

NJPN E-Bulletin 20th November 2022



*'In me there is darkness,
But with You there is light;
I am lonely, but You do not leave me;
I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help;
I am restless, but with You there is peace.
In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience;
I do not understand Your ways,
But You know the way for me.
Lord Jesus Christ,
You were poor
And in distress, a captive and forsaken as I am.
You know all man's troubles;
You abide with me
When all men fail me;
It is Your will that I should know You
And turn to You.
Lord, I hear Your call and follow;
Help me'*

**A Prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
From 'Letters and papers from prison'**

Dear Friends,

It is going to be a short editorial this week as I was up several times during the night Saturday into Sunday with a scratchy throat, headache and

sneezing - and then my teenage daughter tested positive for Covid yesterday morning, and I am wondering if I have finally succumbed to it myself. What I do know is that my head is stuffed with fluff, so any thoughts I have had in the last three weeks have disappeared! (and hence this is now a day later in going out).

There are various things being reported on about COP27 - which I sense achieved about as much as COP26 in Glasgow last year. Again, it is the global south, the poorer nations, who are bearing the brunt of much of it. There are several articles on COP27, and more on the Environment.

This week we are remembering those who suffer for their faith through the annual Red Wednesday event. Our Action of the Week is based around this.

Thanks to all of you who have sent in events and items to be shared. I have endeavoured to include everything.

The next E-Bulletin will be out on either the 11th December and will be the last one until the New Year.

Keep well and warm,

Sharon

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21. ****22nd November ** Operation Noah Webinar**
22. 26th November - Pact Just People Roadshow in Kent
23. 3rd December - Solidarity with Yemen Campaign
24. 3rd December - Pax Christi Advent Peace Service
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Donate to NJPN

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



Bishop Declan Lang, Chair of the Bishops' Conference International Affairs department, has urged Catholics to share a new report on persecuted Christians with their local MP.

The Catholic charity [Aid to the Church in Need \(ACN\)](#) releases an annual report that gives a global perspective on Christian persecution.

The 'Persecuted and Forgotten?' report covers the period 2020–22 and one of its key findings shows that, in 75 percent of the countries surveyed, the oppression or persecution of Christians has increased.

"I welcome today's report on the increasing problem of the persecution of Christians in many parts of the world that has been released by Aid to the Church in Need," says Bishop Lang. "It draws needed attention to this serious and urgent issue. I am deeply grateful for all the vital work that ACN do in not only raising awareness but also supporting victims.

"I encourage fellow Catholics to share this report with their local MP. I also urge Catholics in England and Wales to join me in prayer for our sisters and brothers who have been affected by human rights abuses and for all those working for change."

Visit [Aid to the Church in Need's website](#) for more information and to read the report.

There is also a #Redwednesday Petition.

ACN write: - Please join us on the 23rd November and during the month of November to Break the Silence on the persecution of Christians and all faiths, globally. We ask you to Sign our [PETITION](#) to support Christians in Nigeria, request our latest FREE Report and pledge your prayer and action. THIS NOVEMBER PRAY, LEARN, ATTEND, DONATE

Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Persecuted Christians

ACAT Christmas Campaign

Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT) run Christmas and Easter campaigns every year, encouraging people to send cards to those imprisoned for their faith. They write: -

For this campaign, which is published every year in November, we suggest that you write a simple card or greeting to an individual saying, for instance, that you are thinking of him/her and/or perhaps urging them not to lose hope (or words to that effect). A picture postcard is always welcome and cheapest to send. You can include your name and address (if you wish) but we ask you - please not to mention ACAT or include a religious greeting (if so advised,) as communication from a foreign organisation can endanger the prisoner and lead to harsher sentences. Several individuals featured in our last Christmas Campaign have been released. Sadly others are still in prison and it is important not to forget any of them. As usual, we include a selection of rights groups.

They have a list of people you can send greetings cards to [here](#).

Premier Christian News on Persecution

This week, Premier had two articles on persecution. The first article '[Over 500 anti-Christian hate crimes recorded in Europe last year](#)' was a surprise. We talk a lot about racism in Europe, but we don't hear so much about hate crimes against Christians.

The second item, '[How many corpses are required to get the world's attention](#)' summarises the recent report by ACN on persecution around the world, which is up by 75% across the 24 countries that it monitors, and that the situation has worsened considerably in Nigeria and Afghanistan.

2. COP27

COP27 agrees historic 'loss and damage' fund

The Guardian on Sunday reported that *these crucial climate talks*

ended with an 'historic' deal on their most cherished climate goal: a global fund for "loss and damage", providing financial assistance to poor nations stricken by climate disaster.

They go on to then say that the deal was far from perfect, and cite why. You can read it [here](#).

Also in [The Guardian](#), they have a complete timeline of what went on during that last day, and several quotes from people.

Damian Carrington sums up the disappointment at the hope of 1.5 degrees burning out at Cop27, and finishes with : - *Is there hope? Yes, in that every climate action we take lessens the damage. As Cop27 closed, Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, poet and climate envoy for the Marshall Islands, said: "I wish we had got fossil fuel phase-out. But we've shown with the loss and damage fund that we can do the impossible. So we know we can come back [to Cop] next year and get rid of fossil fuels once and for all." I hope she is right. I fear she is wrong.*

COP27: Forests, nature and intensive farming

Nina Pullman through [Wicked Leeks](#) has written this article about biodiversity. I must admit to being very relieved that Lula da Silva won the Brazilian elections, and that he has promised no more deforestation. Nina reported that he was quoted in The Guardian as saying: *"Today, I am here to say that Brazil is ready to join once again [the] effort to build a healthier planet."*
Let's hope so...

Should the world's biggest polluter sponsor the UN's climate conference COP27?

I was quite shocked to read that COP27 actually had a sponsor! In my naivety, I presumed that the Government in whichever country it was held, footed the bill! How silly of me!

This is just a short article from [Everyday Plastics](#), highlighting what Coca-Cola should be doing, instead of sponsoring programmes like the Conferences of the Parties. It also makes the very valid point, though, that it is down to the NGO's, charities and environmental organisations to resist their cash. Possibly as consumers we also need to make a stand.

3. Climate/Environment (includes an Event)

A People's Manifesto for Wildlife

I found details of this whilst reading a [Q & A that Triodos Bank](#) had with Chris Packham (he of Springwatch/Autumnwatch fame). I like the way that he writes *'This manifesto has no party-political bias: It is critical of governance and its affiliation is to the wildlife and people of the UK.'* He states *'saying 'we care' is not enough - we need informed action'*

The whole [Manifesto](#) is available to read here.

Resolutions on Environmental Matters

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have published their series of post-Autumn Plenary 2022 resolutions focusing on environmental matters. The first one made a lot of sense as it was about Friday abstinence. If people were to abstain from eating meat on Fridays, then not only is it good for the environment, but we are acting in solidarity with those facing poverty and hunger around the world. You can read the full list through the [CBCEW website](#).

Hunger in South Sudan

Trocaire have produced a report in which it states that violent conflicts and climate change in South Sudan have contributed to the country being “consistently” ranked as one of the “world’s hungriest countries.” Almost 9 million people (80% of the population) are food insecure. This rather sobering report can be found through the [Trocaire website](#).

Event - Webinar Tuesday 22nd November 7pm - 8.30pm

'Church Investment in Climate Solutions Report Launch'

Operation Noah is hosting this free Webinar on Tuesday, talking about the role that churches have to play. You can find out more and book your place [here](#).

Turkey for Christmas?

Virginia Bell, from the Laudato Si' Animators UK, has written this

article through [ICN](#) highlighting the plight of Turkey, and giving you some vegan alternatives.

The interconnection of climate change, injustice and forced displacement

Dr Sophie Cartwright 'explores the connection between climate change and forced displacement, and the need for a holistic response' in this article on the [Jesuit Refugee Service website](#). She cites the various natural disasters around the world in the last few months, including hurricanes and rising sea levels, and the number of people this has affected, and the fact that we need a holistic solution. It makes for an interesting read.

4. Refugees and Migrants (includes an Event)

Event - JRS UK Advent Service - Tuesday 20th December at 7pm

Make a note in your diaries for the JRS Advent Service taking place at Farm Street Church. You can attend either in person or via livestream.

More details from their [website](#).

Become a grass-roots campaigner with Safe Passage

Free training is available from Safe Passage to be a campaigner. They write: - *When doors are being closed to refugees across the world, now is the time for action.*

Join our incredible team of Grassroots Campaigners who fight for refugees and their right to asylum.

More details [here](#).

A kinder more effective solution to Channel crossings (includes an Event)

Care4Calais have asked us to share their videos on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) showing the way that the refugee situation should be dealt with.

Whilst you are doing that, it is well worth having a look at their other

posts. There is an [Anniversary Vigil](#) taking place this coming Thursday, 24th November, in Parliament Square at 6pm. This is for the 32 men, women and children that perished in the Channel last year. The story told with the post is horrendous - the lack of care shown to those literally dying in the water by the French and English authorities is appalling.

As posted in previous Autumn and Winter editions of this e-bulletin, they are also looking for warm coats.

An invasion of our shores?

Ben Bano and Phil Kerton of Seeking Sanctuary have written this article for [ICN](#). They cover the current rhetoric by the Home Secretary, the situation in Manston and Harmondsworth, and the demonising of the Albanians. It is well worth a read.

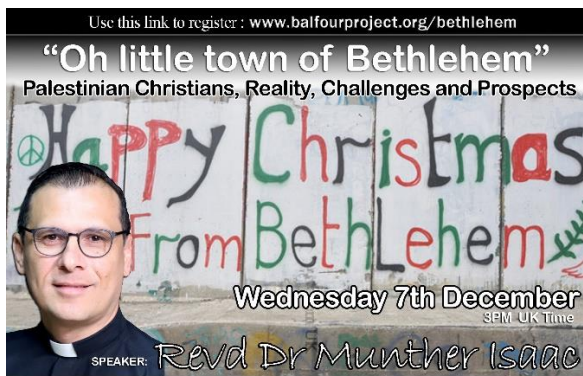
Migration is an urgent and complex issue, but a fundamental change of approach is needed

Another thing worth a read on the same subject is by Joseph Kelly from [The Catholic Network](#), who quotes Bishop Paul McAleenan, talking about the situation at Manston, and making no bones about taking the Home Secretary to task: - *"It is also imperative that everyone refrains from inflammatory language that undermines people's humanity and creates tensions between communities."*

4. Palestine/Israel (includes an Event and an Action)

Event - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" - Palestinian Christians, Reality, Challenges and Prospects

Taking place on Wednesday 7th December at 3pm UK time



Please support our work with a donation - www.tinyurl.com/donatetoBP
Balfour Project is a Scottish Registered Charity (SC 067000)

Balfour
Project

Balfour Project write: - *The world turns to Bethlehem during Christmas, but they have a fairytale image of the little town. However, this is a real community with real challenges. This webinar gives an insight into the reality and challenges of Palestinians and Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land.*

Register for this Webinar [here](#).

Action - Barclays: Don't bank on Apartheid

Palestinian Solidarity Campaign writes: - *Israel's militarised attacks on Palestinians are facilitated by financial institutions like Barclays, who invest over £1 billion in companies supplying Israel with deadly weapons and military technology.*

Across Britain, campaigners are setting up pickets and other actions outside Barclays branches - with many planned for Saturday 26 November. Will you join in?

More details through their [website](#).

6. Life in the UK today (includes an Event and an Action)

Brighton, Bristol and Cardiff Councils 'leading on food.'

Nina Pullman (again) from Wicked Leeks has highlighted [Food for the Planet](#) and [Sustain's](#) research into how councils are doing in regards to tackle the climate, nature and health crises through food.

She writes: - *Councils spend over £69 billion a year and own up to 1.3 million acres of land, so they have an enormous opportunity to reduce emissions from the food system, support farmers, and help people eat healthier and planet-friendly diets. Scored on their climate, nature and food strategies, councils scored on average just one third of available points. Read the full article [here](#), and maybe think about contacting your own council to address this situation.*

Comments on the Autumn Statement

[Independent Catholic News](#) have a selection of comments on the Chancellors Autumn Statement from last week. Christian Aid says *'Budget is built upon the backs of the poor'*

Also from [ICN](#), you can read SCIAF's comments, who are *'deeply*

disappointed with budget failure to restore overseas aid', along with an [article](#) about CAFOD's reaction on the same subject.

Action: - Join the Day of Action on Fuel Poverty - Saturday 3rd December

[Warm this Winter](#) writes: - The Chancellor has just delivered a budget that falls short on protecting millions of people from a catastrophic winter and lowering energy bills in the long term.

No one should have to ride buses or visit public spaces to keep warm. But by next April, the number of households facing fuel poverty is expected to rocket to 8.6 million. We need the government to really see the reality of what people all over the country are experiencing.

