
What's next?

Joining and Journeying with the Community of the Cross of Nails

Ideas to help you consider what's next
in your Cross of Nails Journey

This document gathers together some ideas to enable your Cross of Nails Community membership to be shared widely among your church or organisation and embedded in its life and practices.

The Community of the Cross of Nails is an international Christian community of over 250 partners: churches, schools, charities and other organisations. All of our CCN partners share a commitment to our common priorities:

Healing the wounds of History
Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity
Building a culture of justice and peace

Each partner is distinct in the way it embodies these priorities. This document seeks to guide you in considering how these might find incarnation in your community.

It is hoped the passion that has driven you to apply and become a member of the CCN will inspire others to become peace makers and reconcilers in your community, and your Cross of Nails will be an ongoing symbol of hope and impact there.

The documents presents ideas for reflection and practice through worship, discussion and partnering with others, to help you spread the word, build relationships and engage in further learning about reconciliation.

CCN Group

Functioning alongside other committees or groups within your organisation a CCN group will gather those who can pray and take responsibility for generating ideas on pursuing peacebuilding and reconciliation in your community, along with sharing news about the wider CCN. Alternatively or alongside this you could run a Lent Group to explore over a short period what reconciliation is and can be in your community. Examples are available from the Cathedral team.

Young reconcilers

If your organisation or church has people under 25 you may wish to explore a Young Reconcilers group to particularly encourage younger people to explore reconciliation and peace building in line with the passions of their generation and perspective.

Celebrate CCN Sunday

Aim to mark this day in your liturgical calendar each year, usually on the final Sunday in September. Share the specific liturgy created by different CCN partners each year, and take the opportunity to highlight projects needing prayer and support in your own community.

CCN Champions

Who are the 'people of peace' in your organisation? Are there others who are members of staff, volunteers, on steering committees etc that should know about the impacts of reconciliation and its potential for your organisation or church. How could you involve them?

Litany of Reconciliation

Identify an opportunity to include the Litany of Reconciliation into your weekly rhythm. Consider joining others around the world in praying the Litany together, monthly, on Zoom:

- on the first Friday of the month at midday CET (11am UK) led by our German partners;
- on the third Tuesday at midday EST (5pm UK), led by our US and Canadian partners.

All welcome! Contact alice.farnhill@coventry.anglican.org to join the monthly reminder mailing list.

Focus Days

Identify moments in the church or your organisation's calendar where the CCN or reconciliation and peacebuilding can be highlighted or referenced. You may wish to initiate and build an annual cycle. Some suggestions are included below:

| THEME | DATE |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| International Day of Peace | 21st September |
| CCN Sunday | Final Sunday in September |
| Anniversary of the Coventry Blitz | 14th November |
| International Day for Tolerance | 16th November |
| National Day of Mourning (Volkstrauertag) | Two Sundays before the 1st of Advent |
| Human Rights Day | 10th December |
| International Human Solidarity Day | 20th December |
| World day of Social Justice | 20th February |
| World Water day | 22nd March |
| Bhimrao Ramji Ambedka day | 14th April |
| World day for Diversity, Dialogue & development | 21st May |
| Mahatma Gandhi Day | 2nd October |
| key remembrance dates for your community/local cultures | |
| Twice yearly Coventry pilgrimages, in May and October | |
| Regional CCN Gatherings | |

www.UN.org has resources to support you in using many of these 'international' dates as a focus for activity – along with hundreds of others.

Liturgy

Aim to include reconciliation-themed liturgy in your public worship or organisation's meetings.

The liturgy for each CCN Sunday, and some previous ones, can be found here :

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails> .

Creating your own version of the Litany of Reconciliation

One of the most powerful conversations we can have amongst ourselves is how the wording of the Litany works for our own situation. Written in 1958, parts of it may not work for everyone today. What parts could you adjust, while maintaining the spirit of the whole, to make it more inclusive and applicable to all, if this is needed? One example, from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in North Carolina, USA, is below:

All have failed to fully see and live into the glory of God.

The anger and intolerance that disable us from inhabiting our civic spaces together,
God, forgive.

The ways we trade and interact with our global neighbors that enrich ourselves at their expense,
God, forgive.

The way we vastly undervalue green spaces, clean water and air, healthy land, and reduced
consumption,
God, forgive.

Our resentment of those who rejoice at a time when we see only desolation and loss,
God, forgive.

