

# NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin mid June 2021

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## REFUGEE WEEK 14 – 20 JUNE 2021: WE CANNOT WALK ALONE

Life is tough for many of us right now, and the future feels very uncertain. Looking after ourselves, our families and communities takes time and energy. There is so much to do. The challenges of the past year have exposed the deep inequalities between us, including in housing, income and access to healthcare. But the crisis has also shown how interconnected we are – that the wellbeing of each of us depends on the welfare, safety and hard work of others. We are part of a shared 'us'. The theme of Refugee Week 2021, 'We Cannot Walk Alone', is an invitation to extend your hand to someone new. Someone who is outside your current circle, has had an experience you haven't, or is fighting for a cause you aren't yet involved in. We hope you'll join us in making Refugee Week 2021 a bold, collective act of reaching out; a space for us all to listen, to exchange and connect. To find out what we can learn from each other, and what we can build together. <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone/>

INSPIRATION: *There is a moment in Martin Luther King's historic 'I have a dream' speech when he turns his attention to the White people who, realising their destiny and that of their Black fellow citizens was intertwined, joined the movement for equal rights. "They have come to realise that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom," he said. "We cannot walk alone."*

*Martin Luther King may have been speaking during the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, but his words resonate across space and time. Here in the UK and across the world today, we know that it is only by coming together that we will move forward. That when we choose to walk side by side, to share networks and resources, or make space for others to lead, we create deeper and longer-lasting change than is possible alone.*

One of our Simple Acts for Refugee week 2021 is to walk together. Along with the Jo Cox Foundation, we're inviting you to take part in the **Great Walk Together**. This UK-wide walk brings people together to celebrate the **Great Get Together's #MoreinCommon** message, and simultaneously take part in Refugee Week and its theme, '**We Cannot Walk Alone**', by inviting you to extend your hand to someone new.

### The Great Walk Together

1. DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT. The Great Walk Together Toolkit is a document packed with everything you'll need to organise your own walk plus suggestions for activities that you can do during your event.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CEDk6VqEY8WHsUB4yys7bXn7dgJkWOFHdTEa88YOiY0/edit>

2. PLAN YOUR EVENT. We are encouraging organisers to host their walks on Sunday, 20 June 2021. However, if another date works for you during or around Refugee Week (14 – 20 June), that's fine. Whenever you decide to hold your walk, make sure you upload your event to the virtual map by 18 June. <https://www.greatgettogether.org/map>

3. WALK. Don't forget to share your pictures on social media using **#WeCannotWalkAlone** and **#MoreinCommon**. You can also share feedback on how your walk goes by emailing [hello@greatgettogether.org](mailto:hello@greatgettogether.org) If your social media post includes images or names of other people, make sure you get permission first, including from parents/ guardians of anyone under 18. <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/join-us-great-walk-together/>

Organising a Great Walk Together is the perfect way to both encourage new community connections and reflect on the journeys that refugees face – including by sharing your act of welcome for Little Amal, ahead of the incredible '**The Walk**' by Good Chance, which begins this July <https://www.goodchance.org.uk/thewalk>

In 2021, from the Syria-Turkey border all the way to the UK, The Walk will bring together celebrated artists, major cultural institutions, community groups and humanitarian organisations to create one of the most innovative and adventurous public artworks ever attempted. At the heart of The Walk is 'Little Amal', a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl, created by the acclaimed Handspring Puppet Company. Representing all displaced children, many separated from their families, Little Amal will walk across Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and the UK, with a finale event in Manchester, England in November 2021. She will travel a remarkable 8,000km in total, celebrating the power of art and shared humanity wherever she goes. <https://www.walkwithamal.org/>

At this time of unprecedented global change, The Walk is an artistic response: a cultural odyssey transcending borders, politics and language to tell a new story of shared humanity – and to ensure the world doesn't forget the millions of displaced children, each with their own story. Little Amal urgently needs your help to advocate for and support young refugees. <https://www.walkwithamal.org/support-us/>

## COUNTERPOINT ARTS' REFUGEE WEEK – OUT OF THE WOODS: NEW PLAYS FROM THE BALKANS

**Out Of The Woods premieres at Counterpoint Arts' Refugee Week** (14-19 June 2021) as a series of 'gathered listening' events via Zoom. These plays represent the first tranche of an ongoing initiative to use independent audio drama to bring contemporary Kosovan and Balkan stories to the world. Counterpoints Arts is proud and delighted to be working with this exciting partnership, and to support the 'gathered listening' series this Refugee Week.

Presented by Tamasha, Intent New Theatre and Miran Hadžić – a podcast series from writers in Europe's newest countries.

From a history of turbulence and civil war, the Balkans is a region waking up to the opportunities of independence, with youthful and creative populations creating a vibrant present. Travel restrictions have limited the possibilities for citizens in the region to live and work in the rest of Europe. But art and cultural festivals are flourishing and Balkan writers have tales to tell about the past, present and future.

Out Of The Woods is the latest development, riding the wave of the podcast revolution to bring Balkan stories to a wider audience, online. These fresh, funny and provocative new audio dramas showcase a new generation of writers from a region carving out its own identity, and eager to tell its own stories.

Out Of The Woods premieres as part of Counterpoints Arts' Refugee Week programme as a series of 'gathered listening' events via Zoom. These plays represent the first tranche of an ongoing initiative to use independent audio drama to bring contemporary Kosovan and Balkan stories to the world.

BOOKING: 17TH JUNE - 19:00 TO 21:00; 19TH JUNE - 19:00 TO 20:30; 20TH JUNE - 17:00 TO 18:30

ON ZOOM <https://counterpointsarts.org.uk/event/out-of-the-woods-new-plays-from-the-balkans/>

Link to booking the three events: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/out-of-the-woods-new-plays-from-the-balkans-part-of-refugee-week-tickets-156848123961>

### **On Kosovo Field by Fin Kennedy** (Thurs 17 June 7pm-9pm)

This 75-minute drama tells the story of two Kosovan-born, Manchester-raised siblings, Dardan and Rebeka, who fled their homeland as unaccompanied child refugees in the 1990s. When a mass grave is uncovered close to their old village, they return to the country for the first time as young adults, to see if they can finally solve the mystery of what happened to their parents. Originally broadcast on BBC Radio 4, On Kosovo Field features original songs by PJ Harvey, whose travels and notebooks from time spent in Kosovo inspired writer Fin Kennedy to follow in her footsteps. Kennedy donated his fee from the project to fund new work by new writers from the region, which directly led to the Out Of The Woods audio dramas.

### **Fifth Dimension by Miran Hadžić** (Sat 19 June 7pm-8.30pm)

Tom is a one-time popular musician who is now making radio jingles for a living. He wants to join his German wife and daughter, who have left the UK after it has become a hostile environment for non-English people. But when Tom is commissioned by the government to write a new national anthem, he becomes trapped between two worlds and has to find a way out...

Writer Miran Hadžić was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina but was raised in London. He visited Kosovo to work with acclaimed composer Trimor Dhomi on this 45-minute dark satire on a dystopian UK.

### **Where is Mr President? by Agnesa Mehanolli** (Sun 20 June 5pm-6.30pm)

When the President of Kosovo fails to appear at a large Independence Day rally, his senior officials go into overdrive to try to locate him. As time ticks on, a power vacuum emerges which neither the Prime Minister nor Head of Parliament are prepared to fill. Instead, to prevent widespread unrest, they appoint the most unlikely of candidates... A hilarious new satire from Pristina-based new writer Agnesa Mehanolli.

### **Nude by Ulpiana Maloku** (Sun 20 June 5pm-6.30pm)

A proud middle-aged mother takes her best friend to a landmark exhibition by her artist son Guri, whose painting career is starting to take off. Kosovo's latest art sensation specialises in contemporary nudes, but neither woman is prepared for what they find when they finally see Guri's paintings for themselves... A quirky comedy from Pristina-based writer Ulpiana Maloku.

### **Intent New Theatre**

We create opportunities for performance, writing and stagecraft from post-conflict and fragile settings. Since 2014 we have worked with artists in the Balkans to help them reach local and international audiences, develop world-class theatre skills and build a dynamic and innovative arts culture which transcends national borders. We have created a vibrant community that spans theatre professionals from the Balkans to the UK and US, through workshops, mentoring, audio drama and productions at the Unicorn and Marlowe Theatres.

[www.intentnewtheatre.org](http://www.intentnewtheatre.org) / Twitter: [@IntentTheatre](https://twitter.com/IntentTheatre) / Facebook: [intent new theatre](https://www.facebook.com/intentnewtheatre) / Instagram [intent.new.theatre](https://www.instagram.com/intent.new.theatre)

## COUNTERPOINTS ARTS PHOTOGRAPHIC SERIES

Counterpoints Arts has commissioned acclaimed photographer Misan Harriman to capture a series of eight artistic and cultural figures for Refugee Week 2021. Photographer Misan Harriman is known for his striking portraits of public figures as well as his recent photographs of Black Lives Matter protestors, which earned him the cover of Vogue's 'Activism' issue in September 2020 <https://www.vogue.co.uk/news/article/misan-harriman-vogue-cover> On 20 May it was announced that Harriman has been appointed Chair of the Southbank Centre, Britain's largest arts centre.

The series will be displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum for Refugee Week, a festival celebrating the contributions of refugees, 14-20 June. Carrying the theme 'We Cannot Walk Alone', the 2021 festival invites us to walk alongside those who are making the hardest journeys and come together to create a kinder and more just world. The figures, who range from children's author Michael Rosen to aspiring pilot and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Maya Ghazal, are people who have chosen to 'walk alongside others' in a range of creative ways, showing that we all have a role to play in creating a world where everyone is welcomed, included and valued.

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/we-cannot-walk-alone-portrait-series-by-misan-harriman/>

### Children's Resources for Refugee Week:

[https://refugeeweek.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Children-Young-Peoples-Pack-Refugee-Week-2021.pdf?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=refugee\\_week\\_childrens\\_pack&utm\\_term=2021-06-05](https://refugeeweek.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Children-Young-Peoples-Pack-Refugee-Week-2021.pdf?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=refugee_week_childrens_pack&utm_term=2021-06-05)

## SAFE PASSAGE'S 10K CHALLENGE

Help raise vital funds for child refugees with a 10k challenge that honours the 10,000 children brought to safety from Nazi-occupied Europe on the Kindertransport. Pick any activity or challenge related to 10k - whether you want to walk 10,000 steps a day, bake 100 cupcakes or run a 10k. Click the link below and sign up before Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June! To donate via PayPal click here: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=25LWEA5GSCQXW&link\\_id=7&can\\_id=fe9bac95e9f5099a66c33d7b7587aaf8&source=email-run-for-safe-passage-in-the-london-marathon-2021&email\\_referrer=email\\_1181491&email\\_subject=sign-up-to-our-10k-challenge](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=25LWEA5GSCQXW&link_id=7&can_id=fe9bac95e9f5099a66c33d7b7587aaf8&source=email-run-for-safe-passage-in-the-london-marathon-2021&email_referrer=email_1181491&email_subject=sign-up-to-our-10k-challenge) OR contact Johnny at [johnny@safepassage.org.uk](mailto:johnny@safepassage.org.uk).

## BOAZ TRUST JUNE PRAYER LETTER

This month (14-20 June) we mark Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> This year's theme is *We Cannot Walk Alone*. It is a reminder, as the last fifteen months have shown us, of our inter-connectedness and need of one other. Before the pandemic began, events at Boaz such as Family Night offered us the chance to meet and share a meal with one another and, through encounter, learn more about our varied lives and lived experiences. We know that for many of you who support our work, the last fifteen months have brought sorrow for the loss of these opportunities.

Yet we also know that there are other ways to connect across difference and many of us have benefitted this last year from getting to know our neighbours and our communities in a more personable way. During Refugee Week this year we are encouraged to extend our hand to somebody new, somebody who is outside our circles of contact, who has had an experience unlike that of our own. This is a chance for each of us to engage in a bold, collective act of reaching out; a space where we can listen, exchange and connect; a chance to discover what we can build together. You can find out more about ways to do that here: <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone/>

As the restrictions continue to ease in many parts of the UK we are spending more time with our clients in person as we help them to navigate the asylum system and, for our refugee clients, the rebuilding of their lives. Last week we welcomed a former night shelter guest into one of our shared refugee houses and we look forward to learning how best we can support them in the next part of their journey. If you do manage to reach out to somebody new during Refugee Week, we would love to hear from you. You can email us on [engage@boaztrust.org.uk](mailto:engage@boaztrust.org.uk) or find us on social media [@boaztrust](https://www.facebook.com/boaztrust).

We pray for clients preparing to move on from Boaz accommodation. We pray that the road ahead is a positive one for them and that they will encounter people with open hearts.

We pray for our political leaders, those who hold elected office and those who work in immigration decision-making roles. We pray that compassion, fairness and accountability will govern their hearts and decisions.

We pray for those who voluntarily run the Migrant Destitution Fund, which is a lifeline to many. As their funds run low, we pray that their work will lead to funding and that they can continue to support people living in destitution.

We give thanks for all the small acts of reaching out that take place every day to help people feel like a welcome part of society. We pray that our encounters will be blessed and for the forming of new friendships.

BOAZ TRUST - serving destitute asylum seekers and refugees <https://www.boaztrust.org.uk/>

## REFLECTION

Fr Bernard McDermott, 25 May 2021

Today marks the 1st anniversary of the murder of George Floyd on the USA by a policeman. It received worldwide publicity and revived the whole issue of Race Relations around the world. The Brexit debate is now part of British history but many of the issues it raised for us are still largely unsolved.

The question of refugees was at the centre of that debate and people were led to believe that the country would be flooded with people from overseas (particularly black people) who would take the jobs of British workers and 'sponge' off the welfare state. That doesn't appear to have happened, but the question of racial prejudice is alive and well in British society.

It is something that all of us should reflect upon even if, in our day-to-day lives, contact with black people is limited to seeing them in the supermarket or on the bus. Many people are suspicious and fearful of people with black or brown skins which is based on ignorance and lack of understanding of their different cultural roots. The experience of many men and women from overseas has been, and still is, one of being ignored by society in general and treated with suspicion and dislike by the majority of us.

Social justice is at the heart of the Christian life and the witness of the Good Samaritan described in Luke's gospel illustrates how any person of good with a conscience should react to someone in distress. The Samaritan traveller appears to have no concern or was completely unaware of the cultural taboos of the time. He simply reacts to the immediate situation and responds with compassion and practical help and support.

Our response as Christians, like the Good Samaritan, is surely one of reaching out to those in need by the sharing of our considerable resources as a country and, as individuals, treating people from different countries and backgrounds with dignity and respect.

Catholic Social Teaching is about protecting the weak; the option for the poor, while not a political road map, is at the heart of the Christian message.

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* reminds Christians of their obligation to the poor. "That is why I want a church for the poor ... to put them at the centre of the Church's pilgrim way. We are all called to find Christ in them, and to lend our voices to their causes."

Making the poor feel welcome is the most effective way of presenting the good news of the kingdom.

Through the Brexit result the majority of people in this country have effectively turned their backs on the poor and marginalised ... the refugees and asylum seekers ... and so, in my opinion, we should be ashamed of ourselves.

Here in Britain we are British, Irish, Polish, Filipino, Chilean, Italian ... indeed, a melting pot of different nationalities, many of whom are Catholic. Our faith differences are not in conflict but rather complement the other. Our faith is not qualified by nationality or ethnicity but is universal.

We have entered a period of political and economic uncertainty (some would say turmoil!) with the future of our nation and its relationship with the rest of the world thrown into chaos. This has not been helped by the effects of the pandemic which has dominated our lives these past 2 years.

We Christians have an important role to play in shaping the future of our country and Church in the coming months and years. Our witness to basic Christian values seeking unity within diversity is at the core of who we are and what we strive to achieve.

As Pope Francis made clear: Unity demands flexibility and our task must be to work in partnership with our neighbours, and to protect those values and liberties common to us all.

The message from Pope Francis is clear ... we are one communion.

- Fr. Bernard grew up in Sale, Cheshire. He worked as a Tax advisor but developed a growing awareness of the poor and dispossessed through parish activity and encounters with missionary priest students. In 1969 he joined the Columbans and began his formation at the Columban's seminary college in Dalgan Park, Ireland. He was ordained in April 1974 at St. Joseph's in Sale. Shortly after ordination he was assigned to Mindanao in the Philippines. The diocese in which he worked was affected by poverty, with its population suffering from malnutrition, injustice and oppression. He has served two terms as Director of the Columban Missionary Society and spent time overseas in Australia supporting Mission Education. He has also undertaken parish ministry in the diocese of Shrewsbury.

## IN WINNIPEG, WCC PILGRIM TEAM VISIT EXPLORES HOW “OUT OF SORROW COMES ACTION”

Classified as one of the most violent cities in Canada, Winnipeg is also the location with the highest concentration of indigenous population, formed in the country by about 1.5 million people from 634 indigenous nations.

A World Council of Churches Pilgrim Team Visit held on 23, 26-28 May was dedicated to reflection and the search for solidarity actions in the face racism and gender injustice against indigenous people in Canada. One dialogue of the online visit focused on the theme "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls," with a special contribution by Canadian First Nations politician Bernadette Smith. She was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba in a by-election in 2017, motivated by the process her family went through after the disappearance of her sister Claudette, at the age of 21, in 2008. Participants heard Bernadette's touching narrative, about her family and many others who suffer because of the violent disappearance of their loved ones. The group also heard about the initiatives of these families and activists in carrying out actions in search of justice for the victims (even playing the role of the police and the judiciary), easing the suffering, and preventing future violence.

The pilgrimage team learned, through an informative video and reflections from Canadian participants of the visit session, that the official homicide rate of women belonging to indigenous groups is almost six times higher than that of the rest of Canadians. About 10% of all women declared missing are indigenous.

The issue of residential indigenous schools, which operated between 1883 and 1996 (until quite recently), was highlighted. About 150,000 indigenous children were forcibly removed from their families and sent to this state-funded boarding system administered by the churches for more than half century. According to some estimates, some 6,000 children died and many more suffered physical and sexual abuse.

Other government programs have sterilized indigenous women and placed more than 16,000 indigenous children for adoption by non-indigenous families. "The objective was not only to kill indigenous culture but to eliminate indigenous people. Extinguish them," described Archbishop Mark MacDonald from the Anglican Church of Canada.

A National Truth Commission had already reported in 2015 on the physical, psychological, and sexual abuse that the indigenous population suffered in the country with this State project. The Canadian Indian Act, of 1876, which gave the Canadian government the power to dictate who was considered an "indigenous," moved

people to areas with few resources and isolated reserves and controlled their finances. It remains the core of many policies and regulations in place today.

Evaluations point out that the experience at boarding schools was a factor that spread violence and problems of chemical dependency among the survivors. Likewise, the National Truth Commission report evokes the forced sterilizations suffered by several indigenous women, a practice that officially ended in 1973, but investigations and several testimonies pointed to later cases. In addition, the commission noted that the suicide rate is five to seven times higher among indigenous youth.

The commission made hundreds of recommendations, including changes to police protocols, with more indigenous agents, and the judicial system. The report states that the justice apparatus has always ignored the problems of indigenous women and viewed them through "lenses of persistent racism and sexist stereotypes." This generated a lot of mistrust between them in relation to the system. "Police apathy often takes the form of stereotyping victims and criminalizing them, such as when the police describe the missing as 'drunk,' 'partying' or 'prostitutes not worth looking for,' according to the report.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised a "total renewal" of Canada's relationship with its indigenous peoples and a commitment to include more indigenous rights in Canadian law. The Trudeau government established a Commission of Inquiry on missing and murdered indigenous women. However, many families and activists expressed their opposition to this action (including Bernadette Smith's), as they believe that an action plan with the recommendations already made by the National Truth Commission would be more effective.

The pilgrim team also learned about role of the Native Women's Association, the non-governmental organization Drag The River (which seeks to rescue missing bodies in the Red River to return them to families) and other organizations working to defend this cause.

The visit ended with important reflections that highlight the intersectionality of the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women: gender, racism and colonization. Bernadette Smith's quote, "Out of sorrow comes action," echoed throughout the session as an inspiration and joined the prayer sung by Archbishop MacDonald in the prayer moment, "Send Your Spirit to make my heart strong."

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/in-winnipeg-wcc-pilgrim-team-visit-explores-how-out-of-sorrow-comes-action>

**See also Canada: Bishops' statement:** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42320>

**And Pope Francis expresses sorrow and shock:** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42365>

## CARDINAL MARX SUBMITS RESIGNATION TO FRANCIS, CITING CHURCH'S 'SYSTEMIC FAILURE' ON ABUSE

**Joshua J. McElwee** 4 Jun 2021: German Cardinal Reinhard Marx, one of Pope Francis' closest advisors, has asked the pontiff to allow him to resign as the leader of the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising as a sign of responsibility for the "systemic failure" of Catholic Church leaders over decades in responding to clergy sexual abuse.

In a shocking letter to Francis, which Marx released to journalists June 4, the cardinal says he wants to "share the responsibility" for the way priests and bishops mishandled abuse cases. He also admits he feels "personally guilty" for trying to protect the reputation of the church when dealing with victims. "To assume responsibility, it is ... not enough in my opinion to react only and exclusively if the files provide proof of the mistakes and failures of individuals," writes Marx in the letter, dated 21 May. "We as bishops have to make clear that we also represent the institution of the Church as a whole."

In resigning, states the cardinal, "I may be able to send a personal signal for a new beginning, for a new awakening of the Church, not only in Germany." "I would like to show that not the ministry is in the foreground but the mission of the Gospel," Marx tells Francis. "I therefore strongly request you to accept this resignation."

Marx has led his archdiocese since 2007. He also serves as one of only seven members of Francis' advisory Council of Cardinals and as the coordinator of the Vatican's Council for the Economy, which supervises the financial activities of both the Vatican City-state and the offices of the Holy See. The cardinal is 67-years-old, eight years shy of the traditional retirement age of 75 for bishops. His decision to resign over the actions of the church as a whole on clergy abuse, and not because of any known investigation into his personal actions, appears without precedent.

The Vatican did not immediately respond to Marx's release of his letter to Francis. The June 4 daily news bulletin did not announce whether the pope had chosen to accept the resignation. In a personal declaration to journalists sent alongside the copy of Marx's letter to Francis, the cardinal said the pope had authorized him to release his letter and told him to "keep performing my service as bishop until [Francis'] decision is made."

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/accountability/cardinal-marx-submits-resignation-francis-citing-churchs-systemic-failure-abuse>

## JRS DEMANDS CLOSURE OF NAPIER BARRACKS AFTER DAMNING HIGH COURT RULING

3 Jun 2021: The Jesuit Refugee Service UK has renewed their call for the immediate closure of Napier barracks in Kent, as the High Court today ruled the use of the site unlawful. JRS UK has found that victims of torture and trafficking are routinely transferred to Napier and that people in Napier tend to suffer rapid and serious deterioration in mental health. Furthermore, the site continues not to be COVID-19 secure. Director of JRS UK, Sarah Teather said: "The court's finding against accommodation at Napier barracks is welcome. JRS UK supports people held in quasi-detention in Napier, and their experience is horrendous. People are isolated and struggle to access basic services. Too often, they are cold and hungry."

Napier Barracks is likely to be a blueprint for new reception centres proposed in the government's 'New Plan for Immigration'. The judgement today is damning evidence that this form of accommodation is not in any way fit to house vulnerable individuals seeking sanctuary - many of whom have faced torture, trafficking and modern slavery during their journeys to reach the UK - let alone to be a place of reception and welcome. Sarah continues: "People find it very hard to pursue their asylum claims in this context. More than that, people have told us they don't feel human while they're residing at Napier. This ghettoised, detention-like accommodation is unsafe, undignified, and inhumane. It is beyond time to close Napier barracks and ensure that asylum claimants have accommodation within British communities."

One gentleman supported by the JRS team described Napier as, "like being in a hospital or prison, there are people rapidly becoming more and more mentally unwell around you, one has just tried to kill himself, another is in pain, another is very stressed and cannot cope.... I did not feel like a person when I was there. I felt I had lost who I was. The way we were treated, it denied us all freedom."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42341>

**See also BBC report:** [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-57335499](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-57335499)

**and DGG law** <https://dpglaw.co.uk/high-court-finds-decision-to-house-asylum-seekers-at-military-barracks-unlawful/>

**JRS website:** [www.jrsuk.net](http://www.jrsuk.net) **Twitter:** @JRSUK **JRS Facebook:** [facebook.com/jesuitrefugeeserviceuk](https://www.facebook.com/jesuitrefugeeserviceuk)

## PRIEST FASTS IN PROTEST AGAINST UK INTERNATIONAL AID BUDGET CUTS

After 24 hours of his protest fast against International aid budget cuts by the UK government, Parish Priest of Saint Francis Xavier's Church Liverpool, Denis Blackledge said "It's been a humbling experience to see how a tiny pebble dropped into the water has rippled out and encouraged so many to join in this vigil fast. The support and encouragement from parishioners, friends and colleagues has been so heartening! The presence of such a wide variety of people visiting meant that Debbie (Pastoral Assistant) and I hardly had a minute to ourselves in church! "Particularly pleasing was the presence and encouraging words of Ian Byrne MP and Deputy Mayor Jane Corbett who led us in prayer from Rage & Hope (75 prayers for a better world). "And to add to such an important time of raising awareness, £700 has been received in sponsorship, which will be divided between JM, JRS & CAFOD."

## CAFOD NEWS

Patrick Gardner & Emma Nolan Community Participation Coordinators – CAFOD Lancaster write:

In tribute to the amazing part all our CAFOD volunteers have played in this extra challenging year, we're expanding our usual Volunteers' Week celebrations to a whole month, from 1 June to 1 July. We wish to celebrate our volunteers and your amazing contributions to CAFOD. Thank you so much for your kindness, support and generosity!

