MOUTH PEACE

Justice and Peace

WINTER 2026- 2027

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Editor writes: As I was putting this Mouthpeace together I looked back to Mouthpeace this time last year. Much of the content was similar. COP was just finishing with delays as the Parties tried to resolve their disagreements. Then as now there were retreats and resources for Advent, CAFOD Fun runs after Christmas and in the new year Peace Sunday and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity information.

But what a difference a year makes! There is one very noticeable difference. Last year there was NO mention Artificial Intellegence. This year there are several articles and webinars connected with AI. Pope Leo of course offered us his first encyclical 'Magnifica Humanitas' in May. CAFOD have provided a useful reflection on this (p.2). I found the Catholic Union webinar hosted by Catherine Pepinster helpful (p.11). The question we all seem to be asking and wondering is 'How will AI affect various aspects of our humanity?' The Columbans Schools Media Competition encourages young people to consider this with the theme: 'Staying human in the age of AI' and it will be interesting to see their views on this subject.



Perhaps the themes of Advent offer a clue?

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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury

ADVENT 2026

ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 11TH NJPN are organising an online VIGIL FOR ADVENT from 7pm - 10pm. The theme is **'A Place at the Table'**, exploring the ideas of inclusion, participation and community. Contact Ann Kelly membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk for the link to join.

ADVENT RESOURCES Anne O'Connor has again produced some excellent helpful resources including Advent booklets with weekly prayers and reflections for parish and/or individual use based on the traditional Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. There is also an Advent Service based on these themes. Both are available on the NJPN website https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/resources-for-advent-2026/ There are more Advent reflections in NW NJPN Justice and Peace E Bulletin November 2026 including a meditation and prayers by Rev'd Jon Swales https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/app/uploads/2026/10/NW-NJPN-Justice-and-Peace-E-Bulletin-November-2026-1.pdf

ADVENT RETREAT IN LIVERPOOL - ST. JOSEPH DREAMING OF A DIFFERENT WORLD

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 10am – 3 pm

at the Catholic Chaplaincy Liverpool University Catherine Street L8 7NI

Led by Sr Katrina Alton: National Chaplain to Pax Christi England & Wales.



This Advent, we turn to St Joseph – an often overlooked figure whose story offers a surprisingly radical vision of faith, discernment and prophetic action. A man attentive to the dreams that disrupted his expectations, Joseph chose solidarity over self-interest, courage over conformity and the protection of vulnerable life over obedience to the demands of power.

Faced with political violence and the threat of persecution, Joseph's response was not passive acceptance but decisive action. He listened, discerned and moved. His journey invites us to consider what prophetic discipleship looks like when faith demands that we resist injustice, challenge the status quo and place ourselves alongside those whose lives and dignity are threatened.

For those committed to Gospel nonviolence and the work of peace and justice, Joseph's story raises urgent questions. How do we cultivate the prophetic imagination to dream beyond the realities of the world as it is? Whose dreams and whose lives are we prepared to stand in solidarity with? Where might God be calling us to take risks, disrupt the logic of violence and embody an alternative vision of power, rooted in prayer, compassion, justice and human dignity?

Through prayer, theological reflection and shared conversation, we will explore Joseph as a companion in prophetic discipleship – inviting us to deepen our capacity to listen, to discern and to act courageously.
To book a place contact janharper20211@0outlook.com

As we look forward to the coming of Christ, journey with Embrace this Advent with a series of short video reflections from Revd Su McClellan, filmed in the West Bank, and inspired by this year's Advent devotional, A Stable Place. Receive each reflection straight to your inbox and make space for hope, prayer and reflection throughout the season. https://embraceme.org/sign-up-advent-reflections/#form-reflections

CAFOD's online Advent calendar 2026 of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family. Sign up for daily reflections straight to your inbox https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar

Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, **Magnifica Humanitas,** was released on 25 May 2026 and is all about what it means to be human in an age of artificial intelligence. Use CAFOD resources to find out more about this profound document and what it means for how we live our lives today. https://cafod.org.uk/pray/magnifica-humanitas-encyclical

CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUNS Join us on Monday 28 December 2026. This year, our Christmas Fun Run in Liverpool celebrates its 42nd year, and our much-loved Bollington event returns for its 16th year. Runners, walkers and spectators will once again come together to shake off the Christmas indulgence and make a difference in the world.
LIVERPOOL Register from 10am for 11 am start - Wavertree Sports Park, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE
BOLLINGTON 10 am Middlewood Way (viaduct next to St Gregory's Church), Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5JR

And if you can't make it in person, you can still join the festive fun with **our virtual Christmas Fun Run**! Wherever you are in the world, take part in this joyful event on your own, with friends and family, or alongside your parish community. Runners, walkers and spectators alike will come together to shake off the Christmas indulgence and make a difference in the world. More details: https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/challenge-events/run-for-cafod/christmas-fun-run
Email events@cafod.org.uk



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18 -25 January 2027
'Do not be afraid'

The prayers and reflections for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by representatives of the churches in Ireland. Although the island of Ireland is divided between two political jurisdictions, the churches represented by the Irish Council of Churches and the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference are organised on an all-island basis. The leaders of the churches meet regularly and, as a Church Leaders Group, engage with governments, public bodies and communities in order to bring the voice of the gospel into shared public discourse.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, the one who can be trusted to lead us on the good path of life towards lifegiving waters of abundance. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus models sacrificial leadership that moves towards the one sheep that has lost its way. In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus calls his followers out of fear and towards this life of radical trust, vigilant hope and responsible service. These teachings aren't meant for lone disciples but for a gathered community: a 'little flock' called to live, pray and work together. This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites us to explore what it means to be followers of the Good Shepherd: how letting go of fear and keeping watchful hearts become powerful catalysts for reconciliation and shared witness.
Dates : The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.
See for resources https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2027/

PAX CHRISTI

PREPARING FOR PEACE SUNDAY

Pax Christi's latest Justpeace newsletter helps with preparing in advnace for Peace Sunday in your parish. https://paxchristi.org.uk/just-peace/
Other resources include a Poster, a Liturgy Booklet with an introduction to the liturgy and readings for Peace Sunday, homily notes and bidding prayers, prayer cards to order (£3 for a pack of 50} a short video of Pope Leo and our President Bishop John Arnold's Peace Sunday letter to parishes All of these can be downloaded on https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2027/


Disarm technology to serve peace. *(Pope Leo)*

Pax Christi England and Wales joins UK-French call for Nuclear Disarmament

At a meeting on October 21st/22nd in Paris, a large coalition of Christian organisations agreed a joint statement on Nuclear Weapons. Together we're calling for renewed cooperation towards full nuclear disarmament.
Read the full statement here:
https://paxchristi.org.uk/pax-christi-ew-joins-an-uk-french-call-for-nuclear-disarmament/

Welcome Anna!



Fr Joe Ryan (Acting Chair) writes: I would like to announce that Anna Blackman has accepted the position of General Secretary of Pax Christi England and Wales. For many years Anna has been dedicated to peace-making and nonviolence inspired by Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching. She has been involved with Pax Christi Scotland, and now based in England is a member of Pax Christi England and Wales. Anna has most recently been a staff member of Glasgow University, lecturing in Catholic education; while there she has been involved with students, encouraging these young people into the peace movement, and into nonviolent witness for bridge-building. We wish Anna well in her new role, which she takes up in January 2027.



WORLD DAY OF PEACE (January 1st) AND PEACE SUNDAY IN UK (January 17th)

"Disarming Technology, Serving Peace: Politics as Preventive Responsibility".
By Alessandro Di Bussolo and Kielce Gussie (Vatican News August 11th 2026)

January 1, 2027 marks the 60th World Day of Peace. To celebrate this day, Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme, "Disarming Technology, Serving Peace: Politics as Preventive Responsibility", according to a press release from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.
Pope Leo wishes to draw attention to the moral responsibility of those called to serve in the public sphere, and he urges all people to uphold the dignity of the human person and to contribute to the building of peace, beginning by "disarming technology."

Recalling that "no algorithm can make war morally acceptable" (Magnifica Humanitas, 198), and warning of the risks involved in entrusting military decisions to artificial intelligence, Pope Leo makes a fervent appeal to the international community to foster shared agreements capable of safeguarding human responsibility and humanitarian principles in situations in which human life and peaceful coexistence among peoples are at stake.

Presenting the Encyclical At the presentation of his document on 25 May in the New Synod Hall—an unprecedented document in the history of the Church—the Pope had recalled that those nearly 200 pages were the fruit of reflection within the Holy See on new technologies and Artificial Intelligence, which today touches "many areas of our lives," influences decisions, and is "radically changing the way in which war is waged."

From all this emerged a conviction that Pope Leo himself described as "disturbing" and which provides the guiding thread of the encyclical: **"Artificial Intelligence must be disarmed."** "I know the word is strong," he acknowledged, "but it was deliberately chosen because this moment needs words capable of attracting attention, awakening consciences, and pointing humanity towards paths to follow."



Technology must not weaken our critical sense Pope Leo emphasized that, for some time, the Church has been committed to nuclear disarmament as a "service to peace and the dignity of the human family." In a similar sense, "artificial Intelligence now needs to be disarmed," because, "like nuclear energy, it must serve everyone and the common good." And "decisions about technology must never be separated from conscience and responsibility." In *Magnifica humanitas*, the Pope reflects on how peace, not merely the absence of war, is justice put into action. But when technology weakens our critical sense, peace itself is put at risk. Disarming, however, is not enough. We must build.

How to direct AI towards the common good Here the Pope recalled his experience during his years of missionary work in Peru, following the floods. There, he confided, "I learned that rebuilding does not simply mean replacing what has been destroyed. It means repairing bonds, restoring trust, and rekindling hope for the future. Moreover, no one rebuilds alone."

(continued on page5)

Only with such an integral vision can Artificial Intelligence be directed towards the common good. Only together—those who design the systems and those who bear their consequences, richer and poorer countries, institutions and individuals, centres of power and the peripheries—will we be able to build a future not for a privileged few, but for the entire human family.

Read about a personal encounter with Pope Leo as Father Bob Prevost on Page 6

CHRISTIAN C N D NEWS

CHRISTIAN CND BACKS CND'S 'PEOPLE NOT NUKES' CAMPAIGN

At Christian CND, we are proud to stand alongside CND in supporting the People Not Nukes campaign. As Christians, we are called to put people before possessions and to care for those in need. Jesus challenges our priorities directly when he says: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:40 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?"— Matthew 7:9



These words demand that we examine how we allocate our collective resources. Scrapping Britain's nuclear weapons system would release £240 billion over the next 30 years. At a time when households face real hardship and public services are stretched to breaking point, CND's report demonstrates how those funds could transform society by paying for 220,000 extra nurses, 3.7 million affordable homes, or installing solar panels on every home. For Christians, this is not merely an economic or defence debate. It is a moral statement about what kind of world we choose to build and who we choose to put first.

How you can get involved: Read the Report: https://cnduk.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/People-not-Nukes-Briefing-FINAL-web-friendly.pdf

Sign the Petition: https://cnduk.org/action-petition/stop-the-risk-of-nuclear-war/

Write to Your MP: Urge your representative to support redirection of military spending toward healthcare, green energy, and social relief. You can contact your MP directly via CND's action portal at https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/PeopleNotNukes

PRAYER MEETINGS ON LINE

Our Executive member Kelvin continues to host a monthly lunchtime prayer for peace and justice. Third Thursday of each month 1:00pm (UK time) Register for the lunchtime prayer here https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WZ3BSNFpTxmbMNKUeFA9Ig#/registration

Christian CND is now hosting one in five of the weekly Church and Peace Friday Night Peace Prayer Meetings. These prayer meetings have taken place every week since February 2022 and bring together Christians committed to peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence. Alongside Church and Peace, the gatherings are supported by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in England, Scotland and Wales (Cymdeithos y Cymod), and the Methodist Peace Fellowship. The prayer takes place every Friday on Zoom at 7:30 pm: Register here https:/ /us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckduCoqD4Ug9AngQGoHRbDdannig3_o89D#/registration



Welcome to Jane Robson who has joined the Christian CND Executive Committee following our AGM in October. Jane retired from full-time, paid Baptist ministry in 2026. Originally trained as an engineer, she worked for Jaguar Cars for many years before entering ministry. A regular attendee at Greenbelt, Jane joined CCND at our stand in 2025 after viewing the BBC documentary Atomic People. This moving film featuring the testimony of the Hibakusha - the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - convinced her of the vital importance of joining a movement campaigning for nuclear disarmament and peace'

SOME PERSONAL MEMORIES CALL ME "BOB"

Rozanne McCoy writes: I had lunch with Pope Leo twice in Ecuador in the summer of 1995 during my year abroad at university. As a young missionary and the first lay woman to be sponsored by the Liverpool Archdiocesan Missionary Project (LAMP), I worked six days at a youth charity called Senda Juvenil in Guayaquil. On Sundays, I would meet up with some Anglophone priests for lunch in the restaurant at the Hilton. Those priests were all based in Ecuador, but there was one Sunday when one of them brought a priest along with him who was based in Peru and was spending a couple of weeks with himat his parish in Guayaquil. That priest was called Father Robert Prevost. He had been spoken of highly by the other priests before his arrival, so I knew he was very well-regarded. For that reason, I asked him what I should call him when I was introduced to him, with the anticipated options in my mind being either Father Robert or Father Prevost. He simply said, "Bob."

I had arrived late the first time we met, and I remember Bob standing up to greet me and shaking my hand. He was a great conversationalist who told some funny stories and put me at ease as a 20-year-old woman in the company of priests. The second time we met was around the time of his 40 th birthday, although I was unaware of his age at the time. I recall how Bob asked me to go and work with him in Peru, an offer I turned down out of loyalty to LAMP and Senda. In retrospect, I regretted this decision. As Bob was due to return to Peru and we were saying our goodbyes, oneof the other priests told me to keep an eye out for him, as he would be Pope one day. Bob just smiled. And now here we are!

When he emerged on the balcony, I did not recognise Bob. The priests I used to have a club sandwich with on Sundays had become indistinguishable from each other in my mind. It was not until a few days later when I heard him speaking in English on the radio that I recognised his Chicago accent and realised who it was. I could not believe it! The memories above, and many more, came flooding back. Since then, I have sent him a couple of letters, and I went to a General Audience in Rome this summer. I think he saw me waving furiously at him from the crowd!

Editor: I met Rozanne at NJPN Conference in Swanick this year and loved her memories of the then Father Bob Prevost



WE ARE THE FUTURE! YOUNG PEOPLE OF LANCASTER DIOCESE TAKE ACTION

Ella Holiday writes: This weekend marked my 12th year being part of ACTION! Group with Terry, and I feel so blessed that I still get to be involved, 10 years after my first visit to Castlerigg Manor*. The weekends have always had a similar outcome, and watching it unfold is the best thing about coming back. Simone, who has joined us previously, told me that coming on the retreat 'builds our confidence', while Stephanie came 'to take new opportunities with new people'.

Every year, a group of young people aged between 13 and 17 are encouraged to work together, often with people they have never met before. Without fail, they get along, work together as one big group and openly discuss some of the world's most controversial and challenging topics. Ruby enjoys taking part because it 'helps us think about our future'. This year, one of the young people approached Terry and suggested the theme 'We are the FUTURE' for the weekend. Beth shared that 'the workshops were well planned and presented'.

The workshops, and the weekend itself, are entirely youth-led, with very little influence from the adult leaders. Flo said that she 'had lots of fun on the weekend and has really enjoyed leading a workshop because it gave her a sense of responsibility', while Grace said that she loves 'to meet new people and do new activities as a community'. The workshops covered everything from presentations to arts and crafts and games. Imogen said that these activities 'improve their team working skills', while Jess shared that 'she had fun doing the activities and meeting with friends'. Topics ranging from mental wellbeing and human rights to local community issues and world conflict were discussed. The young people spoke freely and openly about these issues, listening to one another and sharing their perspectives. Elizabeth said, 'We got to use our voice and understand the rights that we have'. (continued page 7)

On Saturday afternoon, the young people were given the opportunity to head into Keswick and enjoy some free time. Afterwards, we returned to Castlerigg for our evening Mass, led by Father Mark Connolly, Assistant National Chaplain of the YCW. He kept the young people at the centre of the celebrations, encouraging them to take the lead in the Mass. Phoebe said that taking part in the weekend, including the celebrations, 'was a good way to socialise with people we may not usually'.The young people are always so enthusiastic about what they get up to and keeping them involved in their own future is clearly very important to them. I am so impressed with our group, as were visitors, Sue and Anna, as well.

**Castlerigg is the Diocese of Lancaster retreat centre, and it's also the headquarters of the youth service.*

CELEBRATING CREATION

with the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Fran Wygladala writes: All 20 schools in the Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust (BEBCMAT), from across Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre, came together for a special Mass at English Martyrs Church, Hardhorn, Poulton, to celebrate the Jubilee Year and the legacy of St Francis of Assisi.

Every school played a part in the celebration, with pupils welcoming those attending, proclaiming the readings and bringing forward the gifts during the Offertory procession. Three schools also provided altar servers, ably led by Jasper from St Mary's. Fr Peter Sharrock celebrated the Mass for the Care of Creation, with Canon Chris Loughran and Fr Stephen Pearson concelebrating. The Mass focused on care for creation and marked 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. Schools were invited to share examples of how their communities care for creation through Branch 1, Creation and Covenant, of the new Religious Education Curriculum, and through enrichment activities inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'.



Each school took away an acorn and gift bag with items to remind them of the jubilee year. Helen O'Neill, CEO of BEBCMAT, said: "It was a very precious gift to see all our schools celebrating together at Mass and the wonderful representations shared of how each school is 'caring for creation' in their community".



"My sincere gratitude goes to everyone who attended, to Ruth for leading the music and to the clergy who celebrated the Mass, led by Fr Peter. It was lovely to see the Trust central team, governors, directors and parishioners present alongside the pupils and leaders of all our schools, and to hear the amazing singing and see our pupils so reverent in prayer."

A VISIT TO KENDAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP

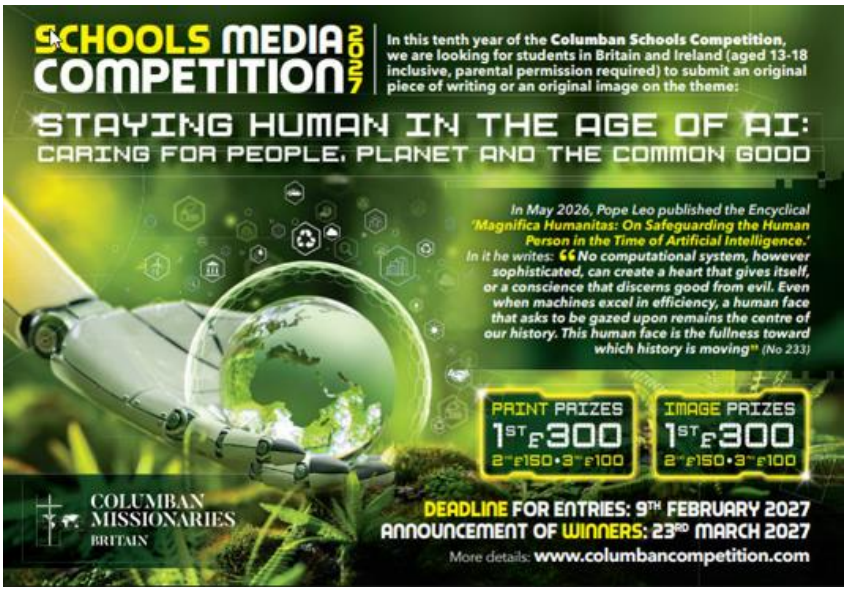
Sue Grubic writes: What a privilege it was to be invited to Kendal Environment Group by Rev Lucy Foster to talk about Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si 'in relation to caring for our common home. The weather was atrocious but the warm and welcoming company more than made up for it. This beautiful Gospel reflection preceded my presentation: Matthew 22:34-40 which brings us to Jesus's answer about the greatest commandment. Love God; love your neighbour.

There is nothing vague about a neighbour. A neighbour needs food, water, shelter, and safety. A neighbour can be harmed by decisions made a long way away, by people who will never meet them. We cannot claim to love that person while treating the water they drink or the air they breathe as expendable.

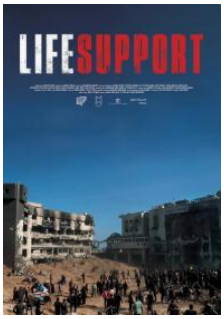
(continued page 8)

I do not think we need to pretend that Jesus uses the word 'neighbour' to mean a river or a bird. He is speaking about human relationships. But those relationships take place within the neighbourhood of creation. Our human neighbour's life depends upon soil, water, other species, and a habitable climate, as ours does. And other creatures are more than equipment for keeping human beings alive. The world Jesus enters is a world God loves.

That makes the language of love more demanding than it first sounds. It asks who is causing harm, who bears its cost, who gets to speak about it, and who gets to decide what happens next. It asks churches with resources to look at how they use them. It asks us to listen to people who know a particular river, farm, coast, or neighbourhood because they have lived there and cared for it. General goodwill will not settle those questions.

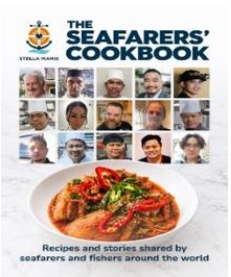


FILM and BOOKS

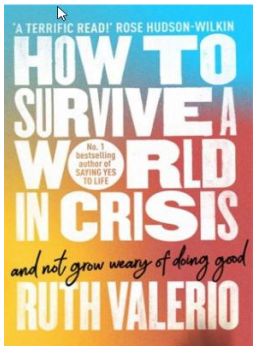


What happens when the people trying to save lives become witnesses to the destruction of an entire healthcare system? An important new documentary, **LIFE SUPPORT**, tells the stories of international doctors who have worked in Gaza over the past two years, bearing witness to the devastating impact of Israel's military campaign on patients, medical staff and hospitals. Directed by Daniele Rugo, the film brings together extraordinary firsthand testimony and footage from doctors working under almost unimaginable conditions: bombed hospitals, desperately limited medical supplies, starvation and an overwhelming number of casualties, many of them women and children. At a time when independent international media access to Gaza has been severely restricted, these doctors' accounts provide a vital record of what they have seen and experienced.

Live screenings around the country,some with Q & A sessions or you can watch online https://lifesupportfilm.co.uk/ Please note: The film contains distressing scenes, strong injury detail and images of people who have died. Certificate 15.



Discover the flavours and stories of life at sea with The Seafarers' Cookbook. Featuring recipes shared by seafarers and fishers from around the world, this collection celebrates the food that connects people to family, culture and one another. From galley favourites and comforting soups to dishes made for sharing and delicious desserts, every recipe comes with a personal story from the person who contributed it. There's plenty to discover as you explore Filipino, Korean, Turkish, Chinese and European food traditions, with easy-to-follow instructions to help you recreate these meals in your own kitchen. 100% of the profits from sales will support Stella Maris in providing practical, pastoral and spiritual support to seafarers, fishers and their families. (price £8.99 + £3.00 shipping) https://stellamaris.org.uk/product/cookbook/



Several years ago we met **Ruth Valerio** when she attended the NJPN Swanwick conference.

She writes about her new book: *'Our world feels like it's being pulled deeper into crisis – climate and ecological destruction, wars, political and community breakdown, social media overload… It can be easy to disengage, to despair of ever being able to make a difference and give up. But now more than ever we need to stay resilient and keep responding to the call of our Christian faith to work for justice, peace, social cohesion and the flourishing of the natural world.*

My new book aims to do exactly that: provide us with the tools to build resilience, sustain hope, care for wellbeing, and continue working for justice, reconciliation, and environmental renewal. I'm super-excited about this book. It was brewing in me for many years before I finally found the courage to sit down and write it

Now is not the time to give up but to keep going, working for good – rooted in the biblical vision of a renewed creation where justice, peace, and flourishing abound. It has been lovely starting to hear from people who have read it and I hope you too will find it encouraaging and inspiring. Do buy and read!'

£10.99 as paperback or ebook from
https://spckpublishing.co.uk/how-to-survive-a-world-in-crisis-and-not-grow-weary-of-doing-good-914

NB. Anne O'Connor suggests 3 books for Advent reading in the November NW Bulletin Pge 2 https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/app/uploads/2026/10/NW-NJPN-Justice-and-Peace-E-Bulletin-November-2026-1.pdf

GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY RENWEABLES LIMITED (GMCR) is a community benefit society, set up and run by volunteers to install community-owned renewable energy across Greater Manchester. We raise funds to install solar panels on schools and community buildings, helping them save money, reduce their carbon footprint, and inspire children and the community to learn about energy and climate change.

Since founding in 2016, we have raised over £900,000 in community investment. This has funded the installation of solar panels at 11 sites across the region, totalling 826 kW solar capacity, with a further 2 sites in progress. For more details of the project including a map of the sites see https://www.gmcr.org.uk/



In July local MP and green energy champion Afzal Khan visited our newest site, the Divine Mercy RC Primary in Moss Side, Manchester. Mr Khan met with the school's eco warriors to hear about the actions they're taking to make the site more sustainable such as their on-site composting system for lunchtime food waste. After that we took Mr Khan onto the roof to see the new solar panels in situ.

WRITE A LETTER, CHANGE A LIFE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Imagine being locked away, alone, not knowing if anyone cares where you are. Now imagine receiving a letter from someone, telling you they believe in you. That's what real letters can do: bring hope to people in the direst of situations. When letters arrive in huge numbers, they are also an unmistakable reminder to prison authorities and others that the world is watching.

Every year, Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign brings together people from around the world to fight injustice and support people whose human rights are under threat. Over the past few years your actions have made a real difference to people's lives. From Zimbabwe to Guatemala to Kyrgyzstan, activists have been freed and justice has been served. Join this year's campaign and become part of a community working to make the world a more just and compassionate place. https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/

CATHOLIC APPROACHES TO MINING

In October 2025, the Laudato Si Research Institute (LSRI) at Campion Hall, Oxford, and US-based Notre Dame University's Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) together published Catholic Approaches to Mining: A Framework for Reflection, Planning, and Action. The document, co-sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, intends to help Church leadership and Catholic organisations to harness their capacity to respond to problems associated with mining and bring hope to affected communities.

A series of case studies was then commissioned to show examples of successful Church action on mining. The case studies come from Peru, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Philippines, Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Nicaragua. In collaboration with the Jesuits' Justice in Mining Network, LSRI and CDN are hosting a series of online webinars with case study authors presenting their stories and engaging in discussion about lessons learned, best practices, and other experiences.

The first webinar took place Wednesday, 18 November, and focused on the Andes region. Three cases studies were considered. Youy can read much more about these https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/56337

Further webinars will consider case studies from the Amazon, Central America, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Philippines. **The next webinar will be on Tuesday 1st December at 4pm UK time.** Register here: https://lsri.campion.ox.ac.uk/events/lessons-amazon-and-central-america-case-studies- catholic-approaches-mining

THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

Marian Thompson writes: Over 10 years ago 195 Parties meeting in Paris at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) signed a legally binding international treaty on climate change. This Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016. Currently, as of 27 January 2026, there are 194 Parties to the Paris Agreement. Part of the agreement was to inform the public about the threats of climate change. But sucessive politicians have ignored this.

On 27 November 2025, ten of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of more than 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media in the Central Hall, Westminster. The briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy, and did so on public record. Its purpose was to demonstrate what a clear, evidence-led national emergency briefing could look like and why it is needed.

From this evolved **The People's Emergency Briefing**, a new film aimed at enhancing public awareness of climate and environmental risks. The film had its national release on April 7, 2026, and has been shown at a series of community-led screenings throughout the country. Those hosting are asked to organise a discussion afterwards which amongst other things encourages those present to spread the word and to write to their MP. This seems to have happened as people seeing the film do feel more people should see it and try to arrange a screening locally.

You can see the experts speaking here: https://www.youtube.com/@nebriefing

On a personal note: I went to watch a screening in Macclesfield as past of the Season of Creation events in September. I did put my hand up with most other people at the end when asked if we would write to our MP. But living 10 miles away in Marple I have a different MP. Neverthelkess I wrote to her and received a luke warm letter back – she is at presnet very concerned about the state of our local hospital. I also started asking about putting on a loc al screening. But someone beat me to this and used the local Marple Cinema. I then received a much more positive letter from my MP and do wonder if others had written to her and made her think again. The film is being shown in future in two local churches. It is good it is indeed briefing more and more people.