Click on the link above for more information.

Event - Cost of Living Film

Greenpeace have launched a film, 'Cost of Living' that follows the Rother Valley community as they try to support each other through this crisis.

They write: - Local Greenpeace groups across the country will be hosting film screenings followed by community-led conversations—you'll have the opportunity to discuss ways we can build pressure on our government to keep people warm this winter.

It's going to take all of us organising together to push Rishi Sunak and his government to provide the support families need and deliver on the solutions we know will help keep bills down forever and fight the climate crisis—investment in renewables and home insulation.

More details [here](#).

CSAN launches cost of living campaign

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have reported on the [Caritas Social Action Network's](#) campaign calling on the government to make changes to the welfare and tax system for the benefit of society's most vulnerable.

The article can be read through the [CBCEW website](#).

Church Action on Poverty Sunday

You can now sign up to take part in Church Action on Poverty Sunday,

taking place on the 19th February 2023. Register [here](#).

7. Impact of war on seafarers

Stella Maris Chaplain, Greg Watts, tells of the impact that the situation in Ukraine has had on seafarers of all nationalities. You can read the interesting article through [ICN here](#).

You can also see further information on Stella Maris' Ukraine response through their [website](#).

8. 'Put HS2 into administration'

This article, reported by the [Express and Star](#), reports that Rishi Sunak has been urged to put HS2 into administration by Lord Berkeley, deputy chair of the Oakervee Review into HS2, who cited "serious engineering problems" beneath the route through Staffordshire as a reason for binning the project.

The Telegraph also have a similar article, but you have to sign up for a 'free trial for a month' before you can read all of it.

Newsletters/Reports

9. NW NJPN E-Bulletin November 2022

Anne O'Connor has pulled together a lot of varied articles on COP27 and the climate, refugee issues, the poverty situation in the UK and what the result of the Brazilian elections mean for the environment and the indigenous people. It is available through the [NJPN website](#).

10. My Green Pod November 2022

The independent online ethical brand has some great articles in their free magazine about ethical choices and climate issues. Well worth a read. Download it through their [website](#).

11. Pax Christi Just Peace November 2022

Interesting news, a link to their shop and various events to put into your diary. Read it through [Pax Christi](#).

12. Joint Public Issues Team November 2022

Good articles on the asylum system/refugees, COP27/loss and damage, plus resources and events. Read it [here](#).

13. Leeds Justice and Peace Commission November 2022

Some good articles including one on Nigerian flooding, and a reflection on Pope Francis' message for World Day of the Poor. There are also a couple of items for young people. Dip into it [here](#).

14. Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission Autumn 2022

Starting with comments on this year's Assembly topics, it then covers a wide range of justice and peace issues, including a couple of interesting articles on cut flowers and candles (as in those used in churches). Well worth a [read](#).

15. Tiny Eco Home Life

Not at all church-related, but lots of handy tips on how to live a sustainable life in a very down to earth fashion.. I particularly like his product reviews - always helpful! You can read it [here](#).

16. Boaz Trust November News Update

Always a positive read, they finish with the heart-warming news that someone they supported in their early days has just been granted refugee status after SEVENTEEN years. (And the Government blame the traffickers??)

Read it through this [link](#).

17. London Mining Network

See details of their report on Anglo-American, and news on BHP - plus details of actions and events. Available [here](#).

18. Together for Water

Read the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network

Newsletter [here](#). It has lots of water and climate-related articles.

19. Laudato Si' Movement November

News on 'The Letter', important dates and resources. Click [here](#) to read.

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

20. 22nd November - 7pm - Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission

[Forum](#) - Working together on the issues covered during this year's Assembly

21. 22nd November- 7pm - 8.30pm - Operation Noah

[Church Investment in climate solutions report launch](#)

22. 26th November - 10am - 1.30pm - Pact

[Kent's JustPeople Roadshow](#)

23. 3rd December - Campaign Against Arms Trade

[Solidarity with Yemen Day of Action](#)

24. 3rd December - 2pm Pax Christi

[Advent Peace Service at Church of the Holy Apostles, Pimlico](#)

25. 6th December - 7pm - Pact

[Farm Street Church - Pact's London Christmas Carol Service](#)

26. 7th December - 5.30pm - 6.30pm - Anti-Slavery

[Virtual Supporter Conference](#)

