



A prayer commended by the Archbishop in Jerusalem:

*O God of all justice and peace,
we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and
fear which prevails in the Holy Land.*

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering;

we pray for people of all faiths

– Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

*While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the
establishment of peace,*

we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples.

*Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity
and honour as your children*

– for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

*In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.*

(From the Fellowship of Reconciliation newsletter)

Dear Friends,

I start with the sad news that Geoff Thompson, our Administrator, passed away on the 1st November. Being a man of great faith, he would have appreciated the fact that it was All Saints Day. We remember Geoff in an obituary below. There are also details of his funeral, which will take place on Wednesday.

The unseasonal early Autumn warm weather is a dim distant memory, and I have had to put my heating on a couple of times in this past week, just to warm the house up a bit. I like to think I am doing my bit for the climate by not putting it on - but in reality, it is to save on the energy bills. I was reminded recently, though, that it is not always good to let your house get too cold. My other half has had a problem with mould on the walls of his flat, and when the Housing Association sent an Assessor to look at it he was told that the mould was caused by damp, and that he should be heating his flat up to at least 18 degrees to avoid that sort of a problem. If you can afford to have your heating on much of the time, that is fine, but most of us can't. If anyone has any tips they want to share about saving energy and keeping the house warm, they would be gratefully received - and it would be good to be able to pass onto others.

Our Action of the Week today is to encourage you to attend a Christian Aid event that is taking place **tomorrow (Monday 13th)**. Please attend if you can.

The next e-bulletin will be out in three weeks time. Before then we will be having our Networking Evening on the 21st November, which I hope as many of you as possible will attend. This is your chance to have your say on your burning issues, and how NJPN can respond. More details are below.

Please send any articles to be included by Friday 1st December to be included in the next edition.

Stay warm and safe,

Sharon

PS If you ever reach the bottom of this page, you may have noticed that there is a link to [Easyfundraising](#). Through the Easyfundraising website or App, you can raise money for the NJPN just through registering your details, and then using their portal to buy from your favourite retailers. (I

don't like to admit it, but I do sometimes shop at Amazon, and I also buy from Zooplus - both of which give a percentage of my purchase back to NJPN through Easyfundraising). It is a really easy way of donating without it costing you any extra money. Thank you to anyone who already donates in this manner.

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



Get Ready for Cop Webinar Monday 13th November at 7pm

Christian Aid writes: =

This year's UN climate talks, COP28, will take place from 30 November to 12 December in Dubai.

At last year's talks in Egypt, countries agreed to the creation of a Loss and Damage Fund to help the most vulnerable countries rebuild after climate disasters. But the fund has not been created and the money is yet to reach the people who need it. As people continue to suffer, the UK Government is backtracking on its climate commitments and fossil fuel companies are raking in eye-watering profits.

With so much at stake, it's never been more important to keep up our calls for climate justice.

Join this online event to hear more about more about what's on the negotiating table at COP28 and how you can make a difference.

Our speakers are Christian Aid staff who have experience of previous

COPs, and are closely monitoring global climate negotiations and the UK Government's position.

There will be a chance to ask questions, find out about new Christian Aid resources and local/national actions too.

Monday, 13 November 2023, 19:00 - 20:00 GMT

You can sign up here.

Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. COP28 (includes an Event and Actions)

COP28 begins on the 30th November in Dubai, and I have only just started seeing articles about it. It has been announced that Pope Francis is attending this one.

Journey to 2030 Newsletter



This newsletter has just about everything that you need to know about COP. It mentions that the focus will be on the four paradigm shifts: -

1. Fast tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030.
2. Delivering old promises and setting the framework for a new finance deal.
3. Putting nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate

action.

4. Mobilising for the most inclusive COP.

There is also a link to the [COP28 website](#), which gives loads of information about the event.

[The newsletter also gives you details of actions and events. Give it a good read and sign up where you can.](#)

Event: - Day of Action during COP28 - Saturday 9th December

Join CAFOD, the Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology Team, and many others on the March in London on the 9th December. Meeting at 11.45am in a location to be confirmed, you can sign up [here](#).

