions - why would a buyer not leave open the option of fully utilising the full capabilities of a product? If not, why buy it in the first place?

Full utilisation means that every time you walk through Glasgow City Centre, or take part in a demonstration, state of the art CCTV cameras can try to detect your mood and, using facial recognition technology, cross-check with any social media, police and even medical records while following your every move through the city centre. There

needs to be a public conversation about this potentially dangerous development. US intelligence whistleblower, Edward Snowden, until recently Rector of Glasgow University, alerted the world to the extreme intrusiveness of both US intelligence agencies into huge numbers of people's personal and hitherto private communications. Snowden revealed that the UK intelligence agencies were even more intrusive than their US counterparts

This Israeli surveillance system is being piloted in Scotland's biggest city rather than in areas where the Tory Government could lose votes, inviting comparisons with Thatcher's poll tax being trialled in Scotland.

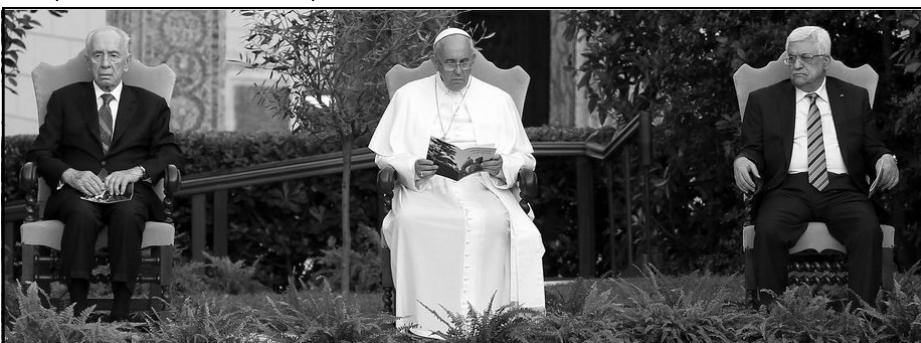
*Mick Napier*

*Mick Napier is a member of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign (SPSC)*

*If you'd like more information, or to help raise awareness of this malign technology, contact*

*mick@scottishpspc.org.uk*

*0795 800 2591*



*Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2014 with Presidents Shimon Peres of Israel, left, and Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority*