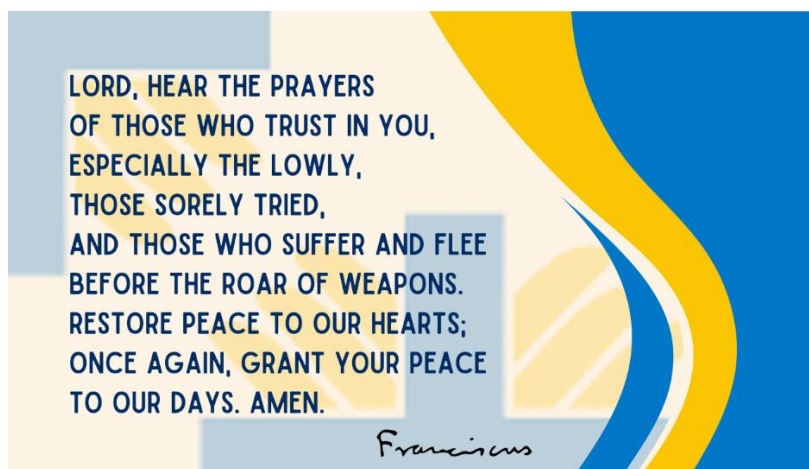


NJPN E-Bulletin 20th March 2022



"In Ukraine, rivers of blood and tears are flowing. This is not just a military operation but a war which sows death, destruction and misery."

(Pope Francis - 6th March 2022)

Dear Friends,

No words can be used to describe how we all feel about what is going on in Ukraine at present. However many times you listen to the news it is difficult to comprehend the situation, and why we are possibly on the brink of yet another World War. There are so many opinions, fundraising efforts, articles etc. that I couldn't possibly put them all in this e-bulletin. Pretty much every company I have ever bought from on the internet has contacted me in the last week or so to tell me that they have set up either a fundraising page for Ukraine, have donated some money to the DEC Humanitarian Appeal, or will match fund anything that I care to donate. This is great, but as Paul Southgate said the other day, with everything being about Ukraine, there is a worry that other things will get missed.

On the back of this thought, our Action of the Week is about the situation in Calais. We also lead the News and Comments Section with Refugees/Migrants.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in items to be included in this e-bulletin. If possible, can you provide me with a link to the article/event on a website please. Particularly if it is a long article, the e-bulletin works much better if I can put in a few words, and then add the link, so that those who want to read it can do so on a web page.

The next edition will be out around the 3rd April.

God bless and stay safe,
Sharon (Editor)

E-Bulletin Contents: -

***** ACTION OF THE WEEK *****

News and Comment

- 1. Refugees/Migrants**
- 2. Ukraine**
- 3. Climate/Environment**
- 4. What's wrong with the Fashion Trade?**
- 5. Life in the UK today**
- 6. Rejection of proposals for Assisted Suicide**
- 7. Synod News**
- 8. Bill of Rights should focus on recognised fundamental rights**

9. Columban Competition Winners
10. NJPN Blog through ICN

Newsletters

11. NW NJPN E-Bulletin March 2022
12. Mouthpeace Spring 2022
13. Living Fair March 2022
14. Salesians February 2022
15. Biofuelwatch March 2022
16. Joint Public Issues Team February 2022

Events (**this week marked by **)

17. **19th - 27th March** - Romero Week
18. **23rd March** - Modernisation in the Shipping Industry
19. **Various Dates** - Global Justice Now
20. 30th March - Palestinian Land, the absence of justice.
21. 2nd April - Cardiff Just People Roadshow
22. 2nd April - We Rise: Young Persons Activist National Gathering
23. 6th/7th April - Changing the world through AGM activism
24. 26th April- David Goodbourn Lecture - After Pestilence
25. 14th May - End Apartheid/Free Palestine
26. 18th June - Pax Christi AGM
27. 8th - 10th July 2022 - Reinventing Radical (Student Christian Movement)
28. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference

Actions

- 29. Tell Boris Johnson to stop hijacking aid budget
- 30. It's time to tax wealth
- 31. Stop businesses getting away with Human Rights abuses
- 32. ACAT Easter Greetings Card Campaign

Vacancies

- 33. Society of St. Vincent de Paul Scotland

The Last Word

- 34. Passionist Artist Lya Vollering at Coventry Cathedral

See below for: -

[*Note on Data Protection*](#)

[*About these E-Bulletins*](#)

[*Donate to NJPN*](#)

*****ACTION OF THE WEEK*****

There are still refugees in Calais...

[Seeking Sanctuary](#) **writes:** - As we look to the heroic efforts to welcome Ukrainian refugees, particularly in Poland, we have become increasingly aware of the difference in welcome of European and refugees from further afield. As tragic as the suffering under Russian bombardment is, it is not different from the experiences of so many thousands of people in Aleppo in Syria, or that of the Yazidi in the Middle East. And let's remember the many Roma families caught up in the fighting. In Calais the authorities are at least giving homeless Ukrainians shelter in the Youth Hostel but others have to endure life in tents and the like. **There should be no differentiation in our treatment of refugees - all must be treated equally.**

A call from the Calais NGOs. "We ask the authorities to put into practice the same reception conditions as those for Ukrainian refugees. Whether they come from Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia or Sudan, all refugees deserve and must be the object of protection, compassion and security. Europe has just proven that it is possible to establish safe pathways and decent reception conditions for those fleeing their country because of persecution or war. All should benefit from it."

Calais is organised to accept donations of goods that are sorted, packed and labelled and that appear on the "current needs" lists. Anyone can deliver them on a day trip with a car, or drop them off at one of the UK drop-off sites that are available.

Please help.....

Thank you!

As a PS to the above, America Magazine have an article entitled '[The outpouring of support for Ukraine is a great thing. Can we show the same compassion for victims of other global crises.](#)'

Regardless of whether we are in the US or the UK, the situation is still very much the same, and sadly shows that some refugees are more acceptable than others.

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Refugees/Migrants (includes **Actions and an **Event**)**

UK Government defeated on clause penalising refugees in Borders Bill

This is going back a couple of weeks now, but still a good article as it shows the way that the House of Lord/House of Commons work when trying to get a Bill passed....

Independent Catholic News writes: - *On Monday, 28 February, the House of Lords voted to exclude Clause 11, which would introduce 'differential treatment of refugees' from the Nationality and Borders Bill. This was among a number of significant government defeats and means that the House of Commons will have to decide whether to put Clause 11 back into the Bill when it returns in a few weeks' time.*

Clause 11 differentiates between the types of refugees, based on how they arrived in the UK. You can read the full article [here](#).

More details on this are also available through [The Guardian](#).

Action

There is a petition through the [UK Government and Parliament](#) website that you can add your name to remove Clause 11 from the Nationality and Borders Bill.

Event - Local Landmark Campaign - National Day of Action - 21st March 2022

Together with Refugees writes: - *We need to show the depth and breadth of support for a more compassionate approach to refugees. Those of you who have already presented your public signs of support in great big orange hearts at local landmarks could build on your efforts with a bigger show of support. If you've already collected signs of support from your communities, assemble them into huge orange hearts and place them on a local landmark on 21 March.*

If you are new to this campaign, more details and ideas are available [here](#).

2. Ukraine

Just a few of the very many articles on Ukraine:-

Today in Ukraine we see a huge disdain for human dignity

The Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Sviatoslav Shevchuk, has issued a powerful statement on human dignity, in which he describes war as a *'defeat to humanity.'*

It is a very thought-provoking read. Available through the [Ukrainian Catholic Crisis Media Center](#).

Government must not be allowed to pass on its moral responsibilities

Joseph Kelly from [The Catholic Network](#) has written an article dwelling on the £350 per month that the Government has offered people wanting to host Ukrainian refugees, and that by doing so has passed on its moral responsibilities to the refugees onto the general public.

From a personal point of view, I am quite surprised as to the number of Facebook posts from people, apparently in Ukraine, wanting someone to

sponsor/help them - some of which didn't quite seem to ring true. But also some of the answers to some of the posts seemed a bit unsavoury, with men offering to host women, and saying that 'they could get them into work.' If anyone is planning on hosting refugees, then going through the [Government website](#) has to be a must.

Update from the Salesians



The Salesians write: - *A couple of weeks ago, we launched our fundraising appeal for the crisis in Ukraine, and in that time we have raised over £20,000 for the work of the Salesians working in Ukraine and surrounding areas that are helping the refugees fleeing the conflict.*

Since the attacks on Ukraine began on 24/02/22 help has been provided through the Salesians and Salesian Sisters working in Ukraine who have not left the country at this difficult time. The Salesians in Poland are offering shelter to many refugees from Ukraine and to students from other countries fleeing the war through Poland. They also mediate in finding accommodation. They organise medical, psychological and legal assistance. Over 1 million people have fled from Ukraine to Poland.

No refugee camp has been set up, all of them are being taken in by Polish families. The Salesians have managed to prepare several hundred places in their homes. Salesian volunteers in the country are helping to collect, segregate and distribute gifts, to welcome refugees and to transport people and goods to Ukraine. They also organise lessons and take care of

Ukrainian children, to facilitate their adaptation to the new reality in Poland. We thank all the Salesian Family in the world for the spiritual and material support you are offering!

If you wish to donate, then follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/SalesianGBRProvince>

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal



Also, as many of you are aware, CAFOD have joined with the DEC and they are running their Humanitarian Appeal. You can read about CAFOD's response and you can donate [here](#).

We have to stop being indifferent

This article from [My Green Pod](#) links in our dependence on fossil fuels with Putin's war on Ukraine. (and really crosses between the Ukraine and Climate Sections of this e-bulletin)

Roman Nitsovych, Research Director of DiXi Group, Ukraine is quoted:

- 'We have been warning our western partners – governments, companies and experts – of Russian energy being used as a weapon and on the risks of high dependence on Russian supplies. Now there is more understanding that revenues from Russian oil and gas exports were used mainly for enrichment of elites loyal to Putin's regime and extensive military buildup. Regretfully, this awareness in the west comes at a dreadful cost of Ukrainian lives. That is why it is so important to force the aggressor to stop the war – with suspension of fossil fuel purchase from Russia being one of the strongest measures.'

3. Climate/Environment (includes **Actions and **Events**)**

Action - Beyond Fossil Fuels Together Vigil and Fast

Beyond Fossil Fuels Together writes: - *Our Earth is in peril and millions are already suffering as a result of the climate crisis. As our world heats up, the UK government is pouring £10 billion a year into the fossil fuel industry. We need to move beyond our addiction to fossil fuels NOW with an immediate end to new oil exploration and licences, and to fossil fuel subsidies. Will you come together with us and speak up on behalf of our planet?*

Beyond Fossil Fuels Together are a group of concerned individuals who are organising both a two week 24 hour vigil and a series of 24 hour fasts. Anyone can take part.

[Click here for more details.](#)

ICN have reported on the Columbans supporting the vigil at Westminster. You can read it [here](#).

Climate Emergency Toolkit

The updated [Climate Emergency Toolkit](#), and website, are now available. A useful resource for churches or organisations looking to respond to the Climate Emergency.

Online meeting on Biodiversity

This interesting article written by Ellen Teague for [ICN](#) gives an overview of an online meeting held by the LiveSimply Group of St. John Vianney Parish, West Green, in the Westminster Diocese. The speaker was Fr. Sean McDonagh.

As mentioned in previous e-bulletins, COP15, the UN Biodiversity Conference, happens in Kunming, China, in the next few weeks. At the end of the article there are lots of links, which will give you more details on the subject. In particular, please read ["What Does the Destruction of Biodiversity Mean?"](#) from the Columbans.

Use your LOAF!

Green Christian writes: - *Bread is full of symbolic meaning for Christians. In the gospels Jesus described Himself as "the bread of life". When you next go food shopping, especially if you are buying for your Church, why not*

adopt some of Green Christian's LOAF principles?

LOAF stands for food that is Locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly or Fairly traded.

Green Christian describe how LOAF fits in with our Christian principles [here](#).

How can the UK secure affordable energy for all?

[Friends of the Earth](#) have produced a balanced article concerning the impact that the war in Ukraine will have on the energy market, and highlighting the fact that it is essential to have a '*secure supply of affordable energy while avoiding funding wars abroad.*'

There is also an opportunity to sign a petition to the Government telling them that we don't want any new coal, gas or oil projects (of which there are over 30 planned by fossil fuel companies).

I don't know about you, but I am not sure how we will be able to afford gas by the end of this year, if what they are threatening about the rise in prices comes to fruition.

Setting up a Green Team in your Parish (courtesy of the Leeds Diocesan J & P Climate Action Group)

Pope Francis' messages in *Laudato Si'* have been clear in the need for us to protect our beautiful but fragile world. They ask us all, collectively and individually, to:

- consider the way we look at creation
- pray about this
- identify and stop practices that cause damage
- start new initiatives to improve our environment, and then
- reset our lifestyles

It can all seem a bit daunting but there are many ways for us to engage with Pope Francis' call. So how do we start? One of the best ways is to form a Green Team in your parish.

The Green Team could look at aspects of our lives in the parish and at home and work. Such as:

- Energy - how much gas & electricity do we use? Some dioceses already arrange 'green' electricity and gas for the parish buildings.
- Agriculture - what food do we eat & where does it come from?
- Transport - how do we get to work & school?
- Rewilding - what flora & fauna live here?
- Commodities- what can we do without, which things are we reusing and recycling?
- Eco-friendly products - what environmentally harmful products should we stop using?

The next stage is to decide which one(s) to begin doing something about. Use the 5R principle – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Renewable energy, and especially Refuse to buy. This helps to focus and identify benefits and savings. Savings are not only ££, they also include carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas that is making a huge contribution to the Climate Change crisis. AND remember sustainability means having the environmental, social and economic aspects in place, it's not one of these versus the others! Also several dioceses have adopted Environmental Policies. You can use these to help you compose your own parish environment policy.

Your Green Team can share your suggestions with the parish – always keep them up to date with what is happening, some may join in as well. Make some posters to display at your church giving details of what you are going to do. Include in your parish liturgy. You don't have to know all the answers at this stage, they can be different for each of us, but there are many that have common themes and lots of advice is available. You can do this for your parish buildings & grounds and/or for your own homes as well.

There are plenty of resources available, from [Laudato Si Movement](#), [Journey to 2030](#), [Laudato Si Animators](#), [the Laudato Si Centre](#), [the Ecological Conversion Group](#) and others.

'An atlas of human suffering': the latest IPCC Report

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, spoke out at the report's launch:

"I have seen many scientific reports in my time, but nothing like this. Today's IPCC report is an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed leadership."

"The facts are undeniable. This abdication of leadership is criminal. The world's biggest polluters are guilty of arson of our only home. But according to current commitments, global emissions are set to increase almost 14 per cent over the current decade. That spells catastrophe. It will destroy any chance of keeping 1.5 alive."

Read more about the IPCC report through [Campaign Against Climate Change](#). They also have a page about the UK facing crucial choice on energy policy [here](#).

Destruction caused by Cyclone Gombe

Until I read this article, I hadn't even realised that Mozambique had suffered as a result of Cyclone Gombe just over a week ago. ACI Africa interviewed Fr. António Martinho Canera, who stated that the damage was immeasurable. He said it had caused a *"desolate scenario, with infrastructures severely damaged, affecting the provision of assistance in terms of health, education, water, and other services to the population."* Read the full article [here](#).

Action - Stop the Government failing on plastic

I know that we have had these petitions etc. before, but this is so important to the health of our world and in particular, nature. Friends of the Earth say that *instead of cutting pollution, the government has just announced a dangerously weak set of targets that will allow polluters to keep destroying nature.*

Add your name to their open letter to the Government [here](#).

4. What's wrong with the Fashion Trade?

I was asked to put this in by Virginia Bell of the Laudato Si' Animators UK, and I was unsure first of all as to whether to put it as a stand-alone article in News and Comment, or put it under the heading of Climate/Environment.

As you read the article, you will understand why I put it in its own category. Not only does the article cover the damage done to the environment by the use of water, pesticides and toxic chemicals, but it also includes cruelty to animals, and huge amounts of detention and forced labour, as well as child labour.

The article is available to read through [ICN](#). Please read to the end as there are various links including one to lobby your MP, and information on the types of material that are better for the environment.

5. Life in the UK today (includes an **Action)**

Suffolk Church offers 'Warm Room' to those struggling to pay energy bills

Premier Christian News writes: - *As fuel, energy and food prices soar, Holy Trinity Church, Bungay, has teamed up with Together with Bungay Community Support, to come up with the "Warm Room" scheme. The project provides free and warm spaces for people to come five days a week to chat, drink tea and play cards while keeping warm. Details are available [here](#).*

Action - Benefits should rise to cover the cost of living

Church Action on Poverty writes: - *Martin lives in Halifax in West Yorkshire. He had to stop working when he suffered nerve damage, and he has long-lasting pain and anxiety. He can see the rise in the cost of living, every time he looks at his energy meter. His bills are set to rise by £547 a year.*

"My anxiety and depression now is getting worse and worse again. I'm stressing all the time, and forever trying to change bill payment dates and things like that."

The Government cut Universal Credit last October. Now, people on benefits face a second cut. Inflation is set to reach 7% by April, but benefits are set to rise by only 3.1%. This cut would devastate households like Martin's. It would be catastrophic and should be unthinkable.

In the spring budget statement next week on 23 March, the Government have a chance to step in and make sure that everyone gets the help they need. Please [contact your MP today](#) and ask them to call for urgent action.

Christian Groups urge Chancellor to ease tax burden on families

ICN writes: - *Three Christian organisations have called on the Chancellor to make the tax system fairer for families ahead of the Spring Statement this coming week. The Catholic Union of Great Britain; the Centre for Enterprise, Markets and Ethics; and the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society, St Mary's University, Twickenham have called for action from Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak in light of rising inflation and soaring energy prices.*

The organisations are pushing for the Chancellor to set up a commission looking at ways of easing tax burdens on families.

The article and letter can be read [here](#).

6. Rejection of proposals for Assisted Suicide

ICN have reported that last week the House of Lords voted to reject Lord Forsyth's proposals for a Bill to legalise assisted suicide by 179 votes to 145 votes in a landmark vote. This is the twelfth time that proposals for an assisted suicide-related law have failed to get through our Parliamentary process.

Various interested groups have been quoted in this article and there is a link to the Dying Well website. [Click here](#) to read it.

7. Synod News

Synodal Pathway: A Mill Hill Lay Missionary Responds

Jacinta van Luijk MHM, who has been a Mill Hill Missionary since 1982, gives a very honest opinion of the Church, and this paragraph says a lot: - *In general, the official Catholic Church hierarchy, even several fellow priest-missionaries, keep their careful distance. "We are theologians, not social workers" a parish priest told us. "Yes, we should also have attention for humanitarian issues" consoled another, as if this was not his core business. In our work we constantly meet huge spiritual questions, on the purpose of life, on how to live daily life, on how to relate as human beings, of worthlessness, uselessness, loneliness and despair. These often are not taken up by Church leaders and workers as issues to be considered beyond a prayer. There is no happiness in the Church that prisoners are prisoners no more, the blind can see and the downtrodden are now free...*

Her complete words are available through [Mill Hill Missionaries](#).

8. Bill of Rights should focus on recognised fundamental rights

The Catholic Union, through ICN, has called for a renewed focus on universal, inviolable, and inalienable rights as part of plans for a new Bill of Rights being proposed by the Government.

Following a review of the Human Rights Act, the Government is consulting on a number of possible changes to the framework of human rights law in the UK.

More details, plus links to the Bill of Rights consultations, are available through [ICN](#).

9. Columban Competition Winners



Ellen Teague writes: - *Winners have been announced in a media competition for young people on the subject 'Anyone can make a difference: 21st Century Changemakers' run by the Columban Missionary Society in Britain and Ireland.*

Young people 13-18 years in Catholic Schools were asked to consider: Who in the world today is doing something about inequality, injustice, exclusion and environmental degradation? What can they teach us? The theme was based on a quote from young climate campaigner Greta Thunberg who has said, "no one is too small to make a difference".

The British competition – articles and images - attracted 156 entries from 24 Catholic schools. They were judged by panels of media experts who praised the high quality of all the entries shortlisted: Ruth Gledhill (Multi-Media Editor at The Tablet), Josephine Siedlecka (Founder and Editor of Independent Catholic News), Daisy Srblin, (Director of the Catholic youth social action charity Million Minutes) and James Trewby (Columban Education Worker).

“The quality of entries blew me away and I was amazed at their energy and thoughtfulness,” said James Trewby, Columban Education Worker in Britain.

Jessica Saxon of St George’s College in Weybridge wrote the winning article about US politician and human rights campaigner Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, described by Daisy Srblin as “a barnstorming piece of writing” and by Ruth Gledhill as “a powerful article.” Jessica herself says, “only action by those who are brave enough - people like AOC and the person I would like to be - can we encourage young minds to advocate for equality of everyone.”

The runner up was Mahi Sikan of Thomas More School in Bedford, who wrote about an Afghani woman on a mission to improve the healthcare of her community in very difficult circumstances. The article, “reminded us of the millions of people who do amazing work, without fame and acclamation”, according to Daisy Srblin.

Ella Bothwell of St Richard Gwyn in Flint and Scarlett Peart-Lapidge of Bishop Thomas Grant in London were joint third. Ella’s article on David Attenborough was described by Jo Siedlecka of Independent Catholic News as, “a really well written, mature piece combining a profile of David Attenborough with good summary of Catholic Social Teaching with references to Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti.” Scarlett’s focus on Margaret Mizen was described as “a powerful account, with first hand reflections on the ways in which the Mizen family, specifically Margaret Mizen, turned their grief over the murder of their son into something powerful and hopeful, and created real change as a result.”

Elijah Gilbert of Richard Challoner School, New Malden won first prize in the images section for his collage of people of inspiration. His image 'The Shatter of Inspiration' (image at the top of this article) showed a shattered glass with a different illustrations of influential people in each shard. Elijah says, "the people in the larger shatters have done an outstanding amount of things that one can be inspired by." These include Pope Francis, Malala Yousafzai and Vanessa Nakate. Daisy Sriblin said, "I love the thinking behind this image, reminiscent of stained glass in a Church, but featuring contemporary figures like Obama, Marcus Rashford and Pope Francis; visually it's extremely striking, and an original and thoughtful idea."

Second place went to Katherine Fawole of St Paul's Academy in London for her Gouache painting of Greta Thunberg. "It communicates one of Thunberg's most powerful quotations," said Daisy Srblin, "and I particularly love the earthy colours, reminding us of our roots and our obligations to the planet." Josephine Siedlecka described it as "a really striking image."