Christian Climate Action

CCA are encouraging their local groups to Lobby their MP ahead of COP.

They write: - *During the week of 20th November, in the lead up to COP28, CCA is encouraging members locally to hold vigils outside their MP's office / urge their MP to meet them. The message: **support Loss and Damage funding.***

Last year at COP27, world Governments agreed to create an International Loss and Damage Fund to compensate for the severe impacts of climate change on communities. The UK Government has yet to commit any funding to this. Members of CCA will be urging their MPs to ask questions in Parliament about this fund ahead of COP28.

A template letter to write to your MP is available, and flyers should you wish to arrange your own local vigil. If you are interested in participating in one or arranging one please contact CCA Local Groups by emailing ccalocalgroups@cael.community (Jo and Jonathan) who can let you have further details.

There are also various events taking place around the country, so please have a look at the [CCA website](#) and sign up for their newsletter.

Action: - Demand Debt Cancellation

Debt Justice writes: - *Despite being least responsible for climate breakdown, it's lower income countries that are experiencing its harshest and most destructive effects – from heatwaves to hurricanes, floods, droughts and mudslides. It's a complete injustice.*

Lower income countries urgently need to address the impacts of the climate crisis and switch to a green economy. But many are prevented from doing so by unsustainable debts – with vital funds instead being drained away in debt repayments to some of the world's richest lenders.

Right now, they are spending five times more on debt repayments than on dealing with the effects of the climate crisis. And worse still many countries are being forced to invest in fossil fuels to pay off debts.

In a months' time world leaders will be meeting for COP28, the global UN climate summit. We'll be there to demand debt cancellation for climate justice. But decisions that will affect the outcome of the talks are being made now. It's crucial we start building pressure.

[Demand Debt Cancellation by adding your name here.](#)

Pope heading to Dubai for COP28 climate summit

Pope Francis will be attending his first COP in Dubai this November. More details are available through the [Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales](#).

Action: - Register for COP28 Prayer

Green Christian write: - *At 8am every morning during COP28, from 30 Nov to 12 Dec, there will be 10 minutes of prayer and reflection, focusing on the theme of the day. This will be on Zoom and led by our chaplain, Revd Andrew Norman.*

[Register here.](#)

2. Climate/Environment

Climate Crisis: "a human and social problem"

Ellen Teague wrote this blog about the urgent need for climate activism, and at the end, invites you to join in the Global Day of Action on the 9th December.

[Read it through the Columbans website.](#)

Life of plastic in Africa revealed as churches ask global leaders 'Can you fix it?'

This headline from Premier Christian News jumped out at me. If you are regular readers of this e-bulletin you will know that one of my biggest hates is plastic, and the fact that it is everywhere. You cannot do a shop at a supermarket without doing your bit to fill the oceans, deserts, landfill etc. with loads of the stuff! And I am as guilty as the next person, sadly.

Premier write: - *Every minute, enough plastic waste to cover a football pitch is openly dumped or burnt in Sub Saharan Africa. That's the finding in new analysis by relief agency Tearfund. The charity says church leaders across Africa have written to their governments, asking for urgent action, as they prepare for UN plastics negotiations in Kenya this weekend.*

Rich Gower, senior economist at Tearfund, tells Premier: "The trajectory that we're on as a planet, in terms of plastic use, is not a good one, and I think it's important to be honest. Plastic use is spiralling out of control in many places. In Africa, which is the focus of these figures we've just released, plastic use is growing faster there than in any other parts of the world."

[Read the full article here.](#)

'We are just getting started': the plastic-eating bacteria that could change the world

This has been sitting in my climate folder since the end of September, but I haven't had the space to put it in. It would seem appropriate to have it following on from the above article about plastic rubbish now, though.

One of The Guardian's Long Reads, it tells of a chance find over 20 years

ago, that would have been revolutionary - but at the time was considered not of much interest. It gives a lot of facts and figures about the disgusting amount of plastic waste that we dispose of : *'A patch of plastic rubbish seven times the size of Great Britain sits in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and plastic waste chokes beaches and overfills landfills across the world. At the miniature scale, microplastic and nanoplastic particles have been found in fruits and vegetables, having passed into them through the plants' roots. And they have been found lodged in nearly every human organ – they can even pass from mother to child through breast milk.'*

And that around only 9% of all plastics produced ever enter a recycling plant.