HOW AI CAN ENHANCE HUMAN EXPERIENCE RATHER THAN LESSEN IT.

The Catholic Union held a well-attended webinar on Monday 19 October to explore this topic. Chaired by Catherine Pepinster, journalist, attendees heard from Fr Michael Baggot(Associate Professor of Bioethics at the Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum), Andrea Cabanas (Chair of Catholics in Tech) and Sam Monaghan (Chief Executive of Methodist Homes Association).

Father Michael focused on three main areas: healthcare, education and evangelisation. Sam Monaghan drew on practical experience of AI tools used in care homes and the importance of safeguards in terms of proliferate, operational realities and ethics. Andrea said that our real meaning, as children of God, makes us secure and that we have the opportunity to use AI to build technologies for the good of humanity.

Following some short presentations, Catherine steered the conversation to a thoughtful discussion, weaving in questions from attendees. The panel concluded that products of artificial intelligence do not have the same goals, needs and values as human beings, but they can be used as collaborative tools under the guidance of humans.

Father Michael encouraged priests to use any number of tools, including AI where appropriate, to find resources that enable exploration of different perspectives that help bring to prayer, reflection and discern what message from the body of wisdom is most appropriate for his congregation at a point in time. He warned that AI was not a replacement for a priest's own prayer and reflection. In a similar way, he said that educators needed to think not only about the products, but also the process their students employed and perhaps develop different forms of evaluation rather than all written based work.

Sam Monaghan said that fundamentally people needed care from other people, but that AI had been shown to be beneficial for a number of administrative tasks and also spoke of Paincheck, an AI powered digital medical device used in care homes to evaluate pain. He emphasised the need for continuous review and overview of safeguards.

Andrea spoke about the need to hold companies accountable and find ways to make environmentally sustainable means. The good of our common home not simply for profit. She also discussed how AI was business driven and if we wanted to seek to make the best use and curb the worst excesses of it there was a huge moral challenge.

The Catholic Union thanks the panellists for their time, insight and expertise. A recording of the webinar can be seen https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFd2__T8s3c



Friday March 5th 2027 World Day of Prayer Centenary Year

Formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer this global, women-led ecumenical movement calls us to celebrate the past 100 years. But this isn't only about looking back. It's about asking an exciting question: What could the next 100 years look like, and what part could you play in shaping them? The 2027 service has not been prepared by the women of one particular country but leaves it open for us to celebrate in what ever way seems appropriate to us.

There is a history of the last 100 years plus suggestions of how to be involved in the Challenge 100
https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2027-challenge-100/#

DIARY

DECEMBER 2026

1 Laudato Si Research Institute (LSRI) webinar on mining 4 pm (UK time) see page 10

5 Pax Christi Retreat in Liverpool - 'St Joseph dreaming of a different world ' 10 -3 pm More details and booking Page 2

10 Merseyside Pax Christi Meeting: 2.00pm at Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool. L1 3BT
New members welcome. Contact Jan Harper 07591082195 janharper20211@outlook.com

10 Human Rights Day - About Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials
See: https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/everyday-essentials

11 NJPN Advent Vigil on line see page 2

28 CAFOD Christmas Fun Runs – Bollington, Liverpool and Virtual page 3

JANUARY 2027

1 World Day of Peace see pages 4 & 5

14 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 2 -4 pm. Venue, Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT

All welcome Contact Jan Harper 07591 082 195 janharper20211@outlook.com

17 Peace Sunday see pages 3, 4 and 5

18 -25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme ' Do not be afraid' see page 3

FEBRUARY

9 Deadline for entries for Columban Schools Media Competition page 8

10 ASH WEDNESDAY Merseyside Pax Christi will hold a Walk of Witness through Liverpool City Centre.
contact Jan Harper 07591 082 195 janharper20211@outlook.com nearer the time for more details

11 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 2-4 pm See December 10 above

MARCH

5 World Day of Prayer 'United in Prayer for Justice and Peace' Centenial year see page 11

11 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 2-4 pm .. See January 9 above

23 Announcement of winners of Columban Schools Media Competition page 8

28 Easter Sunday

EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

National Justice and Peace Network https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/

Independent Catholic News https://www.indcatholicnews.com/

NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/