Oliver Lafite of Richard Challoner School and Paulette De Jose of Holy Cross School in New Malden came joint third. Oliver drew footballer Marcus Rashford as 'superman', saying "this is a man that has a lot of money and instead of being rich he wanted to help others in need." Josephine Siedlecka felt, it had "a simple and very clear message which works very well without words."

Paulette produced a mixed media piece focusing on four 'changemakers' around the words, 'Be the Change you want to see in the world.' The four are: Amanda Gorman (a racial justice activist - bottom right), Molly Burhans (an environmental activist - bottom left), Jamie Margolin (an LGBTQ+ rights activist - top left) and Jaclyn Friedman (a feminist - top right). Paulette says, "in my opinion, these people are very inspiring, considering that they are confident in what they believe in and are fighting for it as well as relying on their faith to encourage and help them." Daisy Srblin commented: "I love the blend of diversity, featuring famous voices like Amanda Gorman, and raising awareness of less well known but equally important advocates like Jamie Margolin. The diversity of using mixed media also demonstrates how change makers themselves use different means of advocacy, all of which are important. The faith motivations of the featured individuals is also a thoughtful observation."

More details are available through the [Columbans website](#).

11. NJPN Blog through ICN

There are some great blogs to catch up on through Independent Catholic News: -

[17th February](#) - Fr. Rob Esdaille, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton - **'Ashes and Ecology'**

[25th February](#) - Celia Capstick is Co-Convenor of the NBCW Social Responsibility Committee- **'Let us dream with Pope Francis'**

Grateful thanks to our friends at [Independent Catholic News](#) for allowing us to publish on their website. Please sign up and support them if you can.

Newsletters

11. NW NJPN E-Bulletin March 2022

Anne O'Connor leads with current reports about the Russian attacks on Ukraine, an appeal from the Archbishop of Liverpool offering practical support to Ukraine, plus Bruce Kent has made a stirring speech calling for an end to nuclear weapons, redoubling our efforts to build peaceful ways to resolve conflicts, supporting those who don't want to fight and offering a safe haven for refugees...and much more besides. Download it from the [NJPN website](#).

12. Mouthpeace Spring 2022

Lots of interesting information from Lancaster Faith and Justice. Available to read through the [NJPN website](#).

13. Living Fair Magazine March 2022

Showcasing Traidcraft products, the producers behind the goods, and other snippets of information. [Click here to read](#).

14. Salesians February 2022

Their organisation of the month is UNICEF. Read it [here](#).

15. Biofuelwatch March 2022

Their lead action is asking the Government to ban wood imports from Russia and Belarus, plus lots more besides. [Click here](#).

16. Joint Public Issues Team February 2022

I have recently received their March edition, but they only appear to have February on their website. Still an interesting read, and you can sign up to get your own copy. Check it out [here](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

17. 19th - 27th March - Romero Week

All are welcome to attend any of the events during this week, at various locations. Guest speaker is Edgardo Colón-Emeric. For full details of all events are available on the [Romero Trust website](#).

18. 23rd March - 7.30pm - 9pm - Stella Maris [Modernisation in the Shipping Industry](#)

19. Various dates - Global Justice Now - [Book here!](#)

DECOLONISE VACCINES
END PHARMA MONOPOLIES AND WIN
A NEW GLOBAL HEALTH SYSTEM

UK-WIDE SPEAKER TOUR:

- 14 MAR: BRIGHTON (7-9PM, FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE)
- 15 MAR: CAMBRIDGE (5-7PM, LEE HALL, WOLFSON COLLEGE)
- 18 MAR: LONDON (7-9PM, KING'S COLLEGE, STRAND)
- 19 MAR: LEEDS (4-6PM, LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNION)
- 28 MAR: MANCHESTER (7-9PM, ST THOMAS CENTRE)
- 29 MAR: LEICESTER (7-9PM, GEORGE DAVIES CENTRE)
- 30 MAR: NEWCASTLE (7-9PM, HERSCHEL BUILDING)
- 31 MAR: STIRLING (7-9PM, COTTRELL BUILDING)

just TREATMENT | Global Justice Now | STUDENTS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH | UAEM