### G7 Summit

This month's G7 summit will see heads of government of seven of the world's richest countries travel to Cornwall and discuss how the world can rebuild after the pandemic. Decisions will be taken that will have a huge impact on people in the poorest parts of the world. Join our interfaith event, livestreamed from Truro Cathedral, on Thursday 10 June at 7pm as we join together to bear witness on the eve of the summit. Register here: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/G7-interfaith-event-Truro>

### 32 parish meetings with MPs so far

So far, 32 parish groups have met, or will soon meet, their local MP as part of our Parliament in your Parish initiative. As the UK hosts the G7 this month and the UN climate talks in November, CAFOD supporters have been telling MPs that we want urgent measures agreed to tackle the climate crisis, which is having a devastating effect on many countries who did the least to cause it. We also want the debts of the poorest countries to be cancelled to help them cope with the pandemic. Join us! See <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Campaign-with-us/Parliament-in-your-parish>  
Order petition cards for signing in your parish from the CAFOD shop <https://shop.cafod.org.uk/>

### Join our Volunteers' Month events

We are celebrating CAFOD Volunteers' Month from 1 June to 1 July. Register here to join us, our colleagues from Ethiopia, friends from the Fairtrade Foundation and others online during June to celebrate Mass, hear about the impact of climate change on Fairtrade producers, get cooking and digital photography tips and catch up with friends. [https://www.bigmarker.com/series/Volunteers-month/series\\_summit](https://www.bigmarker.com/series/Volunteers-month/series_summit)

### Our Volunteer Forum and Mass are on Thursday 1 July

From 6.30-7.30pm hear from CAFOD Director Christine Allen and Head of Advocacy Neil Thorns about the challenges, joys and achievements of the past year and our hopes for the future. Register for the Forum here:

[https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Volunteers-Forum?show\\_live\\_page=true](https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Volunteers-Forum?show_live_page=true)

From 7.30pm, Fr Mark Odion will celebrate a special Volunteers' Mass for us all to come together in prayer online. Register for the Mass here: [https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Volunteers-Mass?show\\_live\\_page=true](https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Volunteers-Mass?show_live_page=true)

### Summer FUNraising

Please could you arrange for this to be posted on your parish Facebook page or WhatsApp group to encourage parishioners to get involved?

"Summer FUNraise for CAFOD! Are you a wannabe Olympian, tennis pro or football star? Take on an active challenge for CAFOD this summer in celebration of the return of international sporting events! Run, cycle, swim, play tennis or football, or anything else you love doing! You can do it on your own or with your family. You'll be helping people around the world who are suffering because of the climate crisis, the pandemic and poverty."

Sign up at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Summer-FUNraiser>

### We will be sending this to your parish soon for possible inclusion in a parish bulletin:

"Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. In Zambia, in the past year, our reports show we've been able to reach 1,234,200 people with messages on COVID-19, provide 13,312 people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities and donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide."

## CAFOD CALLS FOR VACCINE PATENT WAIVER AS G7 HEALTH MINISTERS MEET

3 Jun 2021: As the G7 Health Ministers meeting begins in Oxford, CAFOD is urging world leaders to support a vaccine patent waiver, so the whole world can access Covid-19 vaccines.

Aisha Dodwell, CAFOD's Head of Campaigns, said: "The challenge now for the G7 is to get the world vaccinated against Covid-19. CAFOD are urging the G7 to make this a reality by supporting a patent waiver so that the vaccine technology can be shared globally. They must also share the billions of doses being hoarded by rich countries and finance vaccine roll out programmes, including COVAX. This is not about charity. This is about avoiding countless more deaths and ensuring everyone in the world has the right to healthcare regardless of where they live."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42346>

## **'LIFE ON THE BREADLINE' ANNOUNCES THEIR END OF PROJECT CONFERENCE, 24-25 JUNE 2021**

Church Action on Poverty's partners at the 'Life on the Breadline: Christianity, Poverty and Politics in the 21st Century City' project at Coventry University invite you to share their research at their End of Project Conference.

24–25 June 2021 10:00am to 4:15pm UK time

A two-day online conference from the Life on the Breadline project team as the culmination of three years of research into Christian responses to UK poverty in the context of austerity.

The conference will combine sessions with presentations and Q&A, and interactive workshops. Sessions at the conference will include presentations from the Life on the Breadline project team – Chris Shannahan, Robert Beckford, Peter Scott and Stephanie Denning – on the research findings, plus interactive workshops on researching poverty, asset-based community development, and Black Church responses to austerity, and guest speakers Dr Naomi Maynard (Together Liverpool) and Professor Anthony Reddie (University of Oxford and University of South Africa). At the conference we will also be launching the Anti-Poverty Charter which is being developed in consultation with research participants in the Life on the Breadline research.

The anticipated audience for the conference is theology and social science academics, church leaders, and practitioners in church and poverty response settings. The majority of sessions are aimed at all three audiences, and the target audience is noted alongside each session in the provisional conference programme. To find out more including the provisional conference programme, and to book your free place visit the Life on the Breadline website at

<https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/events/end-of-project-conference/>

**Download the latest issue of SPARK, Church Action on Poverty's newsletter:**

[https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/spark-newsletter-summer-2021/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\\_campaign=blog+digest+2021&utm\\_content=2021+06+02+blog+digest](https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/spark-newsletter-summer-2021/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=blog+digest+2021&utm_content=2021+06+02+blog+digest)

## **WCC ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ESSAY COMPETITION – FRESH VIEWS ON INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**

29 April 2021: Essays by five young theologians representing different church traditions have been chosen as the winning entries in an essay writing competition organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation. Chosen by an international panel of judges from the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey and the WCC, the essays cover a range of themes and perspectives related to the topic of the competition, "*The Future of Interreligious Dialogue.*"

Lea Schlenker, a Lutheran theologian from Germany whose work focuses on intercultural theology and interreligious dialogue, especially Christian-Muslim dialogue, develops her essay around the theme of hospitality in her work entitled "*From Shared Meals to Interreligious Conversations.*"

Kritsno Saptanno, who works with the Research and Development Body of the Protestant Church in the Moluccas, Indonesia, focuses on dialogue with indigenous spiritual traditions in his essay, "*Linguistic Hospitality: Welcoming Indigenous Religion Into Interreligious Dialogue.*"

Ioannis Christodoulakis, originally from Greece, but currently a master's student in Interreligious and Interchristian Dialogue at the Institute for Postgraduate Studies in the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy, explores the theme, "*The Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church and Its Interreligious Dialogue Approach.*"

Nicole Kallsen, a non-denominational Christian who majors in International Studies at the University of Utah, explores dance as a form of interreligious dialogue in her essay, "*Embodying Worldview.*"

Christopher West, a priest in the Church of Ireland, explores faith, hope and love as key principles for interreligious engagement in his article "*The future of interreligious dialogue: A Christian theology of engagement with other religious traditions.*"

"Each of these young theologians have unpacked in a very distinctive way creative theological foundations for interreligious engagement. We are confident that these essays will provide immense inspiration for churches to engage in interreligious dialogue in ways that are fresh in terms of their focus and futuristic in terms of their scope," said Rev. Dr Peniel Rajkumar, WCC programme coordinator for interreligious dialogue and cooperation. The young theologians will present their work in an online event later this year. The essays will also be published in *Current Dialogue*, <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/publications/current-dialogue> the WCC's journal for interreligious encounter. <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-announces-winners-of-essay-competition-for-bringing-fresh-views-on-interreligious-dialogue>



## FILM "LITTLE PALESTINE (DIARY OF A SIEGE)" WINS INTERRELIGIOUS JURY PRIZE

28 April 2021: The film "Little Palestine (Diary of a Siege)," directed by Abdallah Al-Khatib, received the prize of the Interreligious Jury at the 52nd Festival Visions du Réel Nyon, held 15-25 April. The film depicts how people in the sealed-off Yarmuk refugee camp assert their humanity in the Syrian civil war despite hunger and lack of prospects, while the humanitarian world remains on the sidelines. When a small street choir sings to piano accompaniment and the noise of bombs, their song joins the sad chorale of similar sieges in world history.

The film was commended for shedding light on existential, social and spiritual questions as well as human values. The jury is appointed by SIGNIS, the World Catholic Association for Communication, and INTERFILM. The prize is endowed with CHF 5,000, donated by the Swiss Catholic Church, the Reformed Churches in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, and its Media Departement Média-pro, and the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/film-little-palestine-diary-of-a-siege-wins-interreligious-jury-prize>

## JOAN BAEZ, SINGER AND PEACEMAKER, FINALLY HONOURED BY KENNEDY CENTRE

**Colman McCarthy** 5 Jun 2021: More than a decade ago, I wrote to the chair of the Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts, expressing my hope that that year, 2010, would be the one in which Joan Baez would be one of the honourees for the centre's annual award for the performing arts. "She has used her gifts fully," I wrote, noting that she had given more than 40 concerts a year since the late 1950s, when she began singing in the folk clubs of Boston. "Her voice remains as pure as it was when the nation first heard it at the 1959 Newport Folk Festival. Equally so, her commitment to nonviolence and human rights has been unwavering."