Our failure to see Christ in the faces of the homeless family, the person who is mentally ill, the one who
does not look like us, the prisoner, and the refugee in flight,
God, forgive.

Our capacity to normalize and turn a blind eye to harassment, bullying, sexual abuse, and human
trafficking in all its forms,
God, forgive.

Our failure to call out our religious and civil institutions for excluding rather than drawing the circle wide,
God, forgive.

The actions we take and the words we say without consulting or trusting the God who made us,
God, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ modeled for you. Amen.

Reading and Resource list

- Oliver Schuegraf: The Cross of Nails: Joining in God's Mission of Reconciliation
- Phil Groves & Angharad Parry Jones: Living Reconciliation
- John Paul Lederach: Reconcile: Conflict Transformation for Ordinary Christians
- John Paul Lederach: Moral Imagination
- Justin Welby: The Power of Reconciliation
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu: The Book of Forgiving
- John de Gruchy: Reconciliation
- Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice: Reconciling All Things
- 'Reconciliation: four Coventry reflections', a short film featuring four previous Canons for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, here: <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/reconciliation-ministry>
- Difference Course: <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/priorities/reconciliation/difference-course>

Partnerships

John Paul Lederach says that relationships are both the basis for conflict and its long-term solution.

Who are the key stakeholders in your local community?
Are there relationships that need to be forged or invested in such as with local schools, faith groups and community leaders?

Keep in touch with the wider CCN network via the regional board that is most relevant to your own location:

In Germany: <https://nagelkreuz.de/>

In the USA: <https://www.crossofnails-na.org/>

In South Africa contact: delene@hopeafrica.org.za

In Canada contact: michael@sorrento-centre.bc.ca

In the Netherlands contact: bertkuijpers@planet.nl

In the UK contact: mjcsimmons@gmail.com

Or via alice.farnhill@coventry.anglican.org where none of these areas apply to you.

Making a plan

You may find it useful to make a plan for what happens next: perhaps choose to focus on one of the three CCN priorities.

Included below is the self evaluation document used by International Cross of Nails Schools, which you may find useful.

CCN Scrapbook

The Community of the Cross of Nails is rooted in the story of Coventry Cathedral. Consider how you will gather and share your stories and the stories of others about the impact of reconciliation. Collect together photos, reflections and comments as your journey, in a virtual or real scrapbook

Telling your story

Your 'present' will become future generations' 'history'. The story should be recorded and shared.

As part of your application to join the Community of the Cross of Nails you were asked to consider how your organisation reflects the three priorities of the CCN (above) and provide evidence of how this is related to your active ministry, prayer life or work. How will you share your reflections and share the news of your presentation?

The aims of the CCN follow a simple Then – Now – Next framework. One way to move forwards in your CCN journey is to articulate your story in a similar way.

If your Cross is on display for the public, how will you share what it is and what it represents?

| Key Questions | Possible Actions | Anticipated Impact | Dates |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Healing the Wounds of History | | | |
| <p>What are our 'wounds' to heal locally, nationally globally?</p> <p>Who in the local community do we need to engage with and build bridges with?</p> <p>Are there particular focus times that might support this theme in our school e.g. Remembrance Day, Pride Month, Refugee Week, Fair Trade Fortnight etc?</p> | | | |

| Key Questions | Possible Actions | Anticipated Impact | Dates |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Living With Difference and Celebrating Diversity | | | |
| <p>What are our key expressions of 'difference' in our community e.g. race, religion, sexuality, etc?</p> <p>In what ways are we supporting people to discuss difference and recognise it as a strength?</p> <p>In what ways are we already celebrating our diversity?</p> <p>Which new ways can we embrace to celebrate our diversity and that of the wider world e.g. Black History Month, Pride Month, cross-faith working, engaging with local charities etc?</p> <p>How do we facilitate 'encounter' with difference/diversity through our activity?</p> | | | |

| Key Questions | Possible Actions | Anticipated Impact | Dates |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Building a Culture of Justice and Peace | | | |
| <p>How does our current community ethos and our existing systems support us as a community of peace e.g. Restorative practices, peer mentoring etc?</p> | | | |
| <p>Which new things do we need to establish in order to further develop a culture of peace in our community?</p> | | | |
| <p>Which skills and values of peace-making and reconciling are already embedded and which need to be introduced/developed?</p> | | | |