[It is a very interesting, albeit quite a technical, read.](#)

Greenwash = Hogwash!

Sometimes you just need someone to point the obvious out, and Everyday Plastics do it in this very simple article about the way that well known brands manage to pull the wool over our eyes.

[You can read it here.](#)

eBay and WRAP launch Circular Change Council

This is a bit of good news about the 'recirculating' of furniture - which aims to tackle furniture waste. Some years ago I bought a couple of sofas from a well-known High Street name. They were not particularly expensive, but were comfortable, and looked ok. Within six months the seams had started to split. I contacted the company who sent someone to look at them, with a view to getting them repaired. He said that they couldn't do anything as there wasn't enough material there to repair them, so I would need to get a full refund and they would take the furniture back. I asked what would happen to the sofas, and he told me they would go to landfill. I then rang the company (call centre!) and offered to keep them/buy them back at a nominal cost (mainly because we had redecorated the lounge to compliment the sofas!), and put up with the fact that the seams were splitting. They flatly refused, and my sofas were picked up by them a week or so later, and sent to the tip. What an absolute waste!

Since then I have often taken on or bought second-hand furniture. Not only

is it cheaper, but it is often of a better quality.

Anyway, this article explains that this Council has been set up with the aim of tackling the 22 million furniture items that are thrown away each year in the UK. WRAP research has shown that around 20% of household furniture that is discarded is suitable for reuse. Partners in this Council are eBay, WRAP, IKEA UK&IE, George at ASDA, Very, Sainsbury's, Simba, Dunelm, British Retail Consortium and the British Heart Foundation.

You can read the article [here](#).

Action: - Mass lobbying of MP's about new oil and gas - Tuesday 21st November

Christian Climate Action writes: - *Want to hold a constructive conversation with your MP about new oil and gas? CCA is inviting everyone who cares about creation to join in this coalition of scientists, health workers, educators, lawyers and many other concerned citizens working together to engage our elected representatives in Westminster.*

[For more information, and to sign up, click here.](#)

Bishop sends Sunak a copy of Laudate Deum

Ellen Teague and Patrick Hudson write in The Tablet: - *Bishop John Arnold of Salford has written to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, enclosing a copy of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation Laudate Deum.*

Bishop Arnold, the lead on the environment for the Bishops of England and Wales, appealed to Mr Sunak on 24 October to take further action against climate change and champion existing initiatives across civil society.

The bishop said that planetary heating is a global crisis that achieving a sustained reduction in carbon emissions will only happen with coordinated action at international level.

Bishop Arnold asked the prime minister to assume a "real global leadership role" to ensure that states keep to commitments made at the United Nations' COP climate meetings – especially at the upcoming COP28 talks in Dubai.

[The full article is available here.](#)

Letter to Pope Francis about the use of animals

The below letter to Pope Francis was written by four Laudato Si' Animators and four Priests: -

Dear Pope Francis,

We, a group of faithful Catholics, both lay and ordained, are immensely grateful to you for the Laudato Si' Encyclical, and for its recent update, published on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi 2023 (Laudate Deum). Whilst expressing our deep gratitude to you for raising so many important issues concerning the climate crisis, we wonder if there is a question that is not yet adequately resolved, and which needs more consideration? Crucially, we would ask that you consider the concept that animals, indeed all creatures, are created and beloved by God, in and of themselves, and were not made for humans to use. Rather, we would draw attention to the truth that people everywhere – and Christians in particular – have a duty of care to all nonhuman animals, as set down, for example, in Genesis 1: 29-30 and 2: 19-20, and confirmed in Isaiah 11: 6, 65: 25 and 66: 3, where a loving rule or stewardship is called for. We are reminded that the Hebrew word usually translated as 'till', when relating to the earth, can equally be translated as 'serve' (Genesis 2: 15). There is a sense in which human beings are called, we would suggest, to be responsible stewards of the planet, in a spirit of service. Sadly, as you know so well, unconscious bias allows us to think that we humans are doing no wrong in, for example, farming livestock, if we appear to do it 'kindly'. We ask, with some passion and urgency in our voices, 'But how can enslavement and exploitation be kind? How can killing the innocent ever be kind?'