In my letter, I shared with David M. Rubenstein that I came to know Baez in the early 1970s when I was a columnist and editorial writer for The Washington Post. We would meet when she was passing through Washington on her way home to California from concert tours in Latin America, Europe and Asia. During those meetings, she would give me information about political prisoners she met in places like Chile, Northern Ireland, Poland, Turkey or the Middle East. With the documentation — always sound — I wrote columns about the prisoners and their mistreatment.

"Her organization, Humanitas International, was as much a voice for human rights and disarmament as Joan's own voice onstage," I wrote to Rubenstein, noting that she helped establish a West Coast office for Amnesty International and marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Mississippi, Cesar Chavez in California, Mairead Corrigan in Belfast and Lech Walesa in Poland. In 1972, she visited POW camps in North Vietnam and took to underground shelters to survive President Richard Nixon's Christmas B-52 bombing raids in Hanoi.

"I've done lots of things in my lifetime, and I know that I am least happy when I am least involved in social action," Baez wrote in an essay, "The Courage of Conviction."

"Joan is the antithesis of the celebrity dabbling in the cause of the day," I wrote in my letter to the Kennedy Centre. "Her principled stances on political issues are matched by a fidelity to her music."

In October 1986, during a visit to Washington for a concert, Baez stayed at my home for a few days. Every afternoon for three or four hours in our guest room, she would practice her voice lessons. When you are given a gift, she explained, you need to cherish it, not let it rust. While in Washington then, she took time to speak to my peace studies classes at American University. I had arranged for her to give a free outdoor concert on the quad in the early afternoon, and then come to speak and exchange ideas for two and half hours with my students. The year before, she hosted a post-concert seminar at Constitution Hall for 40 of my students from The School Without Walls, which, by the way, is the closest school to the Kennedy Centre. At least two dozen times over the years, Baez has supplied free tickets and backstage passes to my high school and college students.

"I'm hard put to think of any musician whose professional life onstage is as uplifting as her commitments to justice and peace are strong in her personal life offstage," I wrote, ending by recommending that she is "perfect for a Kennedy Centre award." I didn't receive a reply from Chairman Rubenstein, a billionaire well-known philanthropist and a busy man with little free time. I understood. What was hard to fathom, though, was why he and the centre's trustees had never honoured Baez. Amends, of a sort, have been made. On Jan. 13, just days after Joan turned 80, it was announced that she would be honoured, along with Debbie Allen, Dick Van Dyke, Garth Brooks and Midori. Postponed because of the pandemic, the pre-recorded ceremony will be broadcast at 8 p.m. Eastern on June 6 on CBS and on Paramount+.

Ever gracious, Joan wrote appreciatively about being chosen: "It has been my life's joy to make art. It's also been my life's joy to make, as the late Congressman John Lewis called it, 'good trouble.' What luck to have been born with the ability to do both; each one giving strength and credibility to the other. I am indebted to many for a privileged life here. I've tried to share my good fortune with others anywhere and everywhere in the world. Sometimes there have been risks, but they are only a part of the meaning of it all. I extend my deepest thanks to the Kennedy Centre for recognizing me, my art, and the good trouble I've made." <https://www.nronline.org/news/opinion/its-happening/joan-baez-singer-and-peacemaker-finally-honored-kennedy-center>

## OBITUARY SR ISABEL KELLY FMSJ, TIRELESS CAMPAIGNER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING 1934 - 2021

**CoR News** 1 Jun 2021: Sr Isabel Kelly FMSJ, who was well known to the Religious of England and Wales for her unstinting efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking, has died. Sr Isabel passed away on Friday (May 28) at her convent in Blackburn where she'd been shielding since the start of the pandemic. She was 87.

Sr Nuala McGarvey FMSJ, who's also based in Blackburn, said Sr Isabel passed away peacefully after her family from Scotland had been to visit: "Sister Isabel was always writing something or to someone. Many of the Sisters commented on how quiet our phones had become in the past fortnight, as she began to deteriorate; she was forever sending something amusing from the Internet or some petition to sign. Things won't be so peaceful "up there" from now on! Yes, she was a remarkable character who kept at her mission to the end. May she rest in peace."

Sr Isabel had spoken passionately at several meetings held in 2019 and 2020, to highlight the curse of modern slavery. She also wrote some very thoughtful articles, reflecting on doing God's will and also on the nature of friendship. In fact, she'd also written a book about her long years overseas and used any proceeds to help victims of trafficking.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42325>

Some of her articles are available here:

***I will pray, talk about trafficking and keep my eyes open:***

<https://www.corew.org/news/2019/4/12/f9t1puxt5p6wocf27zj1o8tc4xlc32>

***A tribute to life-long friendship:*** <https://www.corew.org/blog/2019/2/18/a-tribute-to-lifelong-friendship-from-their-youthful-days-in-the-navy-a-sister-reflects-on-margot-amp-iris-and-on-how-our-chosen-paths-shape-our-lives>

***A reflection on doing God's will:*** <https://www.corew.org/blog/2020/9/9/a-reflection-on-doing-gods-will>

**See also:** <https://millhillmissionaries.com/sr-isabel-kelly-fmsj-obituary/>

**Anne O'Connor writes:** I was so sad to hear that dear Sr Isabel has died. She was a great friend to me although we never met. I had got to know her as she was a long-standing subscriber to the NW E Bulletin and she often sent me information about her work on anti-human trafficking.

When my elder daughter Annie died last June Sr Isabel became a frequent and caring correspondent. At that time (early July 2020) church services were not allowed and funeral groups restricted to only ten people. Sr Isabel had asked about Annie so I decided to email her a copy of the funeral booklet. She replied to say that she would pray through it at the exact time of our graveside farewell, even downloading the song we had chosen. This act of solidarity inspired me to pass the booklet on to others. In the end we had over 100 individuals join us plus the VI Form College where Annie had taught and Church Army, her last post, as well as several religious orders and Sheffield parishes in a large Zoom gathering. Sr Isabel's kindness continued with follow-up emails, helpful articles and poems. She told me many interesting stories about her life – I was surprised on reading her obituary to discover she was 87 years of age.

When Sr Isabel told me about her cancer I sent a message of support. This was her reply:

11 Jul 2020: *I think I'm doing alright. My spirits are good. I trust God completely and leave it to others to pray for me and leave the rest to God. That doesn't mean I give up! I am very tough and will do all I can to keep going but when I know the time has come for me to surrender, I hope I have the grace to do so. The lockdown isn't helping as it means I have to shield and dress up even if I have to go out the convent door! I am looking forward to the freedom to go out just as I am!*

*I am from Glasgow so really want to go home to my family for a visit or if that's not possible that they can come and visit me. My great-nephew who is 22 has offered to come for me in his car and bring me back to Blackburn. I would prefer the train but don't know if I am strong enough yet with having to restrict my movement because of the lockdown.*

*I am keeping my mind active but not going to our chapel or dining room as I don't think there is enough room for the 2 metre distancing I have to observe as a vulnerable person! I have always been a very active person so having to be restricted to a small room with one window since the end of March is completely foreign to me!*

*We are having community meetings to discuss New Wine in New Wineskins and I take part AND take notes via phone and loud speaker!! No keeping me down. I am a bit like your Annie! I spent just over 33 years on the foreign missions in Sarawak, Malaysia, Kenya, and Ecuador with spells in Tanzania, the Philippines, Columbia, New York, Geneva and Cincinnati! My favourite work was in Ecuador with the poor. I built houses, had a food programme, organised the building of 200 pit latrines as well as catechesis, and all In Spanish. I went to Borneo with 3yrs secondary school education and God got me through teaching in secondary schools and being headmistress in two!! No one but our God could do that.*

A truly inspiring woman!

## OBITUARY PETER FRANCE 1931 - 2021

Mary Colwell 1 May 2021, *The Tablet*

Before recording *Monastic Gardens*, a Radio 4 series on the relationship between religious orders and their gardens, Peter France and I ate a lunch of fish, chips and peas in a small ante-room in a convent of enclosed nuns in North Wales, belonging to the order of the Poor Clares. The nuns never eat in company, but they insisted on providing us with a meal. Part way through, the Mother Superior came to check we didn't need anything, and then left saying: "Eat in peace." After she had closed the door Peter looked confused and asked me: "Why does she want us to eat our peas?" I smile every time I remember that day, when he admitted for the first time his hearing was not quite so sharp, and of his constant good humour and quick wit. Peter made people smile as much as he made them think.

We made two series on gardens and faith and they were quintessential Peter France, a merging of the spiritual and intellectual with the everyday. So too were the other programmes we made for Radio 4: Solitude, a two-part series on being alone; Sex and the Scientist which looked at how feminism changed the study of animal behaviour, The Birth of Europe, a history of how resources shaped politics and The Beauty of Birdsong, which questions why we find natural sounds so lovely.

In all of these programmes, and many more on both radio and TV, Peter probed and prodded, extracted and dissected ideas; he devoured them and savoured them, all without condescension or arrogance. His questioning was pure and focused and came from a place that genuinely wanted to know the answers.

