

NJPN Comment in the Catholic Universe: Geoff Thompson

NJPN Annual Conference

The next annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) will be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire 23-25 July 2021. Yes, it's a bit of a leap of faith in the context of the pandemic, but the planning group feels that the issues of the conference should not be postponed for another year.

Geoff Thompson

'2021: Life on Earth - moment of truth' is the theme.

As climate change, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the November COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, and in the context of recovery from the pandemic, are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity.

At NJPN's Justice and Peace Conference in July, we will take inspiration from the encyclicals *Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti* and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace to look at changes and choices now confronting us.

Why not join us to: be inspired for transformative ecological conversion for yourself and for our communities, nation and World; update our shared Christian witness in light of the climate and ecological emergency and Covid-19; reimagine the justice and peace movement and our Church to meet the challenges ahead.

The conference will be chaired by CAFOD's Director Christine Allen. Marty Haugen, the liturgical composer and pastoral musician, will lead our Liturgy. Speakers include Lorna Gold from FaithInvest, the Spiritan Priest Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and the integral thinker Mark Rotherham.

Workshops and activities include: COP26 and Divestment, Conflict and the Environment, Name that Weed (outdoor); Biodiversity Loss; Extractive Industries; Eco-anxiety, Waste recycling practical session, Liturgy planning, Presence at COP26 (real or virtual).

There will be age-appropriate parallel programmes for young children and teens, as well as provision of a creche. Our *JUST FAIR* consists of more than 20 stalls

from different agencies display goods and resources, as well as information and ideas about practical action throughout the weekend.

Booking forms are available on our website: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference. For further information or to book a Just Fair stall contact admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk. All are welcome.

Though planned as an in-person event at Swanwick, if continued Covid-19 restrictions prevent the conference going ahead face to face, NJPN will present the programme, or similar, as a bookable only online conference.

Geoff Thompson is the Administrator of the National Justice and Peace Network.