We would ask you to consider too, and perhaps bring to your prayer, the real question of whether humans should be using animals at all, if our use of them causes them suffering? Shouldn't we rather be treating them as neighbours, not as commodities? The crux of the matter is that animals, like humans, can suffer. Surely, in the name of Jesus Christ and at the service of the earth created by God, we have a duty not to cause suffering, whatever the species that suffers, if we can avoid it?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states in paragraph 2457 that, "Animals are entrusted to man's stewardship; he must show them kindness". You also state in Laudato Si', paragraph 221, "We read in the Gospel that Jesus says of the birds of the air that 'not one of them is forgotten before God'. How then can we possibly mistreat them or cause them harm?". Once again, we ask you to consider how that accords with the enslavement, mutilation and killing of trillions of birds, mammals and

other creatures, for unnecessary food, or for our self-interest?

The reason we use animals for food, clothes, sport, entertainment, experimentation and exploitation in general is because we have the power to do so and is very rarely for survival. We would ask you to speak out against the widely normalised prodigal use of animals, and to call for a change of heart in all humans towards animals – and especially among the Catholic faithful and all people of goodwill. We believe, too, that this change of heart can best be expressed by following a vegan lifestyle. Please promote a vegan lifestyle as one for which to aim – a lifestyle that respects the autonomy and freedom of those nonhuman creatures brought into being for a purpose by God himself, out of love and for love.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Virginia Bell, Laudato Si' Movement (LSM) Animator/St Barnabas parish Laudato Si' Group. Northampton Diocese UK; Fr Robert Culat, Catholic Parish Priest, Saint-Didier, France;

Fr Donatello Iocco, Catholic Parish Priest, St Ambrose Parish, Toronto, Canada

Fr Terry Martin, Catholic Parish Priest, Worthing & Lancing Parish, UK/Trustee, Catholic Concern for Animals UK

Janet Parsons MBE, LSM Animator. Clifton Diocese UK

Giovanna Payne, LSM Animator/St Barnabas parish Laudato Si' Group. Northampton Diocese, UK

Derek Reeve, retired Catholic priest, Portsmouth diocese, UK

John Woodhouse, Co-ordinator LSM Animators UK/Organiser,

Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group. Archdiocese of Southwark UK

Kenya makes 13 November a national tree-planting holiday

A feelgood report from The Guardian this morning about the fact that the Kenyan Government has announced that the 13th November will be a nationwide public holiday. They write: - *The interior minister, Kithure Kindiki, made the announcement via an official notice posted to social media.*

“The government has declared a special holiday on Monday 13 November 2023, during which the public across the country shall be expected to plant trees as a patriotic contribution to the national efforts to save our country from the devastating effects of climate change,” said Kindiki.

This is all part of their ambitious plan to plant 15billion trees by 2032.

Good on them! [Read the full piece here.](#)

Climate Change: what you can do to help

Virginia Bell from the LS Animators, has sent us this link to the St. Barnabas Cluster website, which gives some good suggestions on how you can help the climate. [You can read it here.](#)

100 ways to live a more sustainable life

Ben, from Tiny Eco Home Life, has put together this very helpful list, with links where appropriate. I have often used Ben's ideas and suggestions in the past, and I think he does a great job in signposting things that you don't know are even available until he tells you!

[Give it a go here.](#)

3. NJPN Networking Evening


National Justice and Peace Network

Open Networking Evening
Online meeting
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023
7.30 – 9.00 pm

*"What are the burning justice and peace issues that
keep you awake at night?"*

An opportunity to network without having to travel...
This will be an opportunity to share concerns, ideas, and suggestions for action.

For further details and to sign up:
Sharon Chambers: Email: ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk



We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this event on Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm. Please email me on the above address and I will provide a link nearer the time.

4. Palestine/Israel (includes Actions)

Unfortunately, the situation in the Holy Land has gone from bad to worse over the last month. Again, a selection of the most recent articles from the many that I have received.