He also had an unrivalled ability to hold duality with grace and ease. His desire to go deeper was always tempered by the practical necessities of life. I think he was so good at this balance because, in many ways, he was the embodiment of contradiction himself, something he wore as lightly as his cotton trousers and baggy jumpers.

Peter France was born on April 2 1931, the son of a butcher, Jack France, and his wife Florence (née Oade), in the mining village of Clifton near Brighouse. He didn't fit in easily with the male-dominated world of low-paid, gritty toil and no-nonsense socialism, preferring poetry and drama, although the down-to-earth and say-it-as-it-is aspect of his northern upbringing never left him. His parents seemed bemused by their clever son: "When I took to cleaning my teeth, they thought I must be homosexual."

His insatiable appetite for reading earned him a scholarship, via Rastrick Grammar School, to read English at New College Oxford. It was here he learned not to be entirely happy with himself. Acutely aware of his Yorkshire accent, which other students found amusing, he used his acting ability to mould his speech into acceptable shape. He did it so well he was elected secretary of the Dramatic Society, which required taking Dame Sybil Thorndyke out for tea at the Randolph Hotel. He also told me that it was vital to give the impression of not being studious but to get good marks through innate ability. Hence, he worked out in the gym to improve his physique and lay on the grass to get a sun tan in the day, and studied all night. This sudden entry into an unfamiliar and deceptive society left a mark which stayed with him throughout his life, one of feeling the outsider and as an imposter in the world of the privileged. "I was so awed by the upper classes I didn't think the Queen went to the lavatory." He did there, though, meet his first wife Charlene Osmond-Jones, with whom he had two daughters, Cate and Tricia.

After graduating he spent 15 years in the Fiji Islands, rising from district officer to permanent secretary and as a personal challenge, translated the New Testament into Fijian. When Fiji became independent in 1970, he studied for a PhD at the Australian National University in Canberra, and then to Nuffield College in Oxford, specialising in Colonial History. Academia, though, was not for him. Peter's wide-ranging mind and journalistic sense took him to the BBC, where he embarked on a wonderful broadcasting career. His voice of rough silk, his ability to act and his good looks made for the perfect presenter. He began in radio, where his self-deprecating and self-proclaimed inability to remember anything told to him about the countryside meant he was "constantly astonished by facts relating to natural history" and therefore suited to be the voice of the nature series, *The Living World*. He also appeared with Brian Redhead on *Word in Edgeways* and presented the Radio 4 arts strand, *Kaleidoscope*. Moving over to religious television, he was the sole presenter of the series *Everyman* and then *Heart of the Matter* and *Timewatch*. It is during this time he met the award-winning writer and producer, Bill Nicholson, who became a life-long friend, who said of that time: "For 12 years Peter gently questioned believers of all sorts, from Lakota medicine men to gay bishops, always respectful, often more knowledgeable than his subjects, never wavering in his rationalism."

In 1976, after his first marriage ended, Peter married Felicia Lambe, whose artistic and less rationalistic approach to life drew him to Greek Orthodoxy. In 1988, they bought a small house on the Greek island of Patmos, a place soaked in Greek mythology and Christian mysticism. In their ethnic and welcoming hermitage, Peter taught himself Greek and read the New Testament in the original language. In 1992, he was baptised in a 44-gallon drum of warm water, a story which he tells in the 1998 BBC TV series *Journey*, which he movingly described as: "The journey of a head that finally meets a heart."

Peter's books include *An Encyclopedia of Bible Animals*, *The Rape of Egypt*, *Greek as a Treat*, *Hermits: The Insights of Solitude* and *A Place of Healing for the Soul*. They are books of perception and clarity, and a true reflection of his mind.

The world has lost a towering intellect, a searching soul and a light heart. I don't know who first made the analogy, but it is so true for Peter – spending time with him was like reading a book you never want to end. It has now ended but it will forever be a treasured tome in the library of my heart.

Peter France, born April 2 1931, died March 27 2021. He is survived by Felicia (née Sproule), his daughters Cate and Tricia, and his step-children Anna, Natasha and Ashlee.

## PETITION ASKS FOR LECTIONARY TRANSLATION IN INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

**Source:** SLN 6 May 2021: The Core Group of the Scottish Laity Network write: It is not commonly known that the Scottish Bishops have decided to adopt a new translation for Bible texts that are read at Mass. It is of great concern that this translation continues to use gender-exclusive language when the equal partnership of women and men is fundamental to our society and to the credibility of the Church today. A petition set up by the Scottish Laity Network is asking for a Bible translation in inclusive language. Those who keep abreast with specialist Catholic news outlets may be aware that both the Bishops of England & Wales and the Bishops' Conference of Scotland have chosen the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition (ESV-CE) for the lectionary to be used at Mass in the future. The vast majority of laity in our parishes, however, are quite oblivious of this decision that will impact an entire generation.

In the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council, the three Bishops' Conferences of Ireland, Scotland and England & Wales approved the Jerusalem Bible (JB) as the basis for the revised three-year lectionary of the Roman Rite of Mass. This translation has been in use for some 50 years so we can expect, at Mass, to be listening to any new lectionary translation for decades to come. Scholars have voiced concerns about the lack of consultation, the provenance of the ESV-CE, and its lack of gender inclusivity. The far-reaching consequences therefore raise questions about its pastoral suitability for the mission of the Church in 21st century Scotland, England & Wales and Ireland. In our petition, the Scottish Laity Network express concern that the ESV-CE continues to use gender-exclusive language, opting for 'he', 'man', 'brother' etc even when the context includes both male and female, and an inclusive translation is easily possible.

The Bible was written and revised over centuries when patriarchy was the norm and such language was not seen to be exclusive. Our cultural climate is markedly different, however. We now expect both men and women to enjoy the same human rights. In the 21st century, young women and men in these Isles see themselves as equal partners in the home, in school, in the workplace, and in the eyes of God. They expect no less in their Church. The perception of language has shifted significantly, even over the last 55 years since the JB was published. What was formerly a generic use of 'men' and 'brothers' is now considered outdated and is no longer understood by younger people to include women as well. It is now felt to be exclusive and is preventing women from recognising themselves as being addressed in Scripture.

Much is at stake. Women are already leaving the institutional Church, feeling disenfranchised, and they have the support of their male partners and brothers. Gender-exclusive language is likely to accelerate that exodus. The Church is already in decline, and losing young people as the first teachers of faith of future generations will exacerbate the situation. A translation which will be alienating for many, both inside and outside the Church not only has serious pastoral implications. Exclusive language is also likely to have a detrimental impact on the Church's credibility. To neglect to make the Word of God accessible in a cultural context of gender equality is to risk becoming irrelevant. In doing so, we are compromising the Church's mission to dialogue with and bring the Good News to our wider secular society.

Alternative inclusive translations for Catholic use do exist. The Canadian Episcopal Conference, for example, adopted the New Revised Standard Version-CE (1985) in 2008. Our petition asks the Scottish Bishops to approve the most recent Revised New Jerusalem Bible (2018), which has received much praise for its inclusive language and up-to-date scholarship, if necessary alongside the ESV-CE so that a choice may be made. This would by no means be unprecedented, since up until now two translations were approved by the Bishops of both England & Wales and Ireland, the JB (most commonly used) and the Revised Standard Version-CE.

A similar earlier English petition addressed to Cardinal Nichols closed at 875 signatures. To date, the Scottish petition has gathered 892 signatures, including English & Welsh, Irish and international support. This might serve as a litmus test that there is indeed wide-spread concern about gender-exclusivity, well beyond the boundaries of Episcopal Conferences. The Irish Bishops, with whom the Association of Catholic Priests have raised the same concerns, are yet to make a decision. It will be interesting to see which road they will take. **The petition is available here:** [www.change.org/Inclusive-language-bible-texts-at-Mass](http://www.change.org/Inclusive-language-bible-texts-at-Mass) Email: [slaitynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:slaitynetwork@gmail.com)

The Scottish Laity Network is an organisation that, through dialogue, discernment and support, aims to provide a forum for laity seeking new ways of being Church in Scotland in the 21st century. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42142>

## **LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS RESPONSE TO BISHOPS' PENTECOSTAL PASTORAL LETTER**

**Source: *Laudato Si'* Animators** 23 May 2021: In order to ensure the proper care of our common home, we must become a "we" that is ever wider and more co-responsible, in the profound conviction that whatever good is done in our world is done for present and future generations. #LaudatoSiWeek

The Pope's tweet on 18 May, reminds us that we all have a part to play in the recovery of our world. This emboldens us to present our response to the Pentecost Pastoral Letter on the Environment by the Bishops of England and Wales.

We very much welcome their Letter. It brings the urgency of the environmental crisis to the mass of Catholics at grass roots level. It urges us all to action, pointing out that there are a great many resources available, and suggesting areas in which we can make the right choices, for instance in diet, energy, travel and waste. This promoting of environmental action from our bishops is much appreciated by Catholic activists.

