

NJPN E-Bulletin 10th September 2023



***Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you
nothing that you have received--
only what you have given:
a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.***

St. Francis of Assisi

Dear Friends,

We're back! Thank you for your patience during this time. It has been a very busy few weeks, but the Conference is now a distant, but very good memory - and plans are afoot for the next one! More on the Conference later.

We are now in the Season of Creation, and in my parish we will be having Masses around the creation theme this weekend. This is the third year running we have celebrated it, and it is something that young and old alike engage in. We have a cloth 'river' running down the altar steps, and in the porch we have some large, flat stones, that one of our teenagers has decorated with creation-themed quotes. These will be brought down the aisle in our offertory procession, and laid 'in' the river. I find it quite amazing the ideas that come to the fore.

Something else that has also amazed me is the number of people who turned up to a Social Action Evening at our church on Friday. From being a church that struggled to find volunteers for anything, we ended up with 60 people engaging with our Diocesan Caritas Director, and some

representatives from CAFOD. It was a thinly-veiled attempt to launch Live Simply, but it was remarkable that so many people wanted to get involved in general outreach - those that, due to busy lives, are usually unable to get involved in anything. Everyone sensed that need to do something and be part of something.....All we have to do now is channel their enthusiasm before it wanes!

As you can imagine, after so many weeks of no e-bulletin, there are multiple articles that I could share, but this particular one will be dedicated, topically, to the Climate/Environment. There are plenty of actions and events that you can get involved with - and many without leaving your armchair!

The next edition will be out in three weeks' time, the 1st October. The reason being that we are holding one of our Open Networking Days in Birmingham on Saturday 23rd September (more details below). I hope to be there (although don't fancy getting the train at 4.25am!). It will be good to see some familiar faces, as well as some new ones!

If you are wanting anything advertised in the next edition, please make sure that I receive the information by Friday 29th September. Thank you.

Enjoy what I hope will be the last of the very hot weather,

God bless

Sharon

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



Bearing in mind we are not long off a General Election, and the political parties will all be looking for your votes, now might be the time to address issues of importance with your MP.

Our friends at Hexham and Newcastle Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council, on the back of a suggestion that came from them at the NJPN Conference, have written a template letter to be printed off/copied and sent to your local MP.

They write: - *The theme of this year's NJPN Conference was based around the SDGs and how, if they were enacted as agreed by 193 countries, both humanity and our common home would greatly benefit and we could achieve a sustainable future for all.*

Sir John Battle one of the keynote speakers spoke about the need for political action and the imperative to remind our own Government that, as a signatory to the SDGs, it is time they delivered on their commitments. With the General Election likely to be in 2024, each Political Party will be considering their manifestos this Autumn - which provides an opportunity to make our voices heard.

This idea was taken up by the Conference on the last morning when it was proposed that NJPN should draft a letter to be sent to members asking them to send the letter on to their MP. The letter would include a specific request that a commitment to the UK's net zero emissions target by 2050 and a re-commitment to the SDGs – be included in party manifestos.

We recognise that urgent action is required to address the climate and ecological crisis and secure a viable future for everyone who shares our common home. Such action must involve the whole of society as Pope Francis has stated in Laudato Si', but that must include political action and the next election is vital to our future. Hence, we invite you to print this letter (with any amendments you may wish to make) and to send it to your MP by post preferably or via email.

[You can find the letter on the NJPN website.](#)

Thank You!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Climate/Environment (includes Events and Actions)

This has been a really difficult section to put together, as there are just so many climate-related articles, events and actions. This is just only a small selection of what is out there/going on at present.

Raw sewage in rare habitats: 9 beautiful places water companies are polluting with sewage

[Greenpeace](#) report on the fact that, not only is sewage being pumped into our rivers, but also into many areas that are supposed to be protected by formal conservation regimes: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Area of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Area (SPAs) and Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance).

At the end of the article, you can sign their petition.

As an aside to this, 38 degrees also have a petition going around to 'Rescue our Rivers'. [Details here.](#)

Wild Justice, which includes Chris Packham, have been on the Government's case for quite some while about the sewage issue, and their article, [The week when sewage hit the fan](#), covers the Government's announcement this week that they are opting out of protections for water bodies.

