



***God of justice and peace,
We thank you for the vision and mission of the National Justice and
Peace Network,
and for the people who work and pray for a more just and peaceful
world.***

***We ask you to bless them with your grace and guidance,
and to inspire them with your Spirit of love and compassion.***

***Help them to be faithful witnesses of your Kingdom,
where all are welcome, respected and valued.***

***Help them to be agents of change and transformation,
where all are empowered, supported and challenged.***

***Help them to be signs of hope and joy,
where all are healed, reconciled and celebrated.***

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(courtesy of Paul Southgate, NJPN Chair, who asked Bing (AI) to write a prayer before a recent Executive Meeting)

Dear Friends,

Another fortnight has whizzed past, and the big issues being the Immigration Bill and the Budget. Interesting that once a 'big name' gets involved (as in Government/BBC vs Gary Lineker), everyone jumps on the bandwagon. In this case it is good publicity, but it then becomes more about the celebrity than the actual cause.

We have a rather different Action of the Week, which we hope you will engage with. Our leading section this weekend, though, is the Refugee situation. As you can imagine, there are lots of articles, many of which are saying something very similar. I have just picked a few of them.

This weekend we celebrate Mothering Sunday; however, I don't believe you need to have had children, or indeed be female, to have been in a position to have looked after someone. Many of my generation no longer have children at home, but instead have elderly relatives that they are having to look after. Most of us have that mothering instinct which we have to draw on from time to time. regardless of who it is directed at. So, to all of you out there that care for someone, have a blessed day. You may not always feel appreciated, but you most definitely are. Thank you!

The next e-bulletin should be out on Palm Sunday, the 2nd April, as long as life doesn't get in the way.

With all best wishes,

Sharon

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



Just Change Campaign!

This was another item that came out of our Networking Day in February.

Sarah Bryson from Citizens UK Tyne and Wear told us about a pupil-led investigation into where the unspent change went for those on free school meals.

Their website reports: - *Tyne & Wear Citizens and Citizens UK published a pupil-led investigation by schools, revealing that pupils eligible for Free School Meals lose out on £65 million a year because unused allowance is retained by school meal provider.*

In schools across the UK if the student on free school meals does not use their allowance by the end of the day – because they are absent from school, attending a lunchtime club or they don't spend the full amount – their credit is deducted and retained by the school meals providers (private companies, schools and local authorities).

*According to Citizens UK, this equates to around **£65 million per year** in secondary schools alone.*

You can read their full report through this [link](#).

Join with members of the NJPN Executive and write/email your local

school and find out where the 'change' goes from the free school meals that they provide, and maybe give them the link to the Just Change Campaign.

If the money went back into the pupils' dinner money accounts, they could maybe buy a bigger lunch, or afford to buy breakfast. Very important if your family are struggling to buy food.

Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Refugees/Migrants (includes **Actions)**

Love the Stranger

This report, produced by the Department for International Affairs at the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, is the Catholic response to refugees and migrants.

Bishop Declan Lang and Bishop Paul McAleenan have written the Foreword, and describe the publication as being "*shaped by, and articulates, our Christian duty to look beyond such labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life.*"

[Read the report here.](#)

Response to the Illegal Migration Bill

Over a thousand church Leaders from the Joint Public Issues Team of the Baptist Union, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church have signed and issued a statement expressing opposition to the government's new 'Illegal Migration Bill'.

[Read their statement here.](#)

What we know so far

As might be expected, the Jesuit Refugee Service came out with a swift response to the 'Illegal Migration Bill'.

They write: - *Today, the Home Secretary made a statement introducing the*

government's proposed "Illegal Migration" Bill. The purported aim of the bill is to stop small boats arrivals and keep the Prime Minister's promise that "anyone entering this country illegally will be detained and swiftly removed." Clearly, this will be a cruel and inhumane piece of legislation aiming to further reduce access to protection and punish refugees for how they are able to travel. At its worst, it could amount to an attempt to dismantle the asylum system altogether. There is still much to learn because, as the Home Secretary herself admitted, her statement was relatively thin on detail, and some of what she said had already been made public.

They have summed up some of the key details, and have put together some questions that they will be asking. Read more through their [website](#).

In a similar vein, Safe Passage, have produced a [video](#) where Beth, their CEO, breaks down the impact that these laws will have on refugees seeking safety.

Action - Tell your MP: stop the Refugee Ban Bill

[Global Justice Now](#) write: - *The UK government is trying to pass a bill that will deny the right to asylum to people seeking safety in this country.*

This is despite the fact that, for people from the majority of countries, there are no safe routes to apply for asylum in the UK. This horrific refugee ban is being rushed through parliament - we need to stand up against this brutal crackdown on people who are simply seeking a safe life for themselves and their families.

Please write to your MP now and demand they oppose the Refugee Ban Bill.

There are also petitions from [Safe Passage](#) and [Anti-Slavery](#).

Lineker row threatens to topple BBC chiefs and hit Tory asylum plans

I had to include one article about Gary Lineker's comments in here. He may be a celebrity, but he has always seemed to have been a decent chap, and I felt even more so in that he has had asylum seekers stay in his home.

I particularly like the fact that he was suspended by the BBC for voicing opinions on his own personal Twitter account, and yet there have come to light several letters sent out by the Beeb in response to complaints from members of the public about other BBC stars and their tweets, with the

Beeb pretty much saying that what they say on their own Twitter account is their business!! Sounds to me as if the BBC have been leaned on by someone in power - heavens above!

Anyway, The Guardian reports on the row going on at the BBC, and the controversy surrounding the CEO, Richard Sharp, and a certain loan he supposedly helped secure for one of our previous Prime Ministers.

I was very interested to read these paragraphs: *-...there were signs of deep unease among leading Tories about the new approach to the small boats crisis.*

Several senior Tories, including Priti Patel – herself a hardliner on immigration while in charge at the Home Office – are expected to raise their concerns about what the bill, which has its second reading in the Commons on Monday, means for the treatment of children who arrive in the UK with their parents. Other Tory MPs are concerned that it breaches international law and the UK's international treaty obligations.

Tobias Ellwood, Tory chair of the Commons defence select committee, said he needed reassurance that there would be workable routes by which genuine asylum seekers could reach the UK “so this is seen as a genuine attempt to save lives ... not just the bombastic rhetoric that riled people like Gary Lineker”.

Read The Guardian article [here](#).

Action - SOS: Save our student from deportation

This really is a heartbreaking story, and goes to show how there needs to be some flexibility in what the Government are trying to do.

Reported on the [Diocese of Arundel and Brighton website](#): *- A student from Cardinal Newman Catholic School (CNCS) in Hove has had her application for asylum refused by the UK Government. The student, called Ann, has been studying at the school for 4 years having arrived in the UK seeking safety and sanctuary with her sister and mother in 2019.*

Ann is from a Coptic Christian family; her father and eldest sister were arrested in Sudan for their involvement in peaceful protests. The family have been unable to contact the father since this time and, if he remains alive, believe he may be imprisoned at an unknown location.

The same story also came up on my [Facebook](#) page, through the SVP,

with a few more details. Ann has become an integral part of the School, and they have set up a petition to Suella Braverman.

[Please urgently sign the petition here.](#)

Refugees

(a very clever poem by 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**

(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

2. Climate/Environment (includes and **Actions and an **Event**)**

Ocean Treaty: Historic agreement reached

It is nice to be able to share a positive story, courtesy of [BBC News.](#)

The High Seas Treaty came into being after a decade of negotiations, and

it aims to help place 30% of the seas into protected areas by 2030, to safeguard and recuperate marine nature.

If you read this press release from [IUCN](#) (a world environmental network), dated December 2022, you will know why this Treaty was very necessary.

Action - Our chance to take climate action

Global Justice Now report that Chris Skidmore, Conservative MP for Kingswood, has tabled a debate on the Energy Charter Treaty in Westminster Hall on Tuesday 21st March at 11am.

They say: - This an important moment to show the growing support in parliament for getting rid of the ECT and its toxic corporate courts, and to spread the word wider: it's crucial we get as many MPs in the room as possible. With a Conservative MP leading the debate, this is the strongest foot in the door we have to push the campaign up the government's agenda.

Please [email your MP](#) and ask them to attend the Westminster Hall debate on the Energy Charter Treaty at 11am on Tuesday 21 March.

COP28 News

The UN Conference on the climate will take place this year between 30 November – 12 December and will be held in the United Arab Emirates, a major oil and gas exporter. About 13% of the UAE exports come from oil and gas, which represent around 30% of the country's GDP. (figures taken from the NJPN Environment Meeting Minutes)

At the recent NJPN Environment Group meeting some concerns, along with those of other NGO's were shared.

Many of its other industries, including construction and travel, are also financially linked to fossil fuels.

The United Arab Emirates has chosen the CEO of one of the world's biggest oil companies to lead climate talks at COP28. The Group and many other NGOs worry that the influence of views from the fossil fuel industries and associated greenwash will be disproportionately large.

More information on COP28 will be shared as we receive it..

Event - Laudato Si' Week - 21st to the 28th May

Make a note in your diaries of the dates above. You can register to receive details of the various events [here](#).

The theme for this year is "Hope for the Earth. Hope for humanity."

Eco-Friendly ways to tackle pests

I have always liked to grow vegetables, but have never been very successful as I tend to let nature take over. The last time I grew veg, in the year of the lockdown, the plants I ordered arrived too late for the very warm weather, and the insects made very quick work of decimating a lot of my favourite vegetables. The only real winners that year were my tomatoes!

Wicked Leeks have shared a good article on growing organically and working with nature to deter those insects that might want to beat you to your vegetable crop. You can find it [here](#).

Action - Tell the Government to fix its weak climate plans

Friends of the Earth write: - *Last year we challenged the government's net zero strategy. And the High Court ruled it didn't have sufficient plans to meet the UK's climate targets.*

Because of that victory it has until 31 March to come up with a new revised strategy.

So as we face a worsening climate crisis, please [sign our petition](#) to tell the government: don't break climate laws.

3. The Big One - 21st - 24th April 2023

Extinction Rebellion seem to be the driving force behind this proposed non-violent, direct action outside the Houses of Parliament, and they are looking for people to commit to attending. They are hoping for 100,000 people, and so far over 17,000 have put their names down. Many organisations are hoping to have people there.

The Big One Demand:

*A citizen-led democracy to end the fossil fuel era.
A fair society that includes reparation.
Existing Demands*

XR's three core demands remain the same: Tell the Truth, Act Now, and Decide Together.

The demand for an immediate end to all new fossil fuel licences – added in 2022 to recognise the need for definable action – also remains.

For more details and to put your name down, go to the [Extinction Rebellion website](#).

4. Christian Persecution

US Politicians protest against 'Christian persecution' in the UK following arrests for silent prayer

This is such an interesting one that I had to share it. Premier Christian News report the following: - *Several members of the US Congress have written a letter to the country's ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, Rashad Hussain, asking him to turn its attention to the situation of Christians in the UK.*

Written by Congressman for Texas Chip Roy and signed by some seven other Congress members, the letter argues the UK is on "an unsettling path" that could result in "existential threats to freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and even freedom of thought".

They argue that the recent approval of the nationwide rollout of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) or 'buffer zones'– an area near an abortion which criminalises any activity that could be seen as offensive to people using the facilities – will permit the "prosecution of Christians and other people of faith for simply expressing their pro-life and religious views".

They cite the cases of Isabel Vaughan-Spruce, Catholic priest Father Sean Gough and Adam Smith-Connor who have all been arrested for silently praying near abortion clinics as examples of "the British government's violation of religious freedom".

Read the full article [here](#).

Also, in relation to this, The Catholic Network report on Isabel Vaughan-Spruce being arrested for the second time for silently praying outside an abortion centre.

As far as the bill goes, they said: *The House of Commons has approved legislation to create “buffer zones” around abortion facilities that would prohibit a wide range of behaviour, including silent prayer.*

Full report from [The Catholic Network](#).

Pope Francis meets with two Nigerian girls who were kidnapped by Boko Haram

Last time we covered the story about Leah Sharibu, who was kidnapped by Boko Haram five years ago, and remains in captivity.

ACI Africa reports on sixteen-year-old Maryamu Joseph, who escaped from the Boko Haram in July after being held against her will for nine years, and Janada Marcus, also a victim of Boko Haram, who both met with Pope Francis on the 8th March.

ACI Africa tells their stories, and it is horrendous. Both of them saw family members murdered, and suffered extreme violence themselves.

The full story is [here](#).

IS claims responsibility for 35 Christians killed in Congo

Premier Christian News writes: - *Militants from the Islamic State group have claimed responsibility for the killing of more than 35 people and injuring dozens in eastern Congo.*

According to Associated Press, the group said they targeted “Christians” in Mukondi village, North Kivu province, using guns and knives and destroying property. A photo was also published showing houses on fire.

The country has a population of 95.2 million people, of which around 90.6 million are Christians, representing 95 per cent of the population. Despite the majority of the country being Christian, there is an increasing vulnerability of believers to persecution.

Read it through [Premier Christian News](#).

"Why do you allow your citizens to be killed?"

Aid to the Church in Need write: - *Father Remigius Ihyula, a project partner of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), heads the Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace, an arm of the Diocese of Makurdi in Benue State, Nigeria. The state is among the hardest hit by attacks from Fulani herdsman, and the Foundation implements the Church's care for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP' who are mostly individuals and families uprooted by deadly Fulani violence. In an interview with [Aid to the Church in Need \(ACN\)](#), Father Ihyula comments on the situation, noting the government's failure to stem the violence.*

And yet, despite the attacks, Nigeria has the highest Mass attendance in the world, at 94%. (as reported in the last e-bulletin)

Uyghur Christian released in China after 15-year sentence

[Premier Christian News](#) report on the good news that a Uyghur Christian Pastor, Alimujiang Yimiti, has been released from prison after serving a 15 year sentence.

Click on the link above to read the story of why he was imprisoned in the first place.

5. Palestine/Israel

A Testimony of Witness

Pax Christi International write: - *The Board of Pax Christi International welcomes the testimony from members of the Pax Christi delegation who recently returned from a 10-day peace pilgrimage to the Holy Land.*

Thirteen members from six countries took part in a visit that enabled them to reconnect with Pax Christi partners, see, first-hand, the facts on the ground, meet with religious leaders, activists, NGO, and UN representatives, and most importantly, to hear from those whose daily lives are affected by the occupation.

At every stop the group witnessed the brutal realities of the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem now entering its fifty-sixth year.

The Statement finishes with: - *This year, Palestinians will commemorate*

the 75th anniversary of the Nakba - their catastrophe - when over 750,000 Palestinians were forced by fear or violence to flee their ancestral homes and the systematic destruction of 400 plus Palestinian villages was carried out. We are committed to honouring this sombre occasion and ensuring it receives the attention it rightly deserves.

We are compelled to continue to bear witness and to remain steadfast in our solidarity.

[Read it in full here.](#)

A response from James Cleverly

On the 21st December, The Balfour Project circulated a letter to Mr James Cleverly, the Foreign Secretary, from more than twenty British Parliamentarians from all four main political parties.

They are now in a position to distribute his response of the 13th February, admittedly before the atrocities at Huwara.

Balfour Project say: *As you will read, Mr Cleverly says our Government has no plans to engage with Israel's National Security Minister Ben Gvir.*

[Mr Cleverly's letter is here.](#) (as well as the original letter that was sent)

Event - Nakba 75 - Saturday 13th May - Central London

Palestine Solidarity Campaign write: - *In May of this year Palestinians will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Nakba, the process of ethnic cleansing, colonisation and dispossession that saw over 750,000 Palestinians driven into exile and more than 5000 towns and villages wiped from the map.*

But we mark the Nakba not just as an historical event but as a continuing process of oppression enacted over the past 75 years through ongoing colonisation of land, enforcement of apartheid and military occupation.

The new Israeli Government is continuing this systematic oppression with increasing brutality threatening de jure annexation of the West Bank and ramping up brutal assaults on Palestinians.

So we need to you to begin now to mobilise for our National Demonstration for Palestine. Palestinians need us bring a huge demonstration of solidarity to the streets of London and a reassertion of our call for an end to all UK complicity in the violation of their rights.

[Details of the National Protest here.](#)

6. Ukraine

ICC judges issue arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin over alleged war crimes

[The Guardian](#) have told the story of the International Criminal Court in The Hague issuing arrest warrants to both Vladimir Putin and his children's rights commissioner for 'unlawful deportation' of Ukrainian children.

The article says: - *It is unclear how many children have been taken from Ukraine by Russian forces. Last month, the [Yale Humanitarian Research Lab](#) published a report alleging that at least 6,000 children from Ukraine had been sent to Russian "re-education" camps in the past year. In a statement on Friday, the ICC prosecutor, Karim Khan, said: "Incidents identified by my office include the deportation of at least hundreds of children taken from orphanages and children's care homes."*

It makes for interesting reading, and there are obviously a lot of discrepancies in numbers of children (far more than 16,000 according to Mr Zelensky) and the purpose of them being taken to Russia (*Lvova-Belova told Russian media that the arrest warrant reflected "appreciation" for her work "to help the children of our country, that we don't leave them in the war zone, that we take them out".*)

It is all very well arrest warrants being issued, and Russia being treated as a 'pariah' state - but I cannot see it changing anything anytime soon, sadly.

