

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## POPE FRANCIS AT CANONISATION OF ROMERO, PAUL VI, AND FIVE MORE SAINTS

**Source: Vatican Media/ICN** 14 October 2018

Pope Francis declared Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero saints this morning, together with five other lesser-known Blesseds: Francesco Spinelli, Vincenzo Romano, Maria Caterina Kasper, Nazaria Ignazia of Saint Teresa of Jesus, and Nunzio Sulprizio.

Under a clear blue sky, addressing tens of thousands of people who had travelled from all over the world to attend the Canonisation Mass in St Peter's Square, the Holy Father said the saints who Pope Francis canonized today, "in different contexts, put today's Word into practice in their lives, without lukewarmness, without calculation, with the passion to risk everything and to leave it all behind. May the Lord help us to imitate their example."

In his homily, Francis mentioned in particular Paul VI, who "spent his life for Christ's Gospel, crossing new boundaries and becoming its witness in proclamation and in dialogue, a prophet of a Church turned outwards, looking to those far away and taking care of the poor. Even in the midst of tiredness and misunderstanding, Paul VI bore witness in a passionate way to the beauty and the joy of following Christ totally. Today he still urges us, together with the Council whose wise helmsman he was, to live our common vocation: the universal call to holiness".

The Pope also had some words also for the martyr, Abp. Romero: "who left the security of the world, even his own safety, in order to give his life according to the Gospel, close to the poor and to his people, with a heart drawn to Jesus and his brothers and sisters".

Breaking from the prepared text, he also dedicated some words to Nunzio Sulprizio, "our young, courageous, humble saint, who knew how to love Jesus with his whole self".

The homily was an invitation to follow the same path of the saints, taking as a starting point today's gospel (Mark 10, 17-30), that of the rich young man who refuses to follow Jesus. The young man "is seeking life without end, life in its fullness: who of us would not want this? Yet we notice that he asks for it as an inheritance, as a good to be obtained, to be won by his own efforts." Instead, "Jesus proposes to him a story of love. He asks him to pass from the observance of laws to the gift of self, from doing for oneself to being with God. And the Lord suggests to the man a life that cuts to the quick: "Sell what you have and give to the poor...and come, follow me" (V 21).

"Jesus is radical. He gives all and he asks all: he gives a love that is total and asks for an undivided heart. Even today he gives himself to us as the living bread; can we give him crumbs in exchange? We cannot respond to him, who made himself our servant even going to the cross for us, only by observing some of the commandments. We cannot give him, who offers us eternal life, some odd moment of time. Jesus is not content with a "percentage of love": we cannot love him twenty or fifty or sixty percent. It is either all or nothing".

The Pope then proposed an examination of conscience: "Let us ask for the grace always to leave things behind for love of the Lord: to leave behind wealth, the yearning for status and power, structures that are no longer adequate for proclaiming the Gospel, those weights that slow down our mission, the strings that tie us to the world. Without a leap forward in love, our life and our Church become sick from "complacency and self-indulgence" (*Evangeliu Gaudium*, 95): we find joy in some fleeting pleasure, we close ourselves off in useless gossip, we settle into the monotony of a Christian life without momentum, where a little narcissism covers over the sadness of remaining unfulfilled".

Outside this momentum there is only attachment to riches and sadness. He said "if our hearts are crowded with goods, there will not be room for the Lord, who will become just one thing among the others. For this reason, wealth is dangerous and - says Jesus - even makes one's salvation difficult. Not because God is stern, no! The problem is on our part: our having too much, our wanting too much suffocates our hearts and makes us incapable of loving". The Pope continued: "Sadness is the proof of unfulfilled love, the sign of a lukewarm heart. On the other hand, a heart unburdened by possessions, which freely loves the Lord, always spreads joy, that joy for which there is so much need today."

Before the Angelus prayer, at the conclusion of the Mass, Francis greeted all those present, in particular Rowan Williams and the delegation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Among the political personalities, he greeted "Queen Sofia (of Spain), the President of the Italian Republic, the presidents of Chile, El Salvador and Panama". The ceremony was also attended by the vice-president of the Republic of China (Taiwan), the Catholic Chen Chien-jen, who also had a personal audience with the pontiff.

