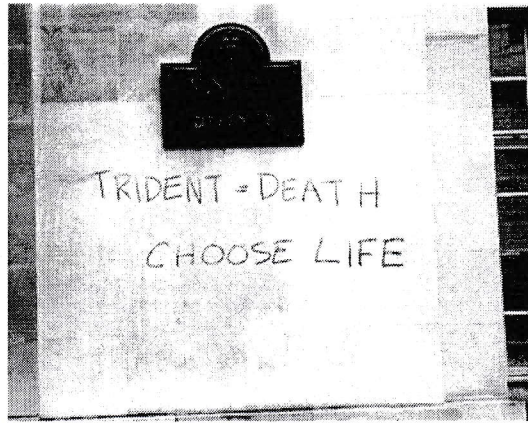


Lent 2006 - Show your Faith in Life and Peace

Say No to Trident and Nuclear War Preparations

The peace we seek cannot come from weapons but from a commitment to justice and nonviolent actions which recognise the dignity of every human person and all creation.

We reject models of security that rely on fear and the strength of nuclear arms.
"Integrity will bring peace, justice give everlasting security." (Is 32:17)



We need to act because:

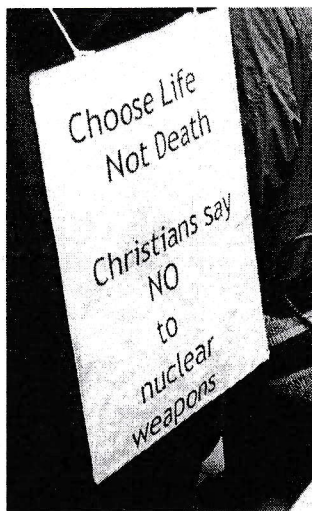
- Nuclear weapons are devastatingly destructive, and kill indiscriminately, both immediate victims and future generations.
- The Government is actively planning to develop and deploy another generation of British nuclear weapons after the existing Trident submarine system is decommissioned some time between 2020 and 2030.
- This is a move in exactly the opposite direction from our Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations "to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament..." (Art.VI)
- Britain should now be taking the lead in calling for international nuclear weapons abolition negotiations. No such talks have ever even started.

We must raise awareness about the moral and legal aspects of nuclear war preparations - within our churches, political groups, and other networks.

Join us this Lent - wherever you are - in liturgy and nonviolent civil disobedience

Since 1984, acts of public witness on the themes of repentance and resistance to nuclear weapons have taken place in London and other places on Ash Wednesday. These have included liturgy and nonviolent civil disobedience, using the traditional symbols of Ash and Charcoal.

- Join us at the Ministry of Defence in London on Ash Wednesday, 1st March. More details from Pax Christi in February.
- Plan a public liturgy at a military base or site near you, or in your local church on 1st March. We can provide you with sample liturgy materials.
- Plan your own vigils at these sites at other times during Lent, giving one hour of your time as part of your Lenten duty - or join us in London.
- You can plan for nonviolent civil disobedience, using the symbols of the day to mark the site or building where you hold your liturgy. This may result in arrest and charges of 'criminal damage', or simply being physically prevented by the police from marking the building. Those involved in such actions must be prepared for arrest and possible imprisonment. It is essential that anyone considering nonviolent civil disobedience should discuss the issues fully in advance. Pax Christi can offer training and support.



On Ash Wednesday we confess our own personal need for repentance and mark our own foreheads with blessed charcoal and ash. We then take those same materials to the Ministry of Defence and do the same, calling on the community to turn away from the sin, and illegality, of nuclear war preparations. We are re-claiming and re-emphasising the social and corporate need for repentance without denying our personal responsibility.

Last Ash Wednesday Christians held vigils and actions in Oxford, Cambridge and Newcastle. Let's build on the past 22 years of witness against nuclear war preparations and make Lent 2006 more responsive to the 'cry of the poor' and the call of Christ's peace.

What have our Church leaders said?

“Nuclear weapons assault life on the planet, they assault the planet itself, and in so doing they assault the process of continuing development of the planet.”

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, at the NPT Review Conference, 2005

“Nuclear deterrence prevents genuine nuclear disarmament.... It is a fundamental obstacle to achieving a new age of global security.”

Archbishop Martino, UN General Assembly, 1993

“When war, like the one now in Iraq, threatens the fate of humanity, it is even more urgent for us to proclaim, with a firm and decisive voice, that only peace is the way of building a more just and caring society;... weapons can never resolve the problems of man.”

Pope John Paul II, 22 March 2003

*May this season of
repentance bring us
the blessing of your
forgiveness and the
gift of your light.*

*Opening prayer, Ash
Wednesday.*

*God of love, bring us
back to you. Send
your Spirit to make us
strong in faith and
active in good work.*

*Opening Prayer from 5th
week of Lent*

What can you do?

Help your Church community to become more aware

- Use information on this leaflet, or from the Pax Christi website, to help your church community become more informed about this issue. Put information in newsletters and on noticeboards.
- Organise a meeting during Lent to discuss the implications of nuclear plans for you as a faith community. How do these policies challenge the Christian understanding of security and community? How do they relate to what the Church has to say on peace and security?
- Encourage members of your community to write to the local MP about the Government's nuclear policy and Trident in particular.
- Write to your local bishop or church leader to urge him/her to speak out as a community leader on these issues.

**This is a project of
Pax Christi and Catholic Peace Action**

Please indicate how you would like to be involved:

- ☐ Please contact me to discuss this invitation further.
- ☐ I would like to be informed about the Ash Wednesday and Lenten witness
- ☐ I would like to have a sample liturgy for Ash Wednesday to adapt for local use
- ☐ I, or my group, would be willing to assist in a vigil at the Ministry of Defence in London during Lent 2006
- ☐ I am willing to take part in nonviolent civil disobedience on Ash Wednesday / organise nonviolent civil disobedience in my area and would like to be informed of training/support

Name _____

Name of Group (if appropriate): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____



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