Redefining responsible investment principles to support a better future for people and planet

Catherine Howarth, OBE, of [ShareAction](#) writes: - *In the face of a climate emergency, grotesque inequalities and accelerating nature loss, we're challenging the finance sector to adopt a bold new approach and change the nature of responsible investment for future generations.*

Catherine writes a very interesting article, highlighting the fact that only 100 companies cause 70% of global carbon emissions.

Action - Don't scrap the climate pledge

If you haven't done so already, please sign this petition from [Friends of the Earth](#), asking the Prime Minister not to weaken the climate pledge. This

month the Government is due to reveal how it will deliver its £11.6 billion climate and nature pledge, and we need to hold them to this.

Newsletter - Laudato Si' Movement

As it is the Season of Creation, I have included this newsletter here. It has lots of events that are coming up quite soon. You can read it [here](#).

Event - How can we protect our common home?

This webinar, hosted by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, CAFOD and St. Mary's University, takes place this **Tuesday, 12th September, at 7pm**. Details and sign-up information available through the [CBCEW website](#).

Events - Northern/Southern Dioceses Environment Network Meetings

Monday 11th September - 12.45pm - 2pm - Southern Dioceses Meeting via Zoom. [Details here](#).

Tuesday 19th September - 6pm - Northern Dioceses Environment Meeting via Zoom. If you want to join this meeting, please email Mary Scully in advance and you will be sent the link. (m.scully@caritassalord.org.uk).

Event - Global Fight to End Fossil Fuels

Biofuelwatch write: - *From 15 -17 Sep, millions of people around the world will take to the streets. As world leaders meet in New York for a climate summit, the global climate justice movement is getting onto the streets to demand a rapid, just, and equitable end to fossil fuels.*

The biggest cause of climate change is fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas. The fossil fuel industry and its enablers are responsible for the climate crisis and drive a predatory and destructive economic system that harms people and the planet.

An end to fossil fuels cannot mean moving towards burning trees. Fossil fuel burning and tree burning in UK power stations like Drax in Yorkshire and Lynemouth in Northumberland are two sides of the same coin - both designed to allow energy companies to continue profiting at the expense of people and the planet.

Join us on the [12th of September at 6pm for 'Beyond Burning: Get Involved with the Global Fight to End Fossil Fuels Weekend of Action'](#)! This is an online event where you can learn more about the links between biomass and fossil fuels, and how you can get involved with the Global Weekend of Action!

As future's custodians, our voices matter.

[ACI Africa](#) report on the fact that children in Africa are *calling on governments and African leaders to involve them in conversations around the climate and processes leading to “environmental decisions”*.

In a statement issued at the end of the Global Child-led Climate Change Summit Committee (GCCCS), which the Jesuits Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA) and the African Union (AU) organized alongside other partners, representatives of Africa’s children also ask global leaders to facilitate the visibility of the advocacy of Africa’s children on climate issues.

Scotland's First Minister rounds on Sunak over oil and gas licenses

This article from [The Catholic Network](#) reports on the fact that Humza Yousaf has accused Rishi Sunak of 'climate denial' after coming up to Scotland and announcing the approval of 100 new oil and gas licenses. It also mentions that the First Minister has announced that three aid agencies, including the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF), will each receive up to £8 million over the next three years from the Scottish Government’s Climate Justice Fund to support work in Rwanda, Malawi and Zambia.

I am sure that someone will know the answer, but I cannot understand why Scotland and Wales, who are part of the same British Isles, seem to be far better on environmental and other social justice issues than England. Their leaders just seem to care more, or is it just the way it is reported? I would be happy for people to correct me if I am wrong.

Season of Creation Podcast and Film Series

Independent Catholic News writes: - *To help you celebrate this special time of year, the Columbans have made a podcast mini-series about biodiversity and our sacred story Jubilee for the Earth.*

Over the course of twelve episodes, they explore the beauty of biodiversity and the threats it faces.

The Columbans say: "Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, we hope that this podcast will help us all to see how caring for our common home is fundamental to our lives as people of faith and as global citizens."

More information and how to find the episodes are available through [ICN](#).

Ecological Conversion of the Animators

Virginia Bell, of the Laudato Si' Animators, has provided us with this article through [ICN](#), at what an ecological conversion entails. It makes for interesting reading, and at the end there are various links to the LS movement, and LS Animators.

2. NJPN Networking Days

SATURDAY 23 September 2023 - 10.30am– 4.00pm
at the Polish Millennium Centre, Bordesley St, Birmingham B5 5PH

'The Windrush Generation' - Rev Canon Eve Pitts, the first black woman vicar in the Church of England and long-standing campaigner for racial justice will speak on the experiences of the Windrush generation and the issues we need to address today.

There will be a 'notice board' session, with the opportunity for justice and peace groups and representatives from dioceses and Catholic/Christian Agencies to share information about their activities and campaigns.

Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring your own lunch.

For more information, including directions, please email me - e-bulletin@justice-and-peace.org

(we have been told that it is better to get there via public transport, due to HS2 works going on in the area)

SATURDAY 18th November 2023 - 10.30am onwards
Via Zoom

We are still in the planning stages, but what we do know is that this day will be about the Climate, in the lead-up to COP28 (taking place in the United Arab Emirates). More information will be out in the next e-bulletin.

3. NJPN Conference 2023 - 'Sustainability? Survival or Shutdown

Thanks to the 150 plus people that attended our Annual Conference at The Hayes back in July. As usual, it was a great couple of days, with interesting speakers and workshops, and some good participation (as you can tell from our Action of the Week).

If you missed the Conference, all of the talks are on the [NJPN YouTube Channel](#). There is also a good write up on it from Ellen Teague through [ICN](#).

Those of you who were there on the Sunday will know that we pledged to make a statement or a commitment from the Conference. Lots of ideas were written on post-it notes, and these are being collated. We are aiming to get something out in October...so watch this space!

Next year's Conference, as we are leading up to a general election, goes under the title of 'Just Politics' and will be based around integrity in politics and good governance. Make a note in your diaries that it will take place between the 19th and 21st July 2024. The booking forms should be available early in the new year. What I would say is that we had to turn people away this year, so if you are planning on coming, please get your booking forms in as soon as possible after they come out.

4. Peace (includes Events)

Pax Christ write: -

Following our online prayer event on Wednesday and the 'No Faith in War Day' protests at the entrance to the ExCeL Centre in London on Thursday, we are committing ourselves to praying this prayer daily from today to Saturday 16th September when the Fair has closed and all those exhibiting will be packing up.

We'd love you to join us.

Disarm our hearts, God of Peace;
Help us to renounce the fear that takes the form of weapons.
Help us to choose the fierce love that moves your human family to
dialogue, not destruction.

Disarm our hearts, God of Peace
Our children are fragile, as is our Earth.

Give us the wisdom to cherish these gifts
By voicing our support for a world free of weapons.

Disarm our hearts God of Peace;
Help us to embrace your wisdom and your will
Challenge us to choose life, solidarity and hope.

Disarm our hearts, God of Peace
Give us a voice that is heard for those who have no voice and are not
heard
For those who know there is no tomorrow in war
For those who know that the violence of weapons destroys the beauty of
creation and the joy of life.

God of Peace
We pray for authentic and lasting peace
We pray for the will to bring this about so we may be called peacemakers,
the children of God.
In your name we pray for an end to arms fairs, the arms trade and the
weapons of war

Amen

"It's our responsibility to help eradicate hatred & violence from human hearts. Let's encourage arms to be set aside, that there be a reduction in military spending so that humanitarian needs can be provided for & so that instruments of death be turned into instruments of life."

Pope Francis, World Humanitarian Day 2023

Convert the tools of death into tools of life

Ellen Teague, through the Columban Missionaries, writes: - *Every two years the global arms trade comes to London. The Defence and Security Equipment Arms Fair (DSEI) will be held at the ExCeL Centre in East London between the 12-15 September.*

Supported by the Ministry of Defence and the UK Government's Defence and Security Exports Unit, the publicity for the event says that this will be the largest fair in its 24-year history and will feature over 2,800 defence and security suppliers. So, leading arms companies plan to set up shop, marketing their lethal wares to an expected 36,000+ attendees from around the world. It is described as the premier event of its kind in bringing governments, the armed forces and the arms industry together.

Since the event's purpose is to market deadly weapons and military

technology to representatives of states, some of which have committed war crimes and human rights violations, it always attracts demonstrations, vigils and pilgrimages. A Peace Pilgrimage – supported by Catholic groups including the Passionists and Pax Christi – has been organised from Oxford to ExCel 5-11 September, walking to protest the DSEI event and the UK government's complicity in the Arms Trade. (the rest of the article can be read [here](#)).

Whilst we have missed most of the events, on **Monday 11th September at 6.30pm**, there will be a Silent Candlelit Vigil taking place on the eve of the start of the Fair. Organised by Pax Christi England and Wales, Quaker Roots and Quaker Peace and Social Witness, you can join at Royal Victoria DLR Station, and walk to the ExCeL Centre, London E16 1BD. There will then be a silent vigil between 7pm and 8pm. More information available through the Pax Christi [website](#).

(Contact James Trewby, Columban Education Worker, if you want to meet up with the Columban group - education@columbans.co.uk)

Stop the Arms Fair

Various events over the next few days are listed on the [Stop the Arms Fair website](#).

Holy See Statement against Nuclear Weapons

Vatican News writes: - On August 29 2023, Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, spoke during the General Assembly High-level Plenary Meeting to Commemorate and Promote the International Day Against Nuclear Tests (IDANT).

Archbishop Caccia expressed the Holy See delegation's support of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty and the strengthening of the ban on nuclear-explosive testing in the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The full text is available on the [Vatican News website](#).

5. Palestine/Israel

What life is like for Arab citizens of Israel

Embrace the Middle East write: - *Around 20% of the population of Israel is Arab. The opportunities and lived experience of the Israeli Arab community is significantly different from that of Israel's Jewish citizens.*

In their latest blog Nidaa Nasser, Director of Baladna Association for Arab Youth, tells what it is like to be an Arab citizen of Israel. Read the full blog [here](#).

Ethnic cleansing in Area C of West Bank in full gear

Toine van Teeffelen, from the Arab Educational Institute - Pax Christi, in Bethlehem, writes through ICN:

"False and slanderous," the Israeli government called last week a statement by the Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation, Caroline Gennez, that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories is becoming "unsustainable" and that this area is therefore one of the points of attention for Belgian development aid. "Entire villages are being wiped off the map by the Israelis." The last phrase prompted the summoning of the Belgian ambassador in Tel Aviv to the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Toine then goes onto give the facts that led to the statement by the Belgian Minister being given in the first place. It doesn't make comfortable reading - and interesting to see that the Israeli government is calling the accusations slanderous. There are two conclusions you can draw from their response - one is that they have no idea what is going on....and I am sure you can work out what the second is...

[Go to ICN to read the full report.](#)

Whilst reading another article about the situation in Area C, I came across the organisation [Rabbis for Human Rights](#)

which is an Israeli organisation who work within and about the Occupied Territories; work to promote social and economic justice within Israel; and activities in the fields of education and interreligious dialogue. Tash Lever from the organisation, wrote this in-depth [article](#).

It is great to read that not all Israeli's are against the Palestinians or other faiths.

Also, recently I attended an event hosted by our local Police Force's Faith Team entitled The Faith Hate Paradox, and it was about hate crimes against religious organisations and how they deal with it. A guy who runs the Community Security Trust (CST), which is a Jewish-run organisation that protects Jewish citizens, and offers help and advice to all faiths, said that it was a big misconception that all Jews are responsible for or support what goes on in Israel.

6. Refugees/Migrants (includes an Action)

Action - Say NO to floating prison

[Freedom from Torture](#) are asking us to email the CEO of Portland Port, getting him to end his support for the 'floating prison' to be filled with asylum seekers and moored off the coast of Dorset.

Review of the Refugee Week Concert in Dover

This was back in June, but it is nice to share something positive in this section. The Archdiocese of Southwark have details on their [website](#), along with a video. There is also a quote from Rome: - *The European Co-ordinator at the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, Flaminia Vola, described the event as an "inspiring and beautiful initiative" and thanked all at [Seeking Sanctuary](#) for their service to the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters, reminding everyone of their face, name and story.*

7. Columban Schools Competition



The Columban Missionaries in Britain announce the launch of their latest Schools Media Competition 2023-2024 which has the title: 'Biodiversity Matters'. The launch is during the first week of the Season of Creation when Christian communities around the world focus on valuing and

protecting God's creation. And a core aspect of Columban mission is justice, peace and ecology.

The competition is aimed at students aged between 13-18 years old in Catholic schools who are invited to explore Biodiversity – the richness of life forms on Earth and which humanity relies on for health, food and well-being. It is looking for pieces of writing and images that demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the issue of Biodiversity and highlight people, communities and/or organisations trying to build a sustainable future.

Pope Francis has told us that "because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God ... We have no such right" (Laudato Si' #33)

Columbans worldwide see the devastating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on people and the environment as interwoven moral issues in need of prophetic responses. Inspiration for action is drawn from the 2015 teaching document by Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*.

In his role as Columban Justice and Peace Education Worker in Britain, James Trewby visits young people in schools and sixth forms and runs workshops, retreats and assemblies to promote justice, peace and the integrity of creation. He says: "I'm delighted that the Columban Schools Media Competition this year focuses on the theme of Biodiversity. In a world of increasing globalisation and environmental degradation, management of biological diversity is one of the most important and critical challenges facing humankind today. The Columbans are keen to nurture the student voice and provide an opportunity for young people to engage with this issue."

Encouraging creativity and faith engagement with issues in the world today, this year's competition welcomes both written and image entries until the closing date of 17 February 2024. Winners will be announced on Columban media on 21 March 2024, the International Day of Forests.

Two separate competitions will be judged, one for students in Britain and one for students in Ireland. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning entrants and the first prize in Britain is an impressive £500.

High-profile judges from the world of journalism have been secured, including Ruth Gledhill of *The Tablet* and Jo Siedlecka of *Independent Catholic News*. Also, Catholic experts on environmental protection and education, including Columban eco-theologian Fr Sean McDonagh and environmentalist Mary Colwell.

Winning entries will be published in the Columbans' Far East magazine, Vocation for Justice newsletter, Columban websites in Ireland and Britain, Columban social media and in other Catholic media.

Schools will find the Columban Competition website a useful resource. It includes information on the theme, examples of Church work on Biodiversity, Catholic Social Teaching on the theme of Biodiversity and information about inspirational Catholics working on the issue. There are also details on submission of entries and a helpful FAQ page. The website provides material suitable for students, teachers and parents.

This is the seventh annual School's Media Competition. Past themes have included Migrants, Climate Change, Racism, 21st Century Changemakers and Peace.

Website: <https://www.columbancompetition.com/>

8. Brian Davies RIP

Whilst we were at the Conference, the news came in that Brian Davies, former Head of Education at CAFOD, and a great supporter of the NJPN, had passed away. In a moving tribute during the Conference Mass, Julian Filochowski called him 'inspirational', and if you read Ellen Teague's article through [ICN](#), you will understand why.

Anne Peacey, NJPN Chair, also writes: -

Very many years ago, I was invited to a meeting in Nottingham diocese, open to anyone interested in social justice. Searching for a change of direction I went along with a couple of friends, uncertain as to what it was all about. I remember there being a couple of speakers, one of whom was Brian Davies, who spoke with great passion and enthusiasm about his work with CAFOD calling for each of us to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in the developing world by supporting and promoting the work of CAFOD. I clearly remember the enthusiasm on our drive home and with the wonderful support and encouragement of our parish priest we set up a local justice and peace group, later becoming the North Derbyshire justice and peace group, involved in local projects and global issues, as well as speaking in other local Churches. As we became part of Hallam diocese we continued our involvement with justice and peace. Over the past weeks we have heard many tributes to Brian's work around the dioceses and his commitment to the work of NJPN especially his key role in the appointing of

a 'Jubilee' Fieldworker, later National J&P Worker, generously funded by a number of religious orders and organisations. In addition to his commitment to adult formation, it was his focus on the spirituality of justice that has been most meaningful to me. I think he was the first person I ever heard speaking about justice spirituality, and for this I will always be thankful, as it allows for the possibility of hope, something to cling on to, giving meaning and authenticity to our efforts to work towards a more equitable society, especially when we are surrounded by so much injustice and inequality.

We thank God for the life and witness of Brian Davies.

9. Jacquie Scott awarded Papal Honour

Congratulations to one of our Conference delegates, Jacquie Scott, who was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal (awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catholic Church) in early July.

You can read the full report from [ICN](#).

Newsletters/Reports

(please note that any events advertised in individual newsletters will not necessarily be also advertised in our Events section unless specifically requested by the organisation)

10. Mouthpeace Autumn 2023

An excellent edition from Marian Thompson, with lots of articles, and information from the North West about events that are going on. You can read it through the [NJPN website](#).

11. London Mining Network September 2023

Very informative articles, and again lots of events and actions to get involved in. Click [here](#) to read.

12. Just Money Movement/Church Action for Tax Justice

Get involved with their campaigns [here](#).

13. Pax Christi E-Bulletin August/September 2023

A lot of events to join in at this time, particularly around the Arms Fair, but also information on the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. Read it through this [link](#).

14. Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

We have missed their AGM, which was this weekend, but there are still future events to get involved in. Read it [here](#).

15. Student Christian Movement September 2023

Catch up with what they have been getting up to over the summer, and future events - as well as some good articles for students. [Available here](#). (maybe pass it onto any students that you know, as they go off to University).

16. Journey to 2030

A very topical 'Season of Creation Edition' looking back at World Youth Day, and advertising some future events. [Available here](#).

17. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Some good future events coming up. [Information here](#).

18. Embrace the Middle East Autumn Magazine

Showcasing the great work that they do, with interesting articles including details on their Olive Tree Project. You can download it [here](#).

18. Joy in Enough Summer Newsletter

If you are interested in signing up to the next lot of Joy in Enough talks, all of the information is available in their [newsletter](#).

19. Joint Public Issues Team August 2023

A very interesting newsletter with some good events coming up. [Read it here](#).

20. Campaign Against Arms Trade Summer 2023

Read about Arms Sales in 2022, and the UK Government Defence Review, as well as other articles. [Available here.](#)

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

21. 14th September - 6.30pm - Together for the Common Good
'Just Working?' with Jon Cruddas MP

22. 21st September - 6.30pm - 8.30pm - Anti-Slavery International
Annual Supporter's Conference taking place at the Wellcome Library, London

23. 23rd September - 10.30am - NJPN Networking Day
Details in Section 2 above

24. 25th September - 7pm - Green Christian
Deep Waters - online course

25. 28th September - 6pm - St. George's Cathedral Southwark
Service to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the St. Oscar Romero Cross in Southwark

26. 14th October - 11am - Operation Noah
Annual Supporter's Event

27. 16th - 22nd October - Challenge Poverty Week
More information through ICN

28. 28th October - 10am - Birmingham Diocesan Annual Justice and Peace Assembly
Climate Action in the Archdiocese of Birmingham

29. 12th - 19th November - Interfaith Week

30. 18th November - 10.30am - NJPN Networking Day
via Zoom - details to follow

ACTIONS

31. Could you be a Treasurer for our charity?

The NJPN are looking for a new Treasurer, after the sad passing of Mike Clarke a few weeks ago. If you have an interest in justice and peace issues, and have a bit of time to spare, along with some financial experience, please send me an email: - e-bulletin@justice-and-peace.org

32. Could you get involved with Challenge Poverty Week?

Challenge Poverty Week, taking place between the 16 to the 22 of October, is an opportunity to speak out on issues affecting the people you know, your communities, and further.

There are lots of ways to get involved as an individual, church, group or organisation. [Download a toolkit](#) for ideas and examples of what you could do to challenge poverty this October.

33. Call on the British government to reverse aid cuts to Rohingya refugees

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.](#)

The Last Word

34. Columban Way Pilgrimage Video

The Columban Missionaries Team write: - *We're thrilled to share with you the journey of nine Columban pilgrims during Laudato Si' week in May. They walked part of the Columban Way route in Cornwall listening to and reflecting on 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor'.*

Watch our [Columban Way Pilgrimage videos](#) and let our Creator God take you on an incredible pilgrimage adventure.

We gift to you the prayers and reflections we used and invite you to design your own pilgrimage. [Read our latest post by Fr. Pat O'Beirne](#), one of the nine pilgrims, which includes a link to resources to help with your pilgrimage.

The Columban Missionaries' commitment to care for God's beautiful creation stems from their experience of how the poorest communities are impacted by climate change and the devastation caused to natural habitats by deforestation and mining.

Friday 1st September is the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation. A time to renew our commitment to care for our common home.

Let the adventure begin!.

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