Action: Email your MP by the 14th November

Palestinian Solidarity Campaign writes: - A Palestinian child is being killed every 10 minutes by Israeli airstrikes, yet our political leaders are refusing to call for a ceasefire. It's right to be angry about this, but we need to channel that into constructive actions in support of Palestinians.

That means calling on your MP to support and vote for an amendment to the King's Speech, adding a demand for an immediate ceasefire, before Tuesday 14th November.

The only way we can make this happen is if enough of us fill our MPs inboxes making it clear this must be a top priority - [can you take 2 minutes to help before Tuesday?](#)

A message to Suella Braverman from Ahmed Masoud

Ann Farr writes: - Many of us will know Zaytoun CIC Palestinian Products. Heather Masoud is one of the two women who started the Company because they wanted to support Palestinian farmers. From a very small start, a huge difference has been made with a growing number of families in the communities that produce the goods we enjoy so much.

Here is Heather's husband, Ahmed, whose family is in Gaza. Please watch and listen to his Mum's message and we'll tell her that we ARE on the streets and we will continue to put pressure on our government in any way we can.

We want a #ceasefireInGazaNOW , an end to the siege of Gaza and the occupation of Palestine, so that she and her family, and everyone in

Palestine and Israel, can have equality, peace and freedom.

[Watch this video here.](#) (the above was written in advance of yesterday's march in London)

Statement on celebration of Advent and Christmas during war

[Independent Catholic News](#) report on this statement issued by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem on the 10th November.

They basically are asking their faithful to forego any 'unnecessarily festive activities,' and instead focus on the more spiritual aspect of Christmas.

A similar statement was also made by the Christian churches in Jordan a few days previously, to stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza. News on this is available through [Franciscan Media](#).

Embrace the Middle East Partner Updates

As per the last e-bulletin, here is a link to [Embrace the Middle East's](#) updates on the situation in Gaza, Jerusalem and the West Bank.

In Bethlehem, sense of 'sumud' keeps peace workers pursuing their vision

Again, ICN have reported on the above and the work that continues, day after day, towards peace. *Fiad Giacaman, co-president and head of the Citizenship and Diversity Program at the Arab Educational Institute, a member of Pax Christi International, promotes education, peace building and dialogue in the Palestinian cities of Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron.*

"We have three values in our teachings: faith, hope, and love-for God, for ourselves, for our neighbours and even for our adversaries," he said. "We believe in active faith, active hope, and active love to God and to others- and we give a sense of sumud, which means continuous steadfast resilience."

[Read the full article here.](#)



(Photo courtesy of Arab Educational Institute – Pax Christi)

A love letter to my Palestinian family around the world

Susan Muaddi Darraj wrote this piece through [Middle East Eye](#) on the 31st October. She says: - *We will not be erased. The Palestinian community is a family. And we will survive as families do, by consoling each other; by gifting each other the gentleness the world denies us.*

It is a poignant, heart-breaking read that just makes you realise what a cruel world we live in - and this was almost two weeks ago.

Bishops urge 'diplomatic efforts' for a ceasefire in Gaza

Ellen Teague and Ruth Gledhill wrote this piece for The Tablet on the 7th November which reported on the rallies that took place in the UK last weekend, calling for an end to the Israeli attacks on Gaza.

They write: - *The Bishops of England and Wales have urged the UK government, to make “diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire, the immediate release of all hostages and the facilitation of humanitarian aid so that desperately needed food, water, fuel, and medical supplies can be safely*

delivered into Gaza”.

In a statement on the Israel and Hamas war, released on Monday, Bishop Declan Lang, chair of the bishops’ conference international affairs department, and Bishop Nicholas Hudson, chair of the Holy Land Co-ordination, said, “We will continue to add our voice to the impassioned chorus calling for justice, peace, and the cessation of the suffering that has descended upon the Holy Land.”

They also report that a petition was handed into the Foreign Office by CAFOD, Christian Aid and other Agencies with over 300,000 signatures on, urging the Government to support a ceasefire to avoid further loss of life.

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

Silence is complicity

Palestinian Christian Munther Isaac, Dean of Bethlehem Bible College, says it how it is.