27. 8th December - 7pm - Pact

[Pact's Nottingham Christmas Carol Service](#)

28. NJPN Save the Dates for 2023



NJPN National Justice and Peace Network

Open Networking Days 2023

Save the Date

Saturday 25 February: Zoom meeting
Saturday 13 May: Open Meeting and AGM, London
Saturday 23 September: Open Meeting, West Midlands (venue tbc)
Saturday 18 November: Open Meeting, London (venue tbc)

There will also be opportunity to hear about justice and peace activities from groups around the country. Representatives from agencies and organisations working for peace and social justice will report on their work and suggest practical ways of becoming involved in campaigning for social justice.

For further details contact:

Geoff Thompson Tel: 020 7901 4864
Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NJPN
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk



29. 10th February - Columban Schools Competition Deadline Building Peaceful Futures



SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION

Columban Missionaries are looking for students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:

- ✓ Is conflict inevitable?
- ✓ Where and how is peacebuilding taking place?
- ✓ What role can faith play in peacemaking?

"Our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus challenges us to build communities of peace."
From the Columban Statement on Peace

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2023

For more information see:
www.columbancompetition.com

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Actions

30. Protect the right to boycott

Palestinian Solidarity Campaign writes: - Despite many pressing political issues affecting the UK, the Government is still pushing ahead with its plans to introduce a damaging 'anti-boycott bill' in Parliament. If passed, this would dramatically affect our ability to campaign for social and climate justice, and particularly harm our campaigns of solidarity with Palestinians. The bill would specifically target public bodies (including local councils) and prevent them from deciding to cut ties with companies involved in human rights abuses in Palestine or elsewhere.

We think it's crucial for public bodies to be able to make ethical decisions to divest from human rights abusing companies, or to decide not to buy their goods or services. And we're not alone! We've brought together over 60 civil society groups who have already voiced opposition to the Government's plans and pledged to fight any anti-BDS bill tabled.

On November 30th, we'll be in the houses of Parliament with a group of human rights advocates, trade unionists, faith groups, and climate justice campaigners, meeting with MPs to discuss the bill and convince them to oppose it when it's tabled. We want to reach as many MPs as possible in these meetings - so they need to hear from you, their constituents, that it's crucial they attend.

Could you please [write to your MP](#) using our e-mail tool asking them to attend one of our briefing sessions?

31: Don't deregulate the banks

Global Justice Now want us to send a message to Rishi Sunak, asking him not to deregulate the banks. These rules were put in place for a reason after the financial crash of 2008. Add your name to their petition [here](#).

THE LAST WORD

32. Advent Resources/Reflections

I have seen some really good Advent items going around, and as we are just about to go into the Advent Season, I thought I would share them here for you.

Anne O'Connor has produced a lovely Advent Journey, and her Advent Reflections. Both available from the [NJPN website](#).

Embrace the Middle East are also advertising Advent Reflections direct into your inbox. Sign up [here](#).

Transform Trade have their [Injustice Advent Calendar](#), which is usually very interesting (and helpful when I am looking for items to include in this publication).

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NEWS LINKS

Independent Catholic News

Find Justice and Peace stories at:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/justice-peace-environment>

[Sign up](#) to receive these regularly.

Catholic Communications Network

Find news stories at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Latest Zenit Headlines [here](#)

Vatican News homepage: www.vaticannews.va

World Council of Churches

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/>

UK Parliament News

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/>

Follow us on Twitter: @NJandPNetwork

Follow us on Facebook: National Justice and Peace Network

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About these E-BULLETINS

The items above are emails received from around the Network which may be of interest to those involved in working for justice and peace.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of NJPN.

To **unsubscribe** from these mailings, email ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org with "unsubscribe" in the subject box. We also welcome your **feedback** at the same address.

Forwarding these emails: Please feel free to forward these emails on to your contacts – *but please remember to tell them to contact YOU if they want to unsubscribe!*

Urgent Actions:

We sometimes receive emails that need immediate action and cannot wait for the weekly bulletin. To receive these items email the same address with "**urgent actions**" in the subject box.

If you appreciate these bulletins, help to keep them coming by donating to NJPN:

Send cheques payable to NJPN to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

*Make a regular donation by **standing order**: Download standing order/membership forms from <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>*

(NJPN is a registered charity no: 1114947 Company no: 5036866)

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