We would have liked to have seen reference to the Vatican's *Laudato Si* Action Platform, which is being officially unveiled on 25 May. Like Vatican II, the Action Platform is somewhat 'revolutionary' by Catholic Church standards, and needs explanation and encouragement. It is a bold initiative whose success is very much dependent on the backing of our bishops. <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/more-information/> <https://www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/action-platform/>

We would also have liked to have seen mention of and praise and encouragement for the work already being done by Catholics to reverse environmental damage. This support would be some thanks for what can often be thankless activities and would encourage others to take up the cause.

We are surprised that no specific mention is made of the *Laudato Si'* Encyclical, which is the umbrella under which Catholics have most recently become mobilised for environmental action. The Encyclical has been acclaimed by people of goodwill worldwide, yet many Catholic parishes in the UK know very little about it, because they haven't been made aware of its importance.

*Laudato Si'* obliges us to confront our treatment of the millions of species that we share the planet with. Indeed, the Vatican, because of *Laudato Si'*, now urges us to consider how we have treated other creatures when we examine our consciences. It is disappointing that the Letter makes no mention of our fellow creatures and the respect and love we owe them as part of our Christian duties.

Because the Liturgy is of paramount importance in the life of the Church, it would have been heartening to have some commitment from the bishops to considering how the Liturgy could better reflect our greater awareness of our Christian duty to the natural environment.

And because it is our fervent hope that the *Laudato Si'* Encyclical reaches every Catholic home - the success of the Encyclical depends on this - we would have liked the Letter to have urged parish priests and parishioners to set up parish green teams and to develop parish Environmental Policies. It is proving difficult in many parishes to get the approval and support of the clergy for environmental action. We welcome the appointment of Environmental Leads in many Dioceses and hope the bishops will soon have an Environmental Lead in every Diocese, which will be a great help towards getting parish priests to back local action. We look forward to the Leads working with existing networks such as the National Justice and Peace Network, Cafod and our own *Laudato Si'* Animators.

We would like to end by repeating our appreciation of the bishops' Letter, which shows a concern for the environmental crisis and a commitment to playing a role in repairing the damage. Our response to the Letter is offered with humility, and we trust will be humbly received.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42266>

- *Laudato Si'* animators UK have all been trained by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, based at the Vatican. The group worked with Journey to 2030, CAFOD and Justice and Peace networks to present 'Global Healing', an online Lent course with the Bishops' Conference films and speakers which reached around 900 people. The handouts and recordings have been very well received and 30 people went on to undertake the Animators' training this year. Diocesan networks have been formed, working with existing networks.

**See also Bishops of England and Wales Pentecost Letter on Environment - [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42221](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42221)**

***Laudato Si* Animators - <https://laudatosianimators.org/>**

**Catholics for Christian Climate Action response to the Bishops' letter <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42278>**

## FAITH COMMUNITIES ARE TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE JUSTICE AND CARE FOR CREATION THROUGH UNDERSTANDING CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Faiths4Change are offering Liverpool City Region residents fully-funded places on an accredited 'Carbon Literacy' course that explores climate change and carbon footprints as a way to live faith, care for Creation and act on climate justice. Carbon Literacy is about growing our awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis. The course enables learners to connect issues of climate change to their personal motivations, grow their understanding of climate science, explore issues of climate justice and plan to take high-impact actions. This is the first course nationally to explore carbon literacy from faith perspectives.

Kate from Emmanuel Parish, Fazakerley, said "A few of us have in recent weeks decided that we need to form an eco church group, but we didn't really know where to start or what to do. Then we stumbled across Faiths4Change Carbon Literacy Training and booked on just to get us going. I'm so glad we did! The training the team delivered is outstanding. I learnt so much, in such a safe, non-judgemental setting and it was such a good way to start forming as a group. Sharing this experience with the others from my church has no doubt gelled us together and we can now work as a team on supporting each other and our church & parish to help tackle climate change. And I'm so relieved to know that we can call on Faiths4Change at any time to help us achieve that goal."

Freda said "I have been aware of climate change issues and have personally taken small steps such as conserving water and having no food waste BUT I had never heard of the carbon cycle and much of the science of the early modules. It was a big learning curve for me but so well presented." And Kelly added "Just the right level of information, breaks and discussion so it was not too much to take it but really a full fun day of learning."

This Carbon Literacy training is being offered to up to 400 residents across the Liverpool City Region thanks to a grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Community Environment Fund. The course has been developed by Energy Projects Plus: [epplus.org.uk/](http://epplus.org.uk/) and is being run with partner Zero Carbon Liverpool: [facebook.com/ZeroCarbonLiverpool/](https://facebook.com/ZeroCarbonLiverpool/) A secular version of the course is available through our partners, please contact Faiths4Change with enquiries.

### Day time courses:

1. Monday 14th June (9am – 5pm)
2. Thursday 17th June (9am – 5pm)
3. Wednesday 30th June and Thursday 1st July (9am – 1pm both days)
4. Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th July (1 - 5pm both days)

### Evening courses:

5. 30th, 1st June, 7th and 8th July (7 - 9pm each day)
6. 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd July (7 - 9pm each day)

Please note, you can join any of the courses as an individual. If you have a group of 10 people who would like to take the course together, we can offer you your own training date. Please get in touch directly to arrange. Contact Annie Merry and Liz Atherton to enquire and book a place: [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk) [liz@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:liz@faiths4change.org.uk)

## 6TH FORM SYLLABUS: "ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME"

*"...it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone... A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal."* [Laudato Si' 202]

Environmental education is a huge part of the change we need to make to prevent and reverse the ecological crisis we are now facing. We need a universal understanding of how our actions impact others and the support to change our behaviours for the better of the whole world. This is why the Ecological Conversion Group have launched their new 12-week 6th form syllabus, to unpack the themes presented in Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, *On Care for our Common Home*. Fully illustrated throughout it delves into our ecological and social crises through the lenses of faith, science, philosophy, and spirituality. Its main aims are to allow our knowledge of reality to be connected with our values and beliefs, motivating through hope and love to act and make a meaningful change in the world.

This syllabus has been designed for use as a component of the UK's 6th Form Core RE course, ages 16-18. However, it is very versatile, and we hope that its use stretches far beyond that! Perhaps you could use it in your parish, community group or at your university. As full notes on the course material are provided, you don't need to be an expert to deliver this course. The lessons are filled with opportunities for discussion and debate and are designed to engage the group to reflect on how the issues raised in *Laudato Si'* relate to their own lives; to invite them to think about what they might need to change to live in a way that cares for all of humanity and Creation.

Download the syllabus for free here: <https://theecg.org/resources/6-form-syllabus/>  
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/6th-form-syllabus-on-care-for-our-common-home/>

## 'ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION' THEME AT NATIONAL J&P NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Ellen Teague 9 May 2021

'2021: Moment of Truth' is the theme of the 2021 annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales (NJPN). The 43rd NJPN conference will take place 23-25 July in Derbyshire. Bookings are now open for an in-person gathering and all are welcome.

NJPN says: "Six years on from *Laudato Si'* we are learning that the "ecological conversion" called for in *Laudato Si'* is a matter of life and death. Decisions at United Nations summits in 2021 on both biodiversity and the climate crisis will be critical for salvaging a viable future. This is also the year when the Vatican Dicastery of Human Development is inviting us to embark on a journey through the '*Laudato Si'* Action Platform', to be launched on 24 May 2021.

The UN Climate Conference in November will be hosted by Glasgow and the Justice and Peace movement will join those be lobbying there. In October, a major UN Conference in China will focus on Biodiversity and raising awareness on this issue is another NJPN focus.

At Conference 2021 we will take inspiration from *Laudato Si'*, *Fratelli Tutti* and secular thinking on integral ecology. "We will seize this moment of grace for the changes and choices now confronting us," says NJPN.

A keynote speaker is Chair of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and author Lorna Gold. Her book, '*Climate Generation: Awakening to Our Children's Future*' highlights stories of people who are doing amazing things to tackle the climate crisis. Other speakers include Lord Deben (Independent UK Committee of Climate Change), Andy Atkins, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and Mark Rotherham. Bishop John Arnold of Salford, the lead bishop on the environment for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, will be the conference Mass celebrant. Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, is to chair.

Liturgy will be led by Colette Joyce, Justice and Peace Fieldworker in Westminster Diocese, in collaboration with liturgical composer and pastoral musician Marty Haugen online. He has written a special chant '*For Our Common Home*' for the occasion. More than 20 stalls will be available in the Just Fair and around 15 workshops available. It will be a practical and life-affirming gathering of the Justice and Peace movement in England and Wales.

So, on the sixth anniversaries of both the Paris Agreement on Climate and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the conference will stimulate moves towards "ecological conversion". It will address structural change and simpler lifestyles. It will push for fossil fuel disinvestment by more Church groups as part of the rise of institutional shareholder activism. Churches will be encouraged to join the sustainability revolution and demonstrate in liturgies that there is engagement with "the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor". More parishes will be encouraged to join to Livesimply programme, which already involves more than 90 parishes and schools in England and Wales.