Basically, the world needs to wake up. Doing nothing is not an option.

Prayer for Peace

*God of peace, bearer of hope,
we seek your help
for the peoples of the Middle East.*

*Quiet the clamour of war
and guide us towards peace.*

*Where there is hatred and division
sow seeds of calm and openness.*

*Where there is destruction
help us to rebuild.*

*Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.*

*Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.*

*Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.*

Amen.

Linda Jones / CAFOD

5. Geoff Thompson RIP

Geoff Thompson, the NJPN Administrator for the last four years, passed away on the 1st November, after a very short illness. Geoff's funeral will take place at St. Wilfrid's Preston this coming Wednesday, 15th November, at 12.15pm. You can read the NJPN tribute to Geoff, and full details of his funeral, through our [website](#).

There is also a lovely tribute to him in St. Wilfrid's parish newsletter : - So sad to announce the death of Geoff on All Saints Day. Geoff edited the newsletter since we joined the parish in 2015. He chaired the Parish Council, ran the shop, organized trips to Hynning and Barmouth, provided meals at the drop-in and fantastic BBQs after 10.15 Mass, and worked in olive groves in Palestine. He also was a reader and Minister of the Eucharist. But above all he was a great friend and support to many people from this parish and many other places. Rest in Peace Geoff, and as one of his friends wrote 'A wonderful addition to heaven'.

Personally I still cannot get my head around the fact that at the last Conference he organised, back in 2022, I had a bit of a laugh with him in the restaurant as I congratulated him on his work getting it all set up - and he said to me "some day all this will be yours" - I believe I uttered an expletive that pretty much meant 'no way, you're not going anywhere.' Little did we know.

Rest in peace, Geoff, and thank you for your commitment and service.

6. Refugees/Migrants

From our Dioceses: Where is the Catholic Voice?

Hexham and Newcastle Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council have asked that this letter be shared. It has been written by Beverley Prevatt Goldstein, a local Activist.

Suella Braverman's speeches on September 26th and October 3rd, 2023, has been condemned by the United Nations Refugee Agency and challenged by politicians from every party including by her Conservative

Prime Minister and by innumerable charities, including Amnesty International, Action Aid, Human Rights Watch.

Her speeches, abound in information that is both incorrect and designed to encourage fear such as ‘the heightened levels of criminality connected to some small boats’ arrivals; the option of moving from a poorer country to a richer one is an entirely realistic option for billions of people’. Nevertheless, misinformation that dehumanises others, particularly from a Home Secretary, not only influences public opinion but has been shown to increase hate crime towards refugees and those associated with them. Her language: a ‘hurricane’ of asylum seekers, ‘multiculturalism has failed’ the Human Rights Act should be called the Criminal Rights Act resonates with that of Enoch Powell and will become more divisive, and full of hate if left unchallenged.

All it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.

We acknowledge that challenging cruelty and indifference to strangers is the duty of all and endorsed by every religion:

Whether Christian; “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Mathew 25, 31:40

Jewish: “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born, Leviticus 19:33-34.

Muslim: Do good... unto the neighbour who is a stranger... the wayfarer... Surah 4:36

Pope Francis has reinforced that it is the duty of all Catholics to challenge the ‘fanaticism of indifference’ and the ‘alarmist propaganda’ being demonstrated and to follow his lead in stating that “Those who risk their lives at sea do not invade, they look for welcome, for life” (23.09.2023).

We need to speak up and encourage others to do so.

This letter was written around a month ago, but given that Ms Braverman has been taken to task for her part in trying to stop the peaceful march in support of a ceasefire yesterday, and the words from Ahmed Masoud and Munther Isaac in the Palestine/Israel section above, it is as relevant today as it was then.

Please feel free to use it as you see fit.