7. News from Stella Maris

Stella Maris joins calls to free seafarers stuck in Ukraine ports

ICN report that *'Around 331 seafarers and 62 ships are still trapped in Ukrainian ports, living in grim conditions, a year since the start of the war on Ukraine. Stella Maris recently joined more than 30 maritime organisations in a joint open letter to UN Secretary General - His Excellency António Guterres - urging him to prioritise the immediate release of all the seafarers and ships.'*

The full letter and details of the signatories are available [here](#).

Round Britain Sailing Pilgrimage in support of Stella Maris.

Between 29 April and 9 July, Russ Fairman, a supporter of Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea), is organising a sailing pilgrimage around Britain in support of this Catholic maritime charity. You are warmly invited to attend, or help organise, a local event when the boat comes to your part of the coastline. The skipper is also inviting interested people to join him on the boat for one leg of the journey.

For more information about the sailing pilgrimage, please visit the website: <https://sailingpilgrimages.co.uk/stella-maris/>

To volunteer to be part of the crew, please contact the skipper Russ at sailing.pilgrimages@gmail.com

For more information about the area gatherings, please contact info@stellamarismail.org

8. News from Pact (Prison Advice & Care Trust)

Protecting children from the impact of police raids

Andy Keen-Downs, CEO of Pact, writes about a presentation that he made on the impact on children of police raiding their homes, arresting parents or older siblings. He mentions that not only does it traumatise children, but it can also give them a life-long mistrust of the police in the future.

[Read it here.](#)



left to right: - Nina Champion, Director of Criminal Justice Alliance; Cristina Odone, Head of the Family Policy Unit at Centre for Social Justice; Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner; Andy Keen-Downs, CEO, Pact; Sabrina Hummel, Criminal Justice Senior Policy Researcher, Centre for Social Justice; Aimee Hutchinson, Head of Children & Young People, Pact

9. Winners of Columban Schools Competition on Peace

[Ellen Teague and Sarah MacDonald, through ICN](#), have written about the winners chosen for the Media Competition on 'Building Peaceful Futures' organised by the Columban Missionary Society in Britain and Ireland.

The winning entry from Britain by Cara Mashumba is printed in the article, and ICN are printing the pictures daily.

I love the quote from the Irish winner, Katie Bonnes: *"I feel that peace in Northern Ireland and throughout the wider world is a hugely attainable thing. My research for this piece has only furthered my belief that humanity will right the wrongs of its past."*

10. The Budget

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Budget, although it felt like it was a bit of a non-event really. I have included some of the articles below.

[Sarah Edwards from Just Money Movement](#): *- Yesterday's Spring Budget was deeply disappointing. The JustMoney Movement calls for policies that demonstrate love of neighbour and care for creation. As Christians we want to live in a society that looks after the most vulnerable and stewards the earth. We need major changes to address extreme inequality and to invest in public services, including through the tax system. Meanwhile the climate emergency needs long term structural change to transition the economy to "net zero" carbon emissions.*

But instead we saw short term fixes like a three-month extension of the Energy Price Guarantee scheme, where we need long term reform of the energy market so everyone has access to clean, affordable energy. Tax cuts for big companies and lifting the lifetime pensions allowance are measures that help the best-off in society, while the most vulnerable continue to suffer. And in a week when there have been warning signs of turmoil in the global financial markets, talk of further deregulation should sound alarm bells, when we need a finance sector that serves people and planet, not the other way around. Click on the link above for the rest of the article.

[Vincentians call for stronger welfare system](#) - ICN report: *- In the wake of the Chancellor's Spring Budget statement today, Vincentian charities are urging the government to put stronger social security measures in place. They say: "The budget provides some welcome relief to help people in need, and we welcome in particular the government's expansion of*

childcare support and the abolishment of the work capability assessment for those on disability benefits. However, the government still needs to fix an inadequate welfare system that is becoming increasingly unfit for purpose."

[Budget 2023: Speaking Truth to Power reaction](#) - Members of the Speaking Truth To Power national panel met on Wednesday to watch the 2023 Budget and to discuss what it means.

Afterwards, the panel's response to the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's statement was, overall, one of disappointment.

The 2023 Budget was a divisive 'us and them' one, our panel members feel.

11. NJPN Conference - 21st - 23rd July 2023



Our annual conference takes place at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire over the 21st - 23rd July.

The organising committee include CAFOD, the Diocese of Westminster, Columban Team for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Christians Aware, and Brian O'Toole from the Presentation Sisters in Ireland and

England.

Brian O'Toole and Christine Allen (CAFOD) will be among the speakers, and it will all be based around Laudato Si', Sustainable Development Goals and Catholic Social Teaching.

We would very much like to see you there. The weekends leave you with a sense of wanting to go home and get involved; I always come away feeling energised by the talks, and the company is always good!

For more details and to book, please see the [NJPN website](#). Please note it is slightly cheaper if you book before the 19th May.

(there is a piece about the Conference and a write-up on our February Networking Day by Ellen Teague through ICN).

12. Change to the way in which we vote

In case you haven't heard already, the way that we vote is changing. Joint Public Issues Team write: - From 4 May 2023, voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations. We've put together [this guidance](#) for church and community leaders, to help you share this information within your community.

Newsletters/Reports

13. NW NJPN E-Bulletin March 2023

Anne O'Connor writes: - *The March issue of the NW NJPN E BULLETIN leads with a statement from Church leaders concerned by the increasing cycle of violence in the Holy Land. One year on from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Pax Christi International expresses deep concern for the countless victims of a war that has led to death, injury, displacement, trauma, and ecological harm. Joseph Kelly reports on the uncertain situation for Ukrainian refugees here in the UK as the war drags on whilst Professor Ian Linden examines the background that links Putin's war and South Africa.*

That and much more; [read it here](#).

14. Joint Public Issues Team March 2023

A very interesting edition, covering the Budget, a year on in Ukraine, the

Illegal Migration Bill, and various events. [Available here.](#)

15. Boaz Trust March Update

Another response to the Illegal Migration Bill and an update on their various activities. Click on this [link](#) to read.

16. Embrace the Middle East Spring Magazine

Tim Livesey, their CEO, starts the foreword: - *It's hard to find words to describe the truly desperate situation in Turkey and Northern Syria in the aftermath of the earthquakes. I won't even try.*

The leading article is about the situation in Aleppo, plus there are lots of other interesting articles. [Download it here.](#)

17. Green Christian News No. 223

Good selection of articles and events, including details about The Big One. There is also a petition, asking your MP to Stop Rosebank. Take a good look at the newsletter and add your name [here.](#)

18. Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Covering a memorial tree being planted in honour of Bruce Kent, and plans for a Peace Pilgrimage, plus a free youth resource. [Read it here.](#)

19. Pax Christi March 2023

Some very interesting articles and resources, including being able to download the new [Justpeace Newsletter.](#)

Unfortunately, though, the e-bulletin is not available to read on their website, although many of the articles are. You can subscribe to your own copy by emailing: - info@paxchristi.org.uk. You can download details of Lent/Easter goods [here.](#)

20. March in the Laudato Si' Movement

A link to become a Laudato Si' Animator, and the launch of the Season of Creation resources. [Read it here.](#)

21. Mouthpeace Spring 2023

Some very interesting articles from the Justice and Peace Commissions of Lancaster and Liverpool. Read it through the [NJPN website](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

22. 19th - 28th March - Romero Week (various events)

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST

ROMERO WEEK 2023

Responding to the Cry of the Poor Today



The inspiration of St Oscar Romero
and the Martyrs of El Salvador



Saturday, 25 March at 11am

An ecumenical service to mark the 43rd anniversary of
the martyrdom of Archbishop Romero
at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ

Speaker
Maria Exall — President of the TUC

18—24 March

Speaker tour of **Birmingham, Canterbury, Cardiff,
Glasgow, Leeds, and Liverpool**

Speaker
Peggy Healy

— close friend and colleague of the Sisters martyred in
El Salvador in 1980, former Maryknoll Sister



Full information at romerotrust.org.uk

Email romerotrust@gmail.com

Registered charity number 1110069



More details of the above on the [Romero Trust website](#).