The conference aims to launch a decade of transformative action - in lives and communities. It will discern how to deepen commitment to build a world where all of God's creation can live in peace and prosperity. Participants will be given resources to work together to make this vision a reality.

For more information see: [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/) or call: 020 901 4864  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42161>

## RECOMMENDED READING

**MARCUS RASHFORD** *You Are A Champion: Unlock Your Potential, Find Your Voice and Be the BEST You Can Be*  
Marcus Rashford is famous worldwide for his skills both on and off the pitch - but before he was a Manchester United and England footballer, and long before he started his inspiring campaign to end child food poverty, he was just an average kid from Wythenshawe, South Manchester.

Now, Marcus Rashford MBE wants to show YOU how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide for life. No matter who you are and no matter where you come from, every single person in the world has the potential to be a champion. In *You Are a Champion*, the nation's favourite footballer gives you the tools you need to reach your full potential, showing you how to be the very BEST version of yourself you can be.

Written with journalist Carl Anka, this empowering guide is packed full of stories from Marcus's own life, brilliant advice and top-tips from performance psychologist Katie Warriner. Perfect for young readers who need to hear that they already are champions - they just might not know it yet.

Publisher: Pan Macmillan, ISBN: 9781529068177, 240 pages

[https://www.waterstones.com/book/9781529068177?utm\\_source=wsaysrashford&utm\\_campaign=wrecs&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=cta](https://www.waterstones.com/book/9781529068177?utm_source=wsaysrashford&utm_campaign=wrecs&utm_medium=email&utm_content=cta)

## THE BEST BOOK ON POVERTY I HAVE EVER READ

### ***Poverty Safari: understanding the anger of Britain's underclass***

**Jon Kuhrt** 4 June 2021: This book was given to me by a former colleague 3 years ago, but must confess that I only read it in the last few weeks. Being honest, the delay was caused by a misjudged assumption that it would be a grim rant about structural inequality: long on problems and blame, short on hope and solutions. But my assumptions were very wrong. In fact, *Poverty Safari* is by far the best book on poverty that I have ever read.

Darren McGarvey grew up in Pollok, a large housing estate in south Glasgow. He writes with intensity about the challenges of his up-bringing: inequality, material poverty and how views of residents were routinely ignored. But he is also bracingly honest about the dysfunctional behaviour of his Mum, whose addictions, poor mental health and violence created chaos in his family's life. These experiences led McGarvey into homelessness, addiction and mental health crises himself. And they also took him into his work as a writer, rapper and social commentator.

It is the fusion of the structural and the personal that makes this a powerful, truthful and prophetic book. McGarvey's analysis crosses the tribal boundaries of contemporary political debate. Like George Orwell, his politics is very much left-wing, but he is pointedly critical of the contemporary left's blind-spots.

McGarvey uses personal story, embedded in a local context, to show why the pursuit of social justice should always mean combining systemic change and personal responsibility. McGarvey argues that an overly structural approach both ignores the reality of life and disempowers poor communities: *'Responsibility for poverty and its attendant challenges is almost always externalised; ascribed to an unseen force or structure, a system or some vaguely defined elite...we peddle the idea that everything will be fine just as soon as the current system breaks down...'*

He highlights the taboo in left-wing circles around personal responsibility: *'We deny the objective truth that many people will only recover from their mental health problems, physical illnesses and addictions when they, along with correct support, accept a certain level of culpability for the choices they make. Yet such an assertion has become offensive to our ears despite being undeniably true.'*

McGarvey's analysis of the 'well-meaning left-leaning, liberal middle class' who run the poverty industry particularly struck me. Too often the concerns of poorer people are patronised and dismissed as 'ignorant self-harm' when they vote for right-wing parties, rather than grasp what their real concerns are. He takes issue with the simplistic tribalism and identity politics which toxifies political debate: *'Identity politics has become synonymous with a style of activism that many people across the political spectrum find illiberal, censorious and counter-productive...every analysis starts with a privilege check, pre-emptively invalidating the opinions of people who disagree. Pathological over-simplification is not only encouraged but mandatory.'*

The book's deepest strength is its personal honesty. In a powerfully self-critical chapter on his experience of the warping effect of drugs, McGarvey writes: *'This is the nightmare of addiction. And right at the core of it all was no longer pain or emotional trauma, as I often told myself, but a deep and malignant selfishness and a lack of concern for the needs of others. An inability to see beyond my own pain and my own narrow worldview.'*

And what is fascinating is that his own recovery included a re-assessment of the political orthodoxy he had grown up accepting: *'All my life I had been told that the system was to blame for the problems in my family's life...all I can say is that my own life began to improve when I stopped blaming other people.'*

And these are tendencies he identifies more broadly across leftist activism: *'When I look at the left, I see a worrying lack of self-awareness and a pathological belief in the legitimacy of our own resentment which are beginning to undermine the broader objective of social justice.'*

This book is raw, angry and critical. But it is also hopeful, inspiring and most of all, truthful. McGarvey does not reference faith or spirituality but the blend of social and personal transformation he articulates resonates hugely with the best of socially-concerned Christianity. This vision of a 'new frontier' of activism from the final chapter is a great example: *'Many of the conditions of my life began to change when I got less offended by the truth: some of my problems were mine to solve. The new frontier for individuals and movements who want to radically change society is to first recognise the need for radical change within ourselves.'*

<https://gracetruth.blog/2021/06/04/the-best-book-on-poverty-i-have-ever-read/>

• Darren McGarvey aka Loki grew up in Pollok. He is a writer, performer, columnist and former rapper-in-residence at Police Scotland's Violence Reduction Unit. He has presented eight programmes for BBC Scotland exploring the root causes of anti-social behaviour and social deprivation. His novel *Poverty Safari* won the Orwell Prize 2018. *Poverty Safari: understanding the anger of Britain's underclass* ISBN 139781529006346



## DIARY DATES

### JUNE

**14-20 Refugee Week** <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone/>

**17-20th June - Walking Together during Refugee Week 2021**

12.00 – 5.00pm each day, Chester Cathedral Gardens

During Refugee Week 2021, 14-20th June, Chester City of Sanctuary group are creating a unique public art installation entitled 'Walking Together' in Chester Cathedral gardens, to show support to those forced to flee violence and persecution. We are hoping that over 1,000 people will 'walk together' with those seeking sanctuary by coming along

**Thursday 17th - Sunday 20th June, between 12 – 5pm**, 'planting' one of our free flags and seeing our path of 'welcome to Chester' grow.

Please come and join us on any of these dates and be part of creating this path of welcome in Chester.

Further information: [info@chester.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:info@chester.cityofsanctuary.org)

**On Sunday 20th June at 10.00am** Chester Cathedral will be holding a special service for Refugee Week. The guest speaker will be Inderjit Bhogal co-founder of the City of Sanctuary movement. Prebooking required –available via Chester Cathedral website.

**On Sunday 20th June at 1.15pm** Storyhouse will be showing the film *Midnight Traveller* introduced by a member of the City of Sanctuary group. Tickets and further information available via Storyhouse website.

**26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** [www.fiacat.org/en/our-actions/thenetwork-campaigns/night-vigil](http://www.fiacat.org/en/our-actions/thenetwork-campaigns/night-vigil)

**24-25 'Life on the Breadline' End of Project Conference.**

Conference Programme: <https://breadlineresearch.coventry.ac.uk/events/end-of-project-conference/>

Register here: <https://coventry.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/life-on-the-breadline-end-of-project-conference-reg>

### JULY

**10 The World in Crisis: The Cry of the Poor** 10am – 12:30pm Archdiocese of Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission Annual

Assembly 2021 Speakers: Dr Sr Gemma Simmons CJ, The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge

Fr Dominic Curran, St Oscar Romero Parish, Seaforth & Litherland. <https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/2021/06/01/the-world-in-crisis-the-cry-of-the-poor/>

**13 CWDF Forum-by-Zoom: "Fair Tax Now"** 7.00pm Speaker Justin Thacker, Director of the campaign Church Action for Tax Justice. The Fair Tax Now campaign calls for fairer national and global tax systems, and puts forward a range of policy proposals designed to make the tax system fairer for all. (CATJ is one of the programmes of ECCR, the Ecumenical Council for Corporate responsibility.) For the Zoom link please email [bernard.payne691@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.payne691@btinternet.com) and we will send you some background notes.

**23-25 NJPN conference '2021: Moment of Truth'** in Derbyshire. Bookings are now open for an in-person gathering and all are welcome. See page 15 of this bulletin. Details and booking: [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/)

**NJPN continues to have a weekly column in *The Universe***, and some of these are uploaded onto our website at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

● Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.

● Sign up for regular news and information from NJPN including **a new fortnightly e-bulletin with a comprehensive round-up of current events, campaigns, e-petitions and resources** (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org)

or [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) 020 7901 4864

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*