JRS Christmas Card Appeal

Jesuit Refugee Service write: - *We would like to invite you to take part in this year's Christmas Card Appeal and help us to send a Christmas card and message of solidarity and support to all those supported by JRS. We hope that these messages might bring small bit of comfort, connection and encouragement at this time.*

To write a card, their top tips are : -

- 1. Use a friendly, generic initial address such as 'Dear Friend'.*
- 2. Some of those we accompany will be victims of torture or trafficking, others will have fled conflict zones or their homes to seek asylum in the UK, and all will be going through a difficult and isolating time. Your message should be one of solidarity and accompaniment for those who are going through this particularly difficult time.*
- 3. We meet and accompany people of all faiths and none, so don't assume your card will be received by a Catholic or Christian. We advise you not to include any overtly religious messages that could be alienating to someone depending on their faith or nationality.*
- 4. However, wishing someone a Merry Christmas or telling someone that you will remember them in your prayers is more than OK.*
- 5. Please don't include your full name or contact details in the card*

Cards should be sent to the JRS UK offices and we will distribute them in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Please leave your Christmas card envelopes unsealed and place them in a second sealed envelope to post them to JRS UK.

In order for us to distribute your card we will need to receive it by Friday 8th December.

Please send your cards to: JRS Christmas Cards 2023, JRS UK, The Hurtado Jesuit Centre, 2 Chandler Street, London, E1W 2QT.

If you have any questions or would like some more information, then please do get in touch: uk@jrs.net

Become a Grassroots Campaigner

Safe Passage are asking if we are ready to stand up for the rights of refugees. If so, why not join their band of Grassroots Campaigners, who fight for refugees and their right to asylum.

[More details are through their website.](#)

7. Baby Indi Gregory

Again, parents wishes have been over-ridden by the legal system in this country. This time in the case of Baby Indi, who is eight months old and suffers from a rare and incurable disease. The High Court in October decided that it would be in her best interests if she was taken off life support, despite a request from her parents to take her to the Vatican Children's Hospital in Rome.

In a last ditch attempt to help, the Italian Government have granted her Italian citizenship.

[Premier Christian News have written about the Pope offering prayers for Baby Indi.](#)

The Catholic Bishops have also issued a statement on Indi. It is available to read through the [CBCEW website.](#)

8. Rocket fuel, ripples and finding a voice

To commemorate Challenge Poverty Week, this podcast was released by Church Action on Poverty. They write: - *Listen to the experiences of four remarkable women as they discuss how they found their voice to speak out against issues important to them, the struggles they've had, but also what gives them hope for the future.*

"Hope is there to be found. It lies in our communities and it lies in our connections to each other..." - Sarah

[You can hear their podcast here \(through Spotify\).](#)

9. Government plan to criminalise street homelessness 'cruel beyond belief'

Jo Siedlecka, through ICN, reported this week on Suella Braverman's plan to propose new laws to limit use of tents by homeless people as she believes that many of them see it as a 'lifestyle choice.'

In the article, both Fr. Dominic Robinson, SJ, of Justice and Peace, Diocese of Westminster, and Mick Clarke, Chief Executive of The Passage, condemn the plans. Fr. Dominic stated: - *The guests we see at our services are not making a 'lifestyle choice' - rather they have no options left.*

[Read the full article here.](#)

10. The Story of Rony

Talitha Kum share the story of Rony from Bangladesh, who was offered a job in Saudi Arabia, and for ten years worked around 19 hours per day, standing on his feet and in which time didn't even get a minimum annual vacation.

The story has a happy ending for Rony, in the fact that Talitha Kum have helped him - but there must be thousands of people out there like Rony who haven't been so lucky. All because they needed to take work to support their families.

[Read the full details here.](#)

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)

11. NJPN NW E-Bulletin November 2023

Lots of interesting articles about the situation in the Holy Land, plus other

topical news. You can read it through the [NJPN website](#).

12. Pax Christi E-Bulletin November 2023

Some news on the conflict in the Holy Land, and details of their Advent Service. [Read it here](#).

13. Biofuelwatch November 2023

Details of their campaigns and policy updates. [Available here](#).

14. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Remembrance 2023

News, petitions, resources and future events. [Click here to read it](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

15. 13th November - 12.45 - 2pm - Southern Dioceses Environment Network

[Money](#) via zoom.

