



French’s Forest Catholic Parish Social Justice Group News

“A great cultural, spiritual, and educational challenge stands before us” Laudato Si’ #202

While the invasion of Ukraine has us praying and caring for the suffering Ukrainians and those in Russia who would like things to be different, the people and earth of Myanmar are also suffering and needing our prayers and support.

In February 2021, their democratically government was deposed in a coup by the military power bloc. In April 2022, their leader, Aung San Suu Kii was sentenced to five years jail by a military-ruled court. [Source](#) Currently, nearly 1 million people have been displaced due to military action which includes shelling of villages and laying of landmines. [Source](#) Very recently, the Union of Catholic Asian News reported that, “Some 16 parishes in Loikaw Diocese in Myanmar’s Kayah state have been totally abandoned with the escalation of the conflict.” [Source](#)

It is hard for us to imagine what life might be like under these conditions. Members of the FFCP Social Justice Group have participated in webinars and prayer gatherings since the coup in order to listen to the cry of these poor and the cry of the Earth there. We have listened to the voices of the Burmese diaspora in Australia and their desperate desire for help for this suffering country. We know that what happens there affects all of us.

On Sunday May 8th, I participated in a global prayer service for peace and new life for Myanmar hosted by the Pax Christi Peace network. Dr Sa Sa, Minister for International Cooperation in the National Unity Government of Myanmar read a reading. Monk Ashin Sarana shared thoughts based on Buddhist scriptures. Maulana Hafiez Qari Saya Oo Soe Nay Oo read a passage from Islamic teachings. Australian/Burmese Good Samaritan Sr Geraldine Kearney gave a reflection. Mai Mai and Christopher from the Karenni community prayed the prayers of intercession. The Hon. Duwa Lashi La, President of National Unity Government of Myanmar, spoke to all of us, the participants, about how grateful they were to know they aren’t forgotten, for support given to the people of Myanmar, and urged for more support from governments in the Asia Pacific and beyond. It was a very moving experience for me.

The Co-President of Pax Christi International, Sr Wamuyu Wachira, invited us all to light candles when we can and pray this prayer:

As we from many nations, from different walks of life and differing persuasions, let us unite our hearts and minds and prayers for the people of Myanmar. This time of internal conflict, imposed by the military regime is heightened also by the impact of Covid 19. Heavy mantles of indescribable pain, suffering, and loss of life and violations of human rights have been inflicted on the people. Lord God, banish from our souls whatever might endanger peace. In flame our desires to break through the barriers that divide us, to strengthen the bonds of mutual love. Through your power and inspiration, may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts as sisters and brothers. Amen.

By Anne Lanyon, FFCP Social Justice Group

June Events

5th	World Environment Day	Protect Biodiversity at your place
8th	World Oceans Day	Stop plastics going into oceans
15 th	World Elder Abuse Day	Read Social Justice in an aging society
26 th	International Day in support of victims of torture	www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day