

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin August 2022

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

GOING WITHOUT: DEEPENING POVERTY IN THE UK

A new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows how the number of people living in very deep poverty grew in the years before the pandemic struck, leaving many exposed to the devastating impact of the cost of living crisis. Poverty is deepening in the UK. Between 2002/03 and 2019/20 the number of people in very deep poverty (below 40% of median income after housing costs) increased by 1.8 million, from 4.7 million to 6.5 million people.

Our analysis finds the face of very deep poverty is changing. Between 2002/03 and 2019/20 the risk of living in very deep poverty has:

- increased by over half for people living in large families (three or more children), to reach 18% or 1.1 million people;
- increased by a third for people in families with a disabled person, to reach 15% or 2.3 million people;
- increased by a third for people in lone-parent families, to reach 19% or 900,000 people.

Against this backdrop of intensifying poverty, JRF will be asking what it would take to 'design-out' destitution and deep poverty over the coming years. Through a programme of work on destitution and deep poverty we want to collaborate with others to:

- Build insight and understanding into destitution and deep poverty, looking at the drivers and dynamics.
- Convene, curate and create solutions at the national level and campaign on measures that will reduce deep poverty and end destitution.
- Undertake sustained, ambitious and practical work in one or more places, to galvanise a mission and experiment with ways to design-out destitution and deep poverty at the local level.
- Demonstrate what a more compassionate alternative to no recourse to public funds can look like and deliver.

If you would like to work with us, we would love to hear from you – contact details are at the end of this briefing.

Read more here: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/going-without-deepening-poverty-uk?>

CARITAS SALFORD LAUNCH SUMMER CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTING EXTENT OF CHILD POVERTY IN THE DIOCESE

Caritas Diocese of Salford ('Caritas Salford') is today calling for urgent action, following new figures which show almost a quarter of a million children in the Diocese living in poverty. The charity, which is launching its Summer Appeal by sharing the shocking extent of child poverty in each of the local authority areas covered by the geography of the Diocese of Salford, is urging Government to take immediate action. Caritas Salford operates a diverse range of services across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, including professional services for children, and its latest fundraising appeal is asking for support to enable them to reach even more local families.

Patrick O'Dowd, Director said: "As we go through the most severe period of price rises for 40 years, we know that more families than ever will need help, especially across these school holiday weeks and the planned energy price hike in the autumn. It is simply not right that children are suffering, and these latest figures of the numbers living in poverty in our area are frankly shocking. Demand for our services is higher than ever, and it's heart-breaking and completely unacceptable that families are having to choose between paying bills or feeding their children. Action must be taken now."

Caritas Salford is grateful for the research carried out by Loughborough University on behalf of the End Child Poverty Coalition and published earlier this month. It shows that there were 3.6 million children still living in poverty in the UK, despite the additional support provided to low-income families via the £20 uplift to Universal Credit.

The charity is calling for the Government to support people's immediate spending needs by:

- Increasing benefits now (as opposed to April 2023) to bring them in line with inflation
- Reintroducing the £20 uplift for Universal Credit
- Providing a one-off payment to households in dwellings below EPC band C
- Implementing policies that helps mitigate the impact of inflationary shocks in the future.

Caritas Salford's website provides the breakdown of child poverty by local authority area and priorities of how government can support immediate needs: www.caritassalford.org.uk/child-poverty/ and the information will also be promoted via a postcard direct mailer and social media campaign to raise awareness and encourage support.

Since its launch in 2020, the Caritas Bishop's Fund has been awarding small one-off emergency grants to families and individuals in crisis. Access to these grants is promoted via Caritas frontline workers and partnership organisations, as well as the diocesan network of schools and parishes. The fund has helped people in many different ways, ranging from supermarket shopping vouchers through to replacement white goods and children's beds. It has helped hundreds of people when they have been at their lowest points in their lives (terminal illness, loss of job, bereavement, eviction, survivors of abuse).

As well as providing accommodation to support young parents and their infant children experiencing homelessness, Caritas Salford provides tailored support services to school children and their families as they experience difficulties. This work has included working with bereaved children, supporting families where there is young offending and providing counselling services.

<https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/uncategorised/caritas-launch-summer-campaign-highlighting-extent-of-child-poverty-in-the-diocese/>

CATHOLIC ENVIRONMENT BISHOP: IT'S TIME TO SPRINT TOWARDS CLIMATE ACTION

Ellen Teague 3 August 2022: The episcopal lead for the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales on the Environment, Bishop John Arnold of Salford, has called for more urgent action on the climate crisis. In a statement on his diocesan website on 23 July, after a record-breaking heatwave in the UK, he said:

"This is not going to just peak and then we'll hear no more of it. It's going to get gradually worse. We are warming the globe and we're not reacting quickly enough to avoid the damage or to even begin to repair the damage that we've done. We've already been told that some of the damage is irreparable, so we've got to think and we've got to act. Unfortunately, the government is not fulfilling the promises made at COP26.... The politics of our nation must take full measure of climate change and the climate crisis. I know that we're jogging along, showing an interest in climate change - but jogging is not enough. We've got to start sprinting at this stage to make sure that we are caring for our common home and our brothers and sisters."

He described the recent heatwave as a "wake-up call," saying, "this week, we've witnessed temperatures never before reached here in the UK and, here in our own diocese, temperatures also saw record highs as some parishes nudged 40 degrees and firefighters battled flames in nearby communities." Bishop John thanked parishes and schools already working to live more sustainably and campaign for environmental justice. Bishop Arnold invited involvement in the second diocesan Walk for Creation on Sunday 2 October.

Bishop John: "It's time to sprint towards climate action": www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqkUbJhN_WM
Environment Mission in Salford Diocese: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/diocese/environment/
Environment webpages of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales: www.cbcew.org.uk/environment/
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45219>

COUNTDOWN TO THE SEASON OF CREATION

John Woodhouse 3 August 2022: The Season of Creation, which starts on 1 September, is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox Church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. The World Council of Churches (WCC) was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October. Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar.

Pope Francis made the Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015. In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to focus on care for creation during the month-long celebration. The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

The Burning Bush

The burning bush is the symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires is a sign of the devastating effects that human-induced climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we follow in faith to our deliverance from injustice.

Listen to the voice of creation

In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation. Links to resources are below. Westminster Cathedral's celebrations will be marked by prayer and information. There will be prayers for creation at Sunday Masses during the Season of Creation and quotes from 'Laudato Si' Care for our common home' in the newsletters and homilies. The Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Hinsley room from 2 to 3.30pm. All are welcome. We are studying Laudato Si' Care for our common home and the text is available for £4.95 from St Paul's bookshop and online for free.

- John Woodhouse is a Laudato Si' animator and the Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group Organiser.

Season of Creation Celebration Guide: <https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SOC-2022-Celebration-Guide-Final-English.pdf>

Laudato Si' Movement Resources: <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/season-of-creation-2022s-symbol-the-burning-bush/> (which includes two short videos introducing the Season of Creation)

Laudato Si' Encyclical: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.HTML

We are encouraged to sign up to the Laudato Si' Action Platform and pledge to make a difference. Everybody has a part to play however small: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45220>

LET THEM NOT SAY

Heather Kiernan writes: The report published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (1/8/22) argues that the consequences of global heating beyond 3C have been under examined and that there is ample reason to suspect that global heating will lead to the extinction of humans.

Jane Hirshfield's poem '*Let them Not Say*' articulates the exasperation many of us feel over the glaring gap between what we know and what we can do—or not—to help. A rallying cry of defiance against environmental degradation it is also a prayerful poem of promise to the future.

LET THEM NOT SAY ~Jane Hirshfield

Let them not say: we did not see it.

We saw.

Let them not say: we did not hear it.

We heard.

Let them not say: they did not taste it.

We ate, we trembled.

Let them not say: it was not spoken, not written.

We spoke,

we witnessed with voices and hands.

Let them not say: they did nothing.

We did not-enough.

Let them say, as they must say something:

A kerosene beauty.

It burned.

Let them say we warmed ourselves by it,

read by its light, praised,

and it burned.

Listen to Krista Tippett reading Jane Hirshfield's poem here: <https://www.themarginalian.org/2022/01/03/let-them-not-say-jane-hirshfields/>

PAX CHRISTI MEMBERS AT NATIONAL J&P CONFERENCE

Pax Christi was well represented at this year's NJPN Conference: *'Hope! a verb with its sleeves rolled up'*. Our Schools and Youth Education Officer, Aisling Griffin gave an input about the hope she sees in the enthusiasm of the young people she works with. Pax Christi Chair, Ann Farr, spoke of the 'deep, deep-rooted steadfastness' exemplified by the Palestinians who continue to plant and care for their olive trees despite ongoing destruction of them.

Videos of the speakers are available here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4HAuivOZMEvt5GE-gSBfoVQbZ4PtE_av

Full texts are available on the NJPN website here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/news/>

Report on the Conference from Independent Catholic News here: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45153>

You might find Irish diplomat Philip McDonagh's insightful suggestions on how we might begin a 'rational dialogue' about the war in Ukraine of particular interest. Read here: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45166>

2022 WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (15 – 22 SEPTEMBER)

WCC invites World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, highlights "Faith, Hope and Love in Action"

As the 2022 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel approaches in September, the World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land. "The annual world week for peace in Palestine and Israel offers an opportunity for all of us to engage in active hope towards ending the occupation," said WCC acting general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/wcc-invites-world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel-highlights-faith-hope-and-love-in-action>

THE KILLING OF SHIREEN ABU AKLEH – WHAT CHANCE FOR JUSTICE?

(13/6/22) Caabu held an online discussion on the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh, the Al Jazeera Arabic journalist killed on 11 May 2022 whilst covering an Israeli raid on the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank.

The meeting heard from a work colleague of 17 years Wessam Hammad as to what she was like, and what she represented to the Palestinian people. Francesca Albanese, the new UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 addressed legal issues surrounding the killing and the need for a proper independent investigation. Anna McMorris MP gave her reflections having just returned from her first delegation to Palestine with Caabu and MAP, and Wessam Ahmad will give his perspective as a leading Palestinian human rights advocate.

The discussion is now available online, and you can watch it in full here: <https://caabu.org/news/news/killing-palestinian-journalist-shireen-abu-akleh-what-chance-justice-caabu-briefing>

THE BRIDGE AND THE AIRPORT

Toine Van Teeffelen Aug 3rd, 2022

'Mu'ana al-Jiser', ('the suffering on the Bridge'), is a familiar expression among Palestinians. The Bridge is the Allenby Bridge connecting the West Bank to Jordan. Apart from the few able to obtain a permit to make use of Tel Aviv airport, including mostly some politicians and business people, Palestinians from the West Bank have to travel over the Allenby Bridge in order to visit Jordan or take the plane in Amman to Arab and other countries.

During this summer, the situation at the Bridge has been horrible, even more than previous summers when it used to be also bad. It took daughter Jara last week 10.5 hours to cross the Bridge. It was never so awful, she said. One passes three 'stations' - the Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian.

On the Jordanian side she waited about 1.5 hour with a busy crowd pushing one another to the point that Jara was shouting at others. At the Palestinian side, the last station, it took only a few minutes. On the Israeli side she waited 6.5 hours. At one point the border staff just stopped working and left people waiting for hours, not knowing why.

The check itself it was also unpleasant. One of the Israeli staff denied being able to speak English, let alone Arabic. One piece of luggage was so well-checked it took Jara an additional 2.5 hours of waiting before it arrived.

The stated causes of the wait: insufficient staff and restricted opening hours. But it is also rumoured that Israel allows only a limited number of passengers to pass daily. You can take the so-called VIP-treatment, which means that the waiting time at the three stations is reduced to less than 2 hours. You then have to pay 120-160 dollars per person - prices vary, for me as a foreigner it is 160 dollar. But even the VIP is not as it used to be; it is nowadays also crowded, with waiting rooms full of people and no water in temperatures often deep in the thirties degree Celsius. And of course not everybody is able to pay such an amount on top of the taxes, taxi drives, bus tickets, small bribes, and what have you.

When US President Joe Biden came here a few weeks ago, Israel told him it intended to alleviate the traveling problems by having the Bridge operating 24/7, at the earliest in September. People now speculate that Israel is putting extra pressure upon the West Bank Palestinians with increased waiting times and other difficulties so as have them accept a brand new initiative: Palestinians from the West Bank in the future making use of an airport 20 km north of Eilat, in the far south across the Negev desert.

Ramon is the name of this international Israeli airport, built in 2019. During the last two years it has barely been used due to COVID. Even this year 2022 it has only been used by some dozens of travellers. Israelis are not willing to travel almost 400 km southwards in order to fly. The Israeli Makan radio announced in July that the Israeli Minister Gantz offered allowing Palestinians to use the airport on the condition that Palestinians would withdraw their charge of Israel committing war crimes at the International Criminal Court.

The Palestinian Authority denied that there was any offer made by Israel and in any case is not interested to facilitate this initiative as it wants an airport - a traditional symbol of sovereignty - at Qalandia, near Ramallah in the West Bank. This is an old airport not used since before 1967.

But it seems that Israel is serious about the initiative. Palestinians would have to get a permit to enter Israel, thus increasing Israel's control over them. According to rumours, all Palestinians from the West Bank would have to enter buses at checkpoint 300 between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, subsequently travel some 4-5 hours by bus or taxi, then double-checked near the airport. There they would be able to take a flight to travel to Istanbul and from there to Arab and other countries. But at least they could travel, unlike the people of Gaza, some say.

Let me quote Mary who says the Israelis are clever with this initiative. "They make us so that we are ready to bow for them." Israel profits handsomely. The failed airport is rescued. Israel can tell President Biden that it is doing everything to alleviate daily life burdens of Palestinians while it can enhance its control over West Bank Palestinians. To top it off, it can improve its relations with Turkey.

Palestinians see apartheid. Mary says, "I don't know if I want to live here."

- Toine Van Teeffelen is a Pax Christi partner in Bethlehem.
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45216>

MR PRESIDENT: THIS IS APARTHEID IN ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Mike Mineter Aug 2nd, 2022: Sabeel-Kairos member Mike Mineter writes on the question of Apartheid in Israel-Palestine in the Pax Christi Scotland Newsletter, issue 24, July 2022. Reproduced with thanks.

President Biden was greeted in the West Bank on 13 July by banners: 'Mr President, This is Apartheid.' His rejection of that description prompted me to review my understanding of "apartheid" concerning Israel.

The term "apartheid" has been widely used by advocates of Palestinian rights for years: being defined in international law, facts can be assessed with objectivity, hopefully leading to accountability. The assertion of Israel's apartheid has become increasingly widespread - why might this be? Israel's Nation State Law gave the term impetus, as does seeing realities in webinars - e.g. video from Mondoweiss. South Africans, all too familiar with apartheid, have applied the term to Israel's actions. Most recent is Brian Brown, author of the widely acclaimed 'Apartheid South Africa! Apartheid Israel?' <https://mondoweiss.net/2022/05/inside-israeli-apartheid/>

Reports from international and Israeli NGOs have made it clear that apartheid crimes are committed not only in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) but also within Israel. Kairos Palestine and Global Kairos published a dossier, detailing the above. Response is growing: the Presbyterian Church USA overwhelmingly passed a recent resolution naming apartheid.

In Israel-Palestine the crimes of apartheid are legion but it is important to name their purpose. It is not merely to exploit, or to achieve racial segregation, but also to dispossess Palestinians of land, history, culture, identity and any opportunity for self-determination. It is to replace Palestinians by settlers - in other words settler colonialism.

It is also important to confront the false theologies that are claimed to normalise Israel's objectives. At Tel Aviv airport Biden said, "I say again, you need not be a Jew to be a Zionist" - a cheer-leader for some 25 million Christian Zionists in America. A web search about Trump, Pence and CUFI (Christians United for Israel) will convince the unaware of the dominance of Christian Zionism in American politics. I commend Don Wagner's new book, 'Glory to God in the Lowest.' He writes beautifully of life in the USA, and moving from Christian Zionism to theology that is liberating for all, and to solidarity with those in poverty and with Palestinians.

In a situation that is increasingly and intensely urgent how can we respond?

- Learn (including from the annual Bishops' communiques), visit, raise awareness
- Encourage people to join the UK-based Sabeel-Kairos in its advocacy for justice in Israel-Palestine and connections to Palestinian liberation theologians.
- Seek morally responsible investment (personal pension, other funds; church fund managers): avoid profiting from companies complicit in breaking international law or denying human rights, anywhere, including Israel and the oPt.
- Avoid buying produce from settlements.

• Mike Mineter is a member of the Caritas, Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, writing in a personal capacity.

Links: www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/

www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/new-report-by-kairos-palestine-and-global-kairos-for-justice/

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45211>

DAYS OF NONVIOLENCE 21 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER

Theme: Blessed is every step towards nonviolence

We invite you to take part in this project of Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and Pax Christi International. What might you do? A 'menu' of steps and activities for individuals, family, community, school or parish can be found here:

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/>

- **Celebrate** the creativity of nonviolence. Can you bring a story or prayer for nonviolence and link it to one of the dates/events listed? Share and pray the Vow of Nonviolence on 2 October
- **Amplify** the many ways in which Pope Francis is moving us in the direction of nonviolence at personal, national and global levels.

1 September – 4 October, Season of Creation theme: *Listen to the Voice of Creation.*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/season-creation>

21 September, International Day of Peace

15 – 22 September, Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel, theme: *Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine.* <https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/>

2 October, International Day of Nonviolence Use the [nonviolence prayer & reflection card](#) on this day in your home and parish. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prayer-Vow-October-2022.pdf> Order more from the office See below prayer and reflection card for personal or group use.

Sharing the Vow of Nonviolence — 2 October Solidarity Action

We invite you to join others around the world to reflect on this prayer/vow.

Use it with your family, community or at your parish Mass on 2 October and review it each year.

Available on our website in English, French, Arabic, Italian, Korean, German, Spanish and Swahili

TEXT: Recognising the violence in my own heart, yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God, I vow for one year to practice the nonviolence of Jesus who taught us in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons and daughters of God...You have learned how it was said, 'You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy'; but I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. In this way, you will be daughters and sons of your Creator in heaven."

I vow to carry out in my life the love and example of Jesus:

by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life;

by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence;

by persevering in nonviolence of tongue and heart;

by living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live;

by actively resisting evil and working non-violently to abolish war and the causes of war from my own heart and from the face of the earth.

God, I trust in Your sustaining love and believe that just as You gave me the grace and desire to offer this, so You will also bestow abundant grace to fulfil it. Amen.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prayer-Vow-October-2022.pdf>

THE 2022-23 PEACE ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Applications for the 2022-23 Peace Advocacy Fellowship Programme for postgraduate or final year undergraduate students in the UK. find out more about how to apply: <https://balfourproject.org/fellowships/>

[PATRICK DARNES 21/06/1953-18/07/2022](#)

Sabeel-Kairos write: We are sad to announce the death of Patrick Darnes, dedicated campaigner for justice and equality for the Palestinian people.

Words by Deborah Darnes:

Patrick was born and grew up in Spalding Lincolnshire. After graduating in 1976 in Applied Biology at Hatfield Polytechnic, where he met his future wife Deborah, they both went for three months to experience life on a kibbutz in Israel. They were fairly ignorant of the politics but after travelling around and meeting people both Israeli and Arab (Palestinian) got to appreciate how the non-Jewish population were treated as second class citizens.

They both then had a special interest in that part of the world but it wasn't until 2010 after a meeting of Christians Aware they decided to go out there again and booked on an ICAHD study tour which changed both of their lives.

Patrick went out again in 2014 and with Deborah did the Nativity Trail walk staying with families in refugee camps, Bedouin tents etc. In 2017 they both attended the Sabeel conference in Palestine.

Patrick and Deborah campaigned actively and were involved with ICAHD, Sabeel-Kairos and PSC. Patrick was very involved in the North West Sabeel group and helped lead several reflection days. He also designed and produced several leaflets used by different groups to inform people about the Balfour Declaration and its impact on the Palestinian people, A timeline of the oppression of the Atta Jaber family whom he had met in 2010, and for the JCB campaign.

Patrick was also involved with Manchester PSC and worked on the early campaign against Elbit, (a supplier of Israeli weapons with factories in the UK), identifying the Oldham factory which was successfully closed.

Patrick also took part in the Big Ride for Palestine which is now an annual event until he was unable to cycle any longer due to declining health. He was very active within the Methodist church and was involved in several memorials to conference on Palestine, as well as campaigning politically, writing numerous letters to the press and politicians on the injustice of the situation.

Patrick remained passionate about the cause which sometimes made him unpopular but he always felt compelled to speak out.

Patrick was diagnosed in 2019 with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. He kept active using a portable oxygen concentrator and then a mobility scooter but in recent months was on continuous oxygen and housebound. He continued to write and email until a couple of weeks before he died.

Patrick also campaigned on environmental issues and had been active in the past on conservation projects. He collected fountain pens, loved wearing hats and had a weakness for classic cars which he felt a little guilty about. The MG Midget was recently sold but the family are keeping the Citroen 2CV.

He leaves behind wife Deborah, two sons Justin and Adam, two daughters-in-law Aga and Gemma, and a wonderful grandson Reuben, aged 5.

From Sabeel-Kairos:

It is with great sadness that we reflect on the life and work of Patrick - a lifelong campaigner for the Palestinian people, and a staunch supporter of the Sabeel-Kairos movement for many decades. Patrick was always passionate and uncompromising when it came to the Palestinian cause. He spent many hours focused on educating and trying to help others to see the injustices they endured - sometimes with a great deal of frustration about the lack of action in the Church, but always with a heart to change things.

He dedicated many hours to producing materials that would help others to understand the history of Israel-Palestine, and particularly Britain's role in it. This he often did at his own expense, producing excellent leaflets that we would hand out at events and meetings across the UK.

He continually challenged us to aim higher, strive to be better, and keep the Palestinian people at the centre of all we did. For that we remain ever grateful for his dedication and support, and pray that his campaigning legacy lives on.

Patrick Darnes, 1953-2022. Rest in peace, and rise in glory.

TONY MCNICHOLL JUSTICE AND PEACE WORKER AND MAN OF GOD 1942 – 2022

Tony was a man of many talents and a varied working career. He had a lifelong love of the sea through working in shipyards and then becoming a Merchant Seaman and visiting many countries around the globe. Later in life he owned several small sailing boats and enjoyed taking them out around Anglesey. He was very proud of his time volunteering as a crew member and then as leader for groups of youth on one of the Tall Ships.

He changed from being on the sea to in the air when he joined the RAF and was posted to Anglesey and then to Singapore in 1972. The whole family, wife and four girls, returned to Anglesey when his wife, Elizabeth, became ill and sadly died. He left the RAF and took up renovating engines.

In 1979 he married Pat who came with her daughter and in 1981 they had a son together, Aidan. After a spell in Holyhead boatyard Tony decided he wanted to pass on his many skills to the next generation. He became a teacher after studying for 3 years at Bangor University and worked in the OMI college at Rhos on Sea until it closed in 1992. He then worked for some time as a copy editor with Professor David Crystal, a linguist, on the Cambridge Encyclopedia, work he greatly enjoyed until he was made redundant in 2008. His work in Justice and Peace was brought to the fore when he took up post as Diocesan Justice and Peace worker.

Parishioners at St Mary's Church in Holyhead knew him as a very active and caring member of the parish. He was a reader; he built the Christmas Crib for many years and trained altar servers. Tony was very musical; he learnt the violin at school and went on to play the clarinet, the guitar, the piano and the penny whistle. He sang with the St Mary's church choir, was a cantor, and sang with the Holyhead festival choir and the Diocesan Choir. He supported CAFOD, Pax Christi, and the Romero Trust, organising parish events, supporting campaigns and fundraising. This included walking part of the Camino de Santiago across northern Spain.

He was involved with Fair Trade promotion on Anglesey. He participated in Churches Together in Holyhead. He joined protests in Birmingham and London for Jubilee debt relief, Make Poverty History and climate change. Till very recently Tony ran a J&P network emailing information about petitions and events to likeminded people all over North Wales and beyond. More recently he was a member of Croeso Menai and helped to support the settlement of Syrian refugees on Anglesey, up until 2021 when Tony was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis; a devastating, life-limiting condition that would severely affect his ability to breathe and to continue with the activities he loved. He died peacefully at home in the early hours of Monday, 25th July 2022.

A much loved husband, father, brother and friend who lived out his Catholic faith to the full, and will be missed by so many people.

Below are some tributes from colleagues and friends who worked with him, in the Wrexham Diocese, on social justice issues both as paid workers and volunteers in his many interests:

Anna Jane Evans former Christian Aid worker and now Presbyterian minister:

Tony was a very special man - I had the privilege of working with him on Fairtrade and other justice issues over many years and was always inspired by his commitment and tirelessness in pursuing a better world. He had a real and deep faith and a clear vision of the world as it should be. He always worked to make his prayer for God's kingdom to come on earth a reality. His passion for justice covered so many issues and topics. He deeply felt the pain of injustice and

used it as an energy for change. The world will be a poorer place without him - but I thank God for his dedication and friendship and trust that the seeds of the kingdom faithfully sown will and are already bearing fruit.

Katja Jewell – former CAFOD organiser for the Wrexham Diocese:

"This is our God, the Servant King He calls us now to follow Him." When I think of Tony I think of this beautiful Hymn of Graham Kendrick – The Servant King. Tony loved to sing, he was a member of the diocesan choir and also enriched many events, vigils and retreats with his singing. I first met Tony when I started in CAFOD in Spring 2005. Tony was the Justice and Peace worker of the Diocese of Wrexham. I was inexperienced and felt green and nervous to meet all the great leaders. But in Tony's presence you could not feel out of place for long, as there was always room in his heart and in his actions to make space for your needs also your abilities. It was a joy to learn and to grow with Sister Vianney and him into my role.

It felt to me that Christ, the servant king was not just his light, his lead but also his friend. Tony invited us all to follow Christ to bring about the kingdom of God already now, as much as we could. He organised events, send out petitions, till just days before he died, offerings to which we could say our 'yes'. His own pain, when losing his son, never disabled him from reaching out to others to help or to challenge systems which made them suffer. Tony always spoke with huge love and pride about his whole family. We will miss Tony badly. But I will always be grateful for knowing this generous man and his open invitation to join him to follow Christ.

Maria Pizzoni - Diocesan Justice and Peace worker from 2008 – 2013:

Tony was obviously a man of great faith and dedicated to working for justice but he was also a very kind man. I took over from him as Justice and Peace worker and although we had been competing for the same position he called me shortly after, very kindly, and filled me in on what had been achieved so far. He was always ready to answer questions and to be a shoulder to cry on. His enthusiasm and dedication was often something that revived my drooping spirits. Tony did not always see results for his efforts but, like the prophets of old, continued anyway.

This quote from Timothy Radcliff OP sums up many of our conversations together. "Do not depend on the hope of results. When you are doing the sort of work you have taken on.... you may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and even achieve no results at all..... As you get used to this idea you start more and more to concentrate, not on results, but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself."

Tony was a prophet; and as such had his hand firmly in God's as he lived out the Kingdom in his parish, his family and the lives he touched with his generous kindness.

Sr Vianney Connolly - Ursuline sister who set up the CAFOD office in Wrexham Diocese 30 years ago and worked with Tony for many years, both when he was a volunteer and paid Diocesan worker:

Tony for me was a wonderful, selfless Networker. Over the years he had "shouldered the yoke of Jesus" and in person, or from far-off Anglesey, he drew our attention to important justice and peace issues and events with simplicity and directness. On one occasion I experienced what a just man Tony himself was! No criticism of the person who treated him unjustly, no reproach, just a request for advice as the best way to retrieve the money owing to him.

Tony lived what Jesus invites us all to strive after: "Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Mt 11 v.28

Thank you, Tony. May the God of Justice and Peace reward you richly.

Anne O'Connor, Editor NW NJPN E Bulletin: *We never met him in person but corresponded many times. Tony was very supportive of the NW bulletin when I first contacted other J&P Workers in the North West with the idea of a joint venture and sent me articles every so often. When my daughter Annie died I was touched by a beautiful message from Tony. He quoted some words from a funeral booklet he had picked up in a church. He said he had been struck by the title – 'The metamorphosis of ...' and said it was "a lovely way to describe our transition from life in this world to the next which surely applies to your daughter".*

BRISTOL BUS BOYCOTT ORGANISER ROY HACKETT DIES AGED 93

BBC News 3 August 2022: Civil rights campaigner Roy Hackett, described as a "humble freedom fighter", has died at the age of 93.

Mr Hackett was one of the organisers of the Bristol Bus Boycott, a successful campaign to overturn a ban by Bristol Omnibus Company on employing black and Asian drivers and conductors. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-23795655>

In 1963, it was entirely legal for British companies to discriminate against someone because of the colour of their skin. Mr Hackett joined forces with campaigners Paul Stephenson, Owen Henry and Guy Bailey to begin the boycott that year. Mr Bailey applied for a job at the bus company, and was denied because of his skin colour. The subsequent protests saw the company change its policies and helped pave the way for the Race Relations Acts of 1965 and 1968.

He once said: "I lived in many places before I came to Bristol, and I never had racism as tough as back then." In a previous interview with BBC Ideas, Mr Hackett said: "It [Bristol] was hard for us to find a place to live, it was hard for a black man to find a job. I walked down Ashley Road looking for housing and found one house which didn't have a card on it to one that said 'no gypsies, no dogs, no Irish and no coloureds'. The lady opened the door, saw me, and without saying a word, just slammed the door. It was a struggle, people were blatantly racist."

Mr Hackett founded and led many causes such as the West Indian Parents' and Friends' Association, which was the springboard for countless initiatives including the now renowned St Paul's Carnival. He was a self-proclaimed "born activist" and was an inspiration to many, with his work still continuing to create change within the city. He has described his early years in the UK as a "dog's life", but turned it into a legacy.

Born in Jamaica, he was appointed an OBE in 2009 and an MBE in 2020. He leaves behind three children. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-62397167>

NICHELLE NICHOLS WAS MY HERO AND A GROUND-BREAKING FIGURE FOR BLACK WOMEN

Mikki Kendall Mon 1 Aug 2022

The death of the Star Trek actor leaves behind a hugely important legacy both on the small screen and in space.

Nichelle Nichols was my hero. Her death on Saturday at 89 was the passing of an icon who changed the world, and then kept fighting to make the future in our imaginations and in reality, a better brighter place for Black girls. When I was a kid around eight or nine, I would watch reruns of Star Trek and imagine myself as a space traveller. I even loved the fact that our first names were so similar. To me, she was the epitome of cool and I eagerly watched every moment she was on screen.

But because I was a kid, I didn't really grasp how ground-breaking her work on the show was, as by the time I saw it, she was one of many images of Black womanhood. For me she was the one that resonated because I was fascinated by space, but of course I saw everyone from Diahann Carroll to Jackée Harry on screen. My world was one where images of Black womanhood were everywhere. It wasn't that I thought racism didn't exist, but the world in which Black women were only depicted as maids was never my reality. The media landscape that would have taught me that there was nothing for girls like me but servitude was changed by Nichelle Nichols.

When Nichols broke those barriers for Black women as Lt Uhura on the original Star Trek, I didn't exist yet, and though I can study Jim Crow and can understand in the abstract how hard it was for her, I will never know the world that couldn't stand the sight of her. But because of her, I feel no need to dim my light. And that's true for so many Black women in America and around the world.

In conversation with the writer NK Jemisin after the news broke, we talked about how sad it is, and about Nichols's impact on Jemisin's career. "Without Nichelle Nichols I might have never been a writer, certainly not the kind of writer I am now," she said. And that's the thing about trailblazers like Nichols: they create an environment in which the path they opened is widened by those that they affected. Jemisin is widely regarded as one of the best writers of our generation, and though Nichols may not have realized what she wrought in the moment, I hope she knows in some beautiful afterlife that she helped make that possible.

We talked about her impact on us specifically, but we join Whoopi Goldberg, Mae Jemison and millions of others in grieving and gratitude. Though Nichols always gave credit to the Rev Martin Luther King Jr for talking her out of leaving the show, I am quietly convinced that Nichols stood her ground because she wasn't going to let herself be forced out. She famously had no problem standing up to William Shatner on set when they butted heads. And in later years she advocated heavily for more diversity in the space program, telling ABC audio in a 2016 interview:

"Nasa recruited me, hired me to recruit women and minorities for the space shuttle program. And until that time there were no people of colour even considered," she explains, adding with a laugh, "and after that, we were all over the place! I interviewed quite a few young women that were interested in that and simply didn't think they had a chance. And one interview with me and they knew they did."

For decades after Star Trek ended, Nichols was known for being encouraging, strong, and razor sharp. She was funny and sweet, and her work was always a presence in any conversation about science fiction or media representation. She was a cultural force that no one could ignore even when she wasn't technically the focus in a conversation about the importance of inclusion and diversity. Her impact on others ran so deep that she was cited as an example by academics, activists and anyone who knew anything about the world as it had been and wanted to make the world the best it could be.

It's one of the reasons fans struggled with the idea that she would not always be available to meet at conventions or that she might need more support and protection as she aged. When the conservatorship was announced, it was a blow to many, but given what her manager was allegedly able to do to her finances, I can't help but wish we could have shown up for her the way she showed up for all of us. I can only hope that at the end she knew she was loved and revered.

Nichelle Nichols gave us the future – what we make of it is up to us. But we were lucky to have had her, to have been graced for as long as we were with her spirit and love. Perhaps the best way we can honour her is to strive as she did to make the world better, to remake our future into something utopian where the real Black Girl Magic is Black girls' dreams coming true without having to battle so hard to be seen as human and worthy of respect and care.

Nichelle Nichols was the hero that we needed, and hopefully we can all live up to the gifts she gave us.

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/aug/01/nichelle-nichols-groundbreaking-figure-black-women>

EURO 2022: ENGLAND WAKING UP AS THE CHAMPIONS OF EUROPE AFTER FAIRY-TALE ENDING

Connor Sephton 1 August 2022: England are waking up as the champions of Europe after the Lionesses delivered the country's first major trophy since 1966. There were euphoric scenes nationwide last night after the squad beat Germany 2-1 in extra time - with 87,000 supporters at a packed-out Wembley Stadium cheering them on, not to mention millions more at home. Sarina Wiegman has described the victory as an incredible achievement - and her players couldn't resist storming into the press conference, singing "football's coming home" at the top of their lungs and dancing on the table. The England manager, who has won plaudits for her composure throughout the tournament, revealed she had a beer for the first time in years during the celebrations - and plans to take a little time off before beginning preparations for next year's World Cup. She thanked the nation for their support, and admitted: "I will need a couple of days to realise what we have done."

It's been a flawless journey for the Lionesses - and not only did they score the most goals ever in this tournament, but they only conceded two. There's now a firm belief that England's fairy-tale ending could transform women's football in the years to come - sparking renewed interest in the game among fans and players alike. "I think these tournaments have done so much for the game but also for society and women in society in England but also across Europe and the world," Wiegman added.

The Queen also highlighted the significance of the Lionesses' achievement in a statement, telling the team: "Your success goes far beyond the trophy you have so deservedly earned. You have all set an example that will be an inspiration for girls and women today, and for future generations. It is my hope that you will be as proud of the impact you have had on your sport as you are of the result today."

Sky's Adele Robinson described the atmosphere at Wembley Stadium as electric, with one little girl spontaneously screaming: "It was amazing." The girl's father was in tears too, saying: "I've been watching for the last 40 years and I've never seen England win a final. It means so much, it's enormous. It's why we wanted to make sure our daughter came and saw." <https://news.sky.com/story/euro-2022-its-come-home-lionesses-deliver-englands-first-major-trophy-since-1966-12663328>

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ENSURE ALL GIRLS CAN PLAY FOOTBALL AT SCHOOL

Poppy Wood August 2, 2022: The Department for Education (DfE) has refused to commit to ensuring that girls have equal access to football in schools, despite the Lionesses' historic victory in the Euros. Government guidance published by the DfE fails to guarantee that schoolgirls be offered the same football lessons as boys, but says they should instead be offered "comparable activities". Specific guidance on single-sex sports coaching also states that while a mixed school can have "a boys-only football team, the school would still have to allow girls equal opportunities to participate in comparable sporting activities". The national curriculum for both primary and secondary education suggests comparable sports could include netball, rounders, tennis and badminton.

Asked by **i** whether the DfE would reconsider its focus on "comparable" sports for girls following the England women's team's trophy win last week, the DfE said it was up to schools to decide which sports they teach. In a statement, a spokesperson pointed to a Government "action plan" on school sport and activities published in 2019, and a new online sports education platform currently available to 75 schools. "The success of the Lionesses in the Women's Euro 2022 will inspire a generation of girls to get involved with football," a DfE spokesperson said. "Schools can decide what sports they offer and should aim to take their pupils' views into account on which activities they want to be able to do."

It raises concerns that recent political rhetoric around improving girls' football coaching will not be matched by a new commitment to broadening access in schools. It comes after figures published earlier this month showed that more than half of secondary schools do not offer equal football coaching to boys and girls. A report by England Football, part of the Football Association (FA), showed that just 44 per cent of secondary schools provide equal football lessons in PE for both genders. It compares to around 72 per cent of primary schools, suggesting that football opportunities drop off once girls reach secondary education.

Major sporting figures have spoken publicly about the need to improve girls' access to football after the Lionesses' success in the Euros on Sunday, which marked England's first major trophy in the sport since 1966. Speaking after the Lionesses' semi-final victory against Sweden last week, the former England player Ian Wright said: "Whatever happens in the final now, if girls are not allowed to play football just like the boys can in their PE lessons after this tournament, then what are we doing?"

Raising the European trophy in Trafalgar Square earlier this week, England women's captain, Leah Williamson, said the legacy of the tournament would be inspiring "girls", noting that sport should be designed to encourage "girls and less active groups" in particular.

<https://inews.co.uk/news/concerns-lionesses-legacy-government-school-girls-football-1775726>

Every woman in the world
stands with the Lionesses today
and every single player on that field.

Every woman who has sacrificed,
every woman who has shelved a dream,
every woman who has stifled a scream.

Every little girl who is told she cannot,
today can believe, what she already knew...
of course we can.

And we shall.

And the women before us
who were held down
for far too long
stand with them too.

All of us
every single one.

Donna Ashworth #lionesses #womensfootball

TAKE THE REFUGEE ACTION QUIZ

Try this quiz from Refugee Action to give you a sense of some of the questions that have come up in real Home Office asylum interviews. Some of the questions might surprise you, but don't worry - unlike people in the asylum system, your life won't depend on getting them right. It's a real eye-opener!

<https://act.refugee-action.org.uk/page/25955/data/1?locale=en-GB>

ARRIVING IN THE UK IS ONLY PART OF THE JOURNEY TO SAFETY

You wouldn't believe the things that refugees and people seeking asylum go through. We don't just mean the war, persecution, violence and terror they fled in their home countries. We mean the hatred, isolation and destitution they face when they arrive in the UK. You might think that when they arrive here, their journey to safety is over. But for many, this is not the case. Find out more here: <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/>.

REFUGEES ~ Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(and now read from bottom to top) <https://brianbilston.com/2016/03/23/refugees/>

FOUR THINGS CATHOLICS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

The first time Dawn came to visit me, she was nervous. But after a while, she began to relax and poured out her story. She talked and talked, never taking one bite of her lunch. I will never forget her response when I encouraged her to eat: “I’m not hungry for food. I’m hungry to be seen for who I am. I’m hungry to be listened to and not judged.”

For over 20 years, as part of my ministry with them, I have prayed that transgender people would be seen by others as I see them, and much more importantly, that they be seen as God sees them.

Transgender people are who they say

During foetal development, a person’s brain, as well as their genitals, are formed by the influence of hormones at various times during the period of gestation. For most of us, these are aligned, which means that our genitals match how we sexually identify. However, for about one percent of the population, they do not match. In trying to explain this dysphoria between their body and brain, it’s not uncommon for transgender people to say they “feel” like a man or a woman. Unfortunately, that has often been misinterpreted to refer to emotional feelings and has led to accusations that trans people are choosing to act on superficial feelings or whims. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Being transgender is not a choice at all. What trans people are expressing is the brain signal they receive that dictates their internal sense of gender identity. While there is a lot we don’t yet understand about being transgender, there is an abundance of reputable medical evidence ¹ to verify the reality of transgender people’s experiences.²

A major tenet of a prevailing narrative is that transgender people are delusional and “sinning” by claiming to be transgender and, as a consequence, they suffer depression, broken relationships, addiction, self-harm and suicide. What I have witnessed in my ministry hundreds of times, up close and personal, is that transgender people experience all of this because they try to suppress who they are, and because of the pervasive rejection they experience from those who give meaning to their lives. But when they make the decision to live from a place of truth and integrity, I experience the gifts of the Spirit in them: more peace, joy, compassion, wisdom, inner freedom and an ability to receive and offer genuine love.

Transitioning is a spiritual journey

St. Francis of Assisi was once overheard by a Franciscan brother saying in prayer, “Who are you, my God, and who am I?” This is the fundamental spiritual question, and one that takes a lifetime to answer. It’s extremely difficult to be in relationship with another while at the same time hiding from oneself. Whether we use the language of spirituality or not, when we seek to live in the truth of our lives, we are moving closer to God. And so are transgender people.

I have witnessed transgender people’s incredible courage and faith in the pursuit of living an authentic and honest life. It is what we call transformation in God, a conversion of life. On the way to being whole and holy, we all go through the same stages in some way. We spend many years making sense of who we are and how we live. But there are times when the narrative of our life is significantly challenged and we experience a crisis. Our former views begin to crumble. Gradually, we begin to live into a more authentic life. This is true for transgender people as well, but it is far more challenging for them.

What is reflected back to them repeatedly is that others see them in one gender, and they experience themselves as another gender. Though they often spend years trying to be who *others* say they are, they simply cannot shake loose the mysterious knowing that this *is* who they are, and neither they nor anyone else can change it. A trans person named Taylor often told me, “I’d rather be hated for who I am than loved for who I am not.”

Usually, through the fidelity of prayer and years of hard work to know themselves, they come to know that they can no longer pretend to be someone they are not. So, at the risk of losing their family, friends, career and faith community, they claim their truth openly.

Sara, a concert pianist, recounted to me, “In the tumultuous two and a half years that followed my decision to transition, friends abandoned me, concert dates evaporated, and I lost my teaching job.” Listen to the words of the philosopher Søren Kierkegaard: “The most common form of despair is not being who you are.”

Gradually, as trans people make their way through the painful and complex stages of transition unique to each person, self-hatred is replaced by self-love, self-doubt is replaced by confidence in themselves. They have made the passage from what was death-dealing to what can now be life-giving.

Chris expressed it this way: “I sat on my meditation cushion and cried some tears that I wasn’t sure were grief or gratitude. I felt bigger than my body, and said to the Divine Presence: ‘I’ve been looking for you.’ And I knew in that moment that I had not been the only one seeking. God was saying it back to me.”

We Catholics can support transgender people

Trans people, many of them baptized Catholics, are as much part of the Body of Christ as any of us. We are responsible and privileged to walk with them in their seeking to live truth of their lives. As Pope Francis often reminds us, we are called to accompany all who seek God. However, we cannot accompany people while at the same time refusing to believe what they say about the experience of their own lives.

Also, we believe that our lives are meant to image the life of the Trinity. Our rich spiritual theology of the Trinity speaks of the mutual, reciprocal relationship of love among the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, who are one being and yet distinct persons. Loving relationships are at the heart of imaging God. If we model the life of the Trinity, why should being many and being one in loving relationships be so threatening?

In addition, the development of doctrine and the primacy of conscience are well established Catholic teachings. The Second Vatican Council made it clear that God's actions in our lives are revealed not only in Scripture and church tradition, but also in the developments of science, and especially from the witness of peoples' own lived experiences. It's precisely the fidelity of our lives in God that invites the development of the teachings that guide our faith.

Transgender people have much to teach us

It takes humility and courage to travel outside of our comfort zone and learn from people whose lives seem different from our own, or whose lives challenge our long-standing beliefs about God and about who we are as human beings. But this is what human and Christian maturity demands.

Many transgender people have experienced profound and sustained discrimination and rejection from the Catholic Church, yet they remain faithful to a church that isn't faithful to them. Still, they stay and continue to help us understand them. They can teach us a great deal about the commitment to live with integrity. They can also teach us about fidelity to God and to our faith community.

Many transgender people have learned the wisdom that comes with letting go of what they cannot control, letting go of material possessions and worldly honour. They can teach us how to be at peace and content with what matters most in life—living with integrity.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus places before us people and circumstances that reveal the Reign of God in unexpected ways. Trans people challenge us to expand the circle of who we allow to reflect God in our world. They challenge us to live by what we say we believe—that all are the dwelling place of God. Our Benedictine brother, John Main, said it well: "There is really only one mystery, one truth, one suffering, one love, one life and it is just showing itself in different forms."

I'd like to end with an affirmation of Cardinal Wilton Gregory to a trans man in 2019, because it is the posture we all should take to all of God's precious people. At a Theology on Tap, Rory asked the cardinal if there is a place for him and his queer friends in the church. Cardinal Gregory responded³, "You belong to the heart of this church. There is nothing that you may do, may say, that will rip you from the heart of this Church."

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272735820300635>

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272735820300635>

³ <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2019/09/10/d-c-archbishop-welcomes-trans-catholic-into-heart-of-this-church/>

Luisa Derouen, O.P.

Sister Luisa Derouen is a Dominican Sister of Peace and has been ministering nationally among the transgender community since 1999. She is retired and lives in central Kentucky.

<https://outreach.faith/2022/07/four-things-catholics-need-to-know-about-transgender-people/>

STORIES FROM UKRAINE: UKRLAND

The Lowry, Manchester Thu 04 August 2022 20:00 Lowry Studio (Unreserved) £10.00 £12.00

A one-woman show featuring texts from modern Ukrainian playwrights and writers, written after the start of the war in Ukraine. These are monologues about war. No, not like that... About a man in an inhuman war. Some of the texts are in English, some in Ukrainian. The play is about confusion, about survival, about hatred and love, about rage and strength of spirit. Performed by Ukrainian actress Shorena Shoniia, known for her work in film (*No Step Back, Secret Love*) and theatre (*Juliet and Romeo*, Lesya Ukrainka Theater).

All proceeds from this performance are going to a Ukrainian children's charity.

<https://thelowry.com/whats-on/stories-from-ukraine/>

DIARY

AUGUST

6 & 9 Commemoration of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki <https://paxchristi.org.uk/hiroshima-and-nagasaki/> Current concerns over the possibility for storing US nuclear weapons at RAF Lakeheath and the war in Ukraine/Russia add extra impetus to this year's commemoration. We know of events taking place in Coventry, Liverpool and Westminster. If you can't get to one of these, can you, spend time in prayer, speak of the anniversary to a friend. **2022 resources available here:** <https://paxchristi.org.uk/hiroshima-and-nagasaki/>

9 Pax Christi service to commemorate the life and witness of Franz Jägerstätter will take place in the crypt of Westminster Cathedral at 18.30. A fully illustrated account of the life and influence of *Blessed Franz Jägerstätter: Christian and Martyr* is available from our shop at £5.00. Prayer leaflets are available in sets of 25 for £3.50. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/bl-franz-jagerstatter/>

Following the service people may wish to join the interfaith walk to the London Peace Pagoda for the Nagasaki Day memorial.

19 Exhibition launch of Consequences: Art and Activism in the Nuclear Age. Preview over 20 works and hear from 10 poets. 6-10pm. The Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh EH6 8RG

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/consequences-art-and-activism-in-the-nuclear-age-exhibition-launch-tickets-385837068057>

• **The exhibition Consequences: Art and Activism in the Nuclear Age** runs 16 August – 3 September 2022 at the Out of the Blue Drill Hall. Free and open daily Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm (except Saturday 27 August 2022). Consequences is part of the Peace Cranes project produced by Peace & Justice (Scotland) and delivered in partnership with the Scottish Poetry Library and promoted by Scottish ICAN Partners on nuclearban.scot. It is funded by Creative Scotland through Sustaining Creative Development Fund, People's Postcode Trust, the European Commission through i-Portunus Mobility Fund and National Lottery Community Fund. Further details: linktr.ee/peacecrane

26-29 Greenbelt Festival: Boughton Hall, Northants greenbelt.org.uk 0207 329 0038

SEPTEMBER

Season of Creation 2022 September 01 to October 04. The 2022 celebration guide *Listen to the Voice of Creation* for the Season of Creation has just been launched at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

21 international Peace Day <https://www.peaceday.org/main/>

15-22 Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel "Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine" <https://tinyurl.com/3fddjupj> <https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

OCTOBER

2 International Day of Nonviolence <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prayer-Vow-October-2022.pdf>

16-23 Week of Prayer for World Peace <https://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk/> Annual Gathering will again this year only be on line. This is to allow as many as possible to participate. It will be held on Sunday, 16 October at 3:30 London Time. The zoom link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82952967543?pwd=bmJWSzA3U1d3ZzVocDIzbnkQ5K3dTz09>

Meeting ID: 829 5296 7543 Passcode: 549956

• **Read The Summer issue of *MouthPeace* the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Summer-Mouthpeace-2022.pdf>

• **Read NJPN's weekly column** online on Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com or find articles be uploaded onto our website at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

• Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News 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 or contact ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org or admin@justice-and-peace.org 020 7901 4864

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