16. 15th November - 1pm - Trade Justice

[The future of trade: Trade Justice in a changing political landscape](#) (online)

17. 18th November - 10 am - Pact

[Northampton Just People Roadshow](#)

18. 18th November - 10.30am - 2.30pm - CAFOD

[Faith in Action Event](#) (online)

19. 18th November - 11am - 4pm - Christians Aware

Slavery: Then and Now - St. Clement's Church, Scarcroft Road, York
Tickets £10 each from martin.slater3@btopenworld.com

20. 18th November - 11am - 4pm - Just Money Movement

[Annual Conference - St. Barnabas Church, Erdington, Birmingham](#)

21. 18th, 25th November: 2nd, 9th 16th December - 11am - Christian Climate Action

Saturday Sessions via Zoom

22. 21st November - 2pm - 3pm - A Rocha

Big Green Vision

23. 21st November - 7.30pm - 9pm - NJPN

Networking Evening - details in News and Comments above

(email ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk for booking)

24. 22nd November - 7pm - Church Action on Poverty

Let's End Poverty - CAP's AGM - online

25. 25th November - 10am - 5pm - Climate Justice Coalition

We Make Tomorrow

26. 2nd December - 9am - 1pm - Pact

Just People Online Workshop

27. 2nd December - 2pm - Pax Christi

Advent Service and Alternative Fair, Holy Apostles Church, London SW1V 4LY

28. 3rd December- 5pm - 6pm - Positive Faith

World Aids Day Online Service

29. 5th December - 7pm - Pact

London Advent Carol Service

30. 7th December - 6pm - London Mining Network

Resisting Mining Book Club: Pluriverse

31. 13th December - 7pm - 9pm - NJPN/Christians Aware

Joint Webinar - Details to follow|

32. 26th - 28th January - Christians Aware

[Annual Conference - Hinsley Hall, Leeds](#)

33. 11th February - Church Action on Poverty Sunday

[Details here](#)

34. 17th February 2024 - Closing Date for Columbans Schools Media Competition

[More details available here.](#)

ACTIONS

35. Make big polluters pay for climate damage

Global Justice Now write: - Last year, the big five oil and gas companies collectively made a jaw-dropping profit of \$195 billion. This is a truly outrageous amount, all while people around the world are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and the harsh impacts of climate change. What's more, these same corporations – BP, Shell, Chevron, Total and ExxonMobil – have played an enormous role in causing climate change, often with full knowledge of the dangers, because of their massive emissions.

Movements from the global south are calling for countries with high historic carbon emissions, like the UK, to pay climate compensation for these impacts, known as 'loss and damage'.

A loss and damage fund was finally set up at COP27 last year, but now polluters need to be forced to pay into it.

We need to stand in solidarity with the global south in their demands. Tell the UK government to make polluters pay for loss and damage!

[Sign the petition to the Prime Minister here.](#)

The Last Word

36. Save the date

We have struggled with a few clashes this year, so if you can make a note of the dates that we have at the moment, we hope to avoid the same next year!



The poster features the J/P logo in red at the top left, followed by the text 'National Justice and Peace Network' in a red cursive font. Below this is the title 'Open Networking Days' in a bold, black, underlined font. A yellow sticky note with a red pushpin is pinned to the center, containing the handwritten text 'Save the Date'. The meeting schedule is listed below: 'Saturday 24 February 2024: Online meeting', 'Saturday 11 May 2024: Open meeting and AGM, London', and 'September and November meetings to be confirmed'. A paragraph of text explains that there will be an opportunity to hear about justice and peace activities from groups around the country, with representatives reporting on their work and suggesting practical ways of becoming involved in campaigning for social justice. At the bottom, there are two logos: the NJPN logo on the left, which consists of the letters 'NJPN' in large, bold, red font on a dark blue background, with the website 'www.justice-and-peace.org.uk' below it; and the National Justice and Peace Network logo on the right, which features a stylized 'J/P' in white on a colorful, multi-colored background, with the text 'NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE' above and 'NETWORK' below.

J/P National Justice and Peace Network

Open Networking Days

Save the Date

Saturday 24 February 2024: Online meeting

Saturday 11 May 2024: Open meeting and AGM, London

September and November meetings to be confirmed

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.

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NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE
J/P
NETWORK

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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 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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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>