20. 30th March - 3pm UK time -
[Palestinian Land, the absence of justice.](#)

21. 2nd April - 10am - 4pm - PACT
[Cardiff Just People Roadshow](#)

22. 2nd April - 1pm - 8.30pm - Global Justice Now
[We Rise: Young Persons Activist National Gathering](#)

23. [6th April at 12noon](#) and [7th April at 5pm](#) - Share Action
Changing the world through AGM activism.

24. 26th April - Church Action on Poverty
[David Goodbourn Lecture - After Pestilence](#)

25. 14th May 2022 - End Apartheid/Free Palestine



26. 18th June - Pax Christi AGM (details to follow)

27. 8th - 10th July - Student Christian Movement
[Reinventing Radical: Courageous Discipleship for a Changing World](#)

28. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference
[Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up.](#)

Bookings now open. Don't forget it is cheaper if you book before 20th May!

Actions

29. Tell Boris Johnson to stop hijacking aid budget

Global Justice Now writes: - *In the next few weeks, the Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, is expected to announce a new international development strategy that will prioritise promoting British exports over tackling poverty. This could mean even more money going to for-profit business in the private sector and to big consultancies encouraging commercialisation.*

So far, we have seen aid money going to for-profit private healthcare, setting up trade shows to promote UK companies, and trying to expand intellectual property rights around the world.

For more details. and to sign the petition, [click here](#).

30. It's time to tax wealth

Church Action for Tax Justice are asking you to add your name to their Good Measure Campaign.

They say: - *Wealth inequality in the UK is high and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated inequality that was already deeply entrenched in society.*

In particular, the low paid and financially insecure are especially vulnerable (including those key workers who kept the country going throughout the pandemic) Many find themselves caught in a perfect storm of reduced benefits, increased taxation on their earnings through rising National Insurance Contributions, a cost-of-living crisis and, often, uncertain job security.

They are asking the Government to introduce an initial one-off wealth tax on the country's richest 1%. Add your name to the campaign [here](#).

31. Stop businesses getting away with human rights abuses

Traidcraft Exchange have written the following: - *Primark, Tesco and John Lewis are just some of the businesses supporting our call for a new law that would make companies in the UK have to ensure abuses such as forced labour don't occur in their supply chains. If a business fails to do so, they will be held to account for profiting from abuse.*

We need this law because abusive practices are profitable. And most businesses prioritise money over treating people and the environment fairly. Will you [sign our petition](#) and call on the UK Government to introduce a new law to put an end to business abuse?

32. ACAT Easter Greetings Campaign 2022

Every year ACAT supply a list of people/Human Rights groups to whom it is possible to send specifically Christian Easter cards.

Details of this are available to download from their website [here](#).

33. Vacancies

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Scotland

SSVP Scotland have a vacancy for a part-time Administrator for 20 hours per week. Details are available through [ICN](#). Closing date is the 27th March.

THE LAST WORD

34. Passionist Artist Lya Vollering at Coventry Cathedral

Jo Siedlecka of [ICN](#) has written the following: - *A timely series of Stations of the Cross sculptures by artist Lya Vollering has just opened at the Chapel of Unity in Coventry Cathedral.*

Lya is a member of the Passionist community based in Minsteracres, County Durham. She works at the Walled Garden there and is also involved in several campaigns for climate justice, along with her artwork.

Lya says: "I came to see that these sculptures express many kinds of suffering, conflict and injustice. They evoke the anxiety and isolation people felt during the pandemic; the burden of living in times of war, and an environmental and climate crisis...."

The Stations are an invitation to put our sufferings alongside Jesus. The exhibition is free and in a space of reflection and prayer until the 1st April 2022.

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