23. 25th March - 11am - 6pm - Global Justice Now [Resisting Monopoly Capitalism](#)

24. 27th March - 5pm - 6pm - Joint Public Issues Team Network Meeting (New Zero is my Neighbourhood)

(link available in their Newsletter in the section above)

25. 29th March - 7.30pm - Just Money Movement
Money Talks: Becoming salt and light in the economy

26. 30th March - 3pm - The Balfour Project
Jerusalem and the British: 200 Turbulent Years

27. 1st April - Warm this Winter Mass Lobby
Join them to lobby the Government about keeping everyone warm every winter.

28. 19th April - Interfaith Reflection on Fratelli Tutti
Monthly meetings held by the Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group in London. Details through this article on the [ICN website](#).

29. 22nd April - Newton Abbott Pact Roadshow with Caritas
[Book here.](#)

30. 13th May - NJPN Open Meeting and AGM
Details to follow

31. 17th May - 2pm - 6.30pm - Balfour Project Conference
Human Rights in Palestine: Responsibility and Accountability
(Church House, London, and online)

32. 24th May - 6pm - 8.30pm - PACT
Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture, London
'Is there a Christian answer to the problems of the Criminal Justice System?'

33. 2nd - 4th June - World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM)
Annual Conference: How the Light Enters: Contemplative Wisdom for Flourishing in our Broken World

34. 10th June - JPIT/Church Action on Poverty/APLE collective
Dignity for All Conference

35. 11th June - Tax Justice Sunday

Details to follow

36. 20th June - PACT Westminster Supporters Mass and Roadshow

Details to follow

37. 15th July - 10am - 1.15pm - PACT

Birmingham JustPeople Roadshow

38. 21st - 23rd July - NJPN Annual Conference

Sustainability? Survival or Shutdown - BOOKING IS NOW OPEN!

39. Various dates - Meditatio Centre, London

Our friends at the Meditatio Centre London have a full programme of events (you may remember they held a workshop at the NJPN Conference last year). Check out details [here](#).

ACTIONS

40. What is AGM Activism?

Share Action write: - *We believe that those who are impacted by the actions of the largest companies, and those whose money is funding these companies' actions, should have their voices heard.*

Asking a question at an AGM can pressure companies to act on the issues that matter, like tackling climate change, protecting our natural world, improving people's health and addressing inequality.

It's a tactic that has helped secure lots of big campaign victories:

50 of the UK's 100 biggest companies are now Living Wage accredited employers. There were only two when we started asking AGM questions on this in 2013.

Three FTSE 100 companies have committed to publishing their Ethnicity Pay Gap as a result of our AGM questions in 2022.

Tesco, BT and Vodafone have committed to using 100% renewable energy.

Would you like to know more? Sign-up to join one of our AGM activism

training sessions:

Wednesday 29 March, 17:00 – 18:00 GMT

Thursday 30 March, 12:00 – 13:00 GMT

41. UK must sanction Burmese military gas revenue

Burma Campaign UK write: - *UK companies are helping the Burmese military earn \$2bn a year. Email the British Foreign Secretary now calling on him to sanction MOGE and stop British companies working in Burma's gas industry.*

More details and to add your name, click [here](#).

42. UK is abandoning Rohingya refugees with 82% cut in aid

Another one from the Burma Campaign: - *The British government is abandoning Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Aid has been cut by 82%. Email the British Foreign Secretary now calling on him to reverse aid cuts to Rohingya refugees and save lives.*

You can add your name to this petition [here](#).

The Last Word

43. 'I wish for you...'

This was shown at a recent Southern Dioceses Environmental Network Meeting. It is a [short video](#) recorded with Jeremy Irons for the original 'Show The Love' campaign in 2016. If you haven't seen it before, please give it a watch; it is lovely.

44. Action Card for March 2023

Christians Aware have various people producing Action Cards every month. The one for March is entitled '[Forests for Human Health and Well-being.](#)'

The cards give you information and actions. Well worth a look!



Note on Data Protection

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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

Registered Office: - NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

Telephone Numbers: - 020 7901 4864 and 07365 838535

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 bulletin@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)

If you shop online, you can support us at no extra cost to yourself by signing up with easyfundraising.org.uk, where lots of companies will make a donation to us when you shop online with them.

As a small charity NJPN relies on donations from its members and friends, as well as grants for specific work or projects, if you feel you are able to make a contribution you can either: make a bacs payment to our account: Sort code 16-31-15 account 10089516 reference Donation with your surname or our CAF donate page: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8130#!/DonationDetails>