**Watch the Canonisation Mass on Youtube:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug5amN7XWVA&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ug5amN7XWVA&feature=youtu.be)

**Read Pope Francis' homily in full:** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35801>

## FINAL HOMILY OF ST OSCAR ROMERO & AUDIO

**Source: Oscar Romero Trust/CAFOD** 14 October 2018

Archbishop Romero celebrated Mass on 24 March 1980, for the first anniversary of the death of Sara Meardi de Pinto, mother of Jorge Pinto, publisher and editor of *El Independiente*, a weekly newspaper that was one of the few voices for justice and human rights in El Salvador. The Mass began at about 6pm, in the chapel of the Divine Providence cancer hospital, in San Salvador.

This homily was translated by Michael J Walsh and appears in *Voice of the Voiceless*, Orbis Books: Maryknoll, New York, 1985.

The Gospel reading was John 12:23-26: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains infertile. But if it dies, it produces a great yield. Those who love their own life lose it; those who hate themselves in this world will be preserved for life eternal. Let whoever wants to serve me, follow me; and my servant will be where I am. Whoever serves me will be rewarded by my Father."

"Because of what Jorgito has written in today's editorial in *El Independiente*, I have some understanding of his filial emotions on the anniversary of his mother's death. In particular, I can glimpse her noble spirit, how she placed all of her refined education, her graciousness, at the service of a cause that is so important today: our people's true liberation.

My dear brothers and sisters, I think we should not only pray this evening for the eternal rest of our dear Doña Sarita, but above all we should take up her message, which every Christian ought to give intense life to. Many do not understand, and they think Christianity should not get involved in such things. But, to the contrary, you have just heard Christ's Gospel, that one must not love oneself so much as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life which history demands of us, that those who would avoid the danger will lose their life, while those who out of love for Christ give themselves to the service of others will live, like the grain of wheat that dies, but only apparently. If it did not die, it would remain alone. The harvest comes about because it dies, allows itself to be sacrificed in the earth and destroyed. Only by destroying itself does it produce the harvest.

From her place in eternity, Doña Sarita wonderfully confirms the message of the following passage from Vatican II, which I have chosen on her behalf. It says: "We do not know when the earth and humanity will be consummated, nor do we know how the universe will be transformed. This world's present state, deformed by sin, is to pass away. But God teaches us that He is preparing a new dwelling place and a new earth where justice dwells and whose blessedness will fulfil and surpass all the longings for peace which spring up in the human heart. Then, when death has been overcome, God's children will arise in Christ. What was sown as something weak and corrupt will be clothed with incorruptibility. Charity and its fruits will endure, and all the creatures that God created with human beings in mind will be free of the bondage of futility."

We are warned that it profits one nothing to gain the whole world and lose oneself. Nevertheless, the expectation of a new earth must not weaken but rather stimulate our concern for perfecting this earth, where the body of the new human family grows, a body that even now is able in some way to foreshadow that new age. And so, to the extent that temporal progress can contribute to the better ordering of human society, it is of serious concern for the kingdom of God, even though temporal progress must be carefully distinguished from the growth of Christ's kingdom.

For after we have spread the benefits of human dignity, brotherhood and freedom across the earth in the Lord's Spirit and following his command, we shall rediscover all those good effects of our nature and of our efforts, but clean of every stain, brightened and transfigured. Then Christ will hand over to the Father "an eternal and universal kingdom: a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace" (Preface from the Mass of Christ the King). "On this earth that kingdom is already present in mystery. When the Lord returns, its perfection will be accomplished" (*Gaudium et Spes*, No. 39).

This is the hope that inspires us Christians. We know that every effort to better a society, especially one that is so enmeshed in injustice and in sin, is an effort that God blesses, that God desires, that God demands of us. And when one finds generous people, like Sarita, and her thought incarnated in Jorgito and in all those who work for these ideals-one must try to purify them, of course, Christianise them, clothe them with the hope of what lies beyond. That makes them stronger, giving us the assurance that all that we work at on earth, if we nourish it in a Christian hope, will never be a failure. We'll find it in a purer form in that kingdom where our merit will be in what we have worked at here on earth.

I think that to aspire is not without purpose at a time of hope and struggle, on this anniversary. We remember with gratitude that generous woman who was able to sympathise with the concerns of her husband and of her son and of all who work for a better world, and who added her own part, her grain of wheat, in her suffering. Beyond a doubt, this will guarantee that her heavenly reward will be in proportion to that sacrifice and understanding, which many lack at this moment in El Salvador.

I beg you all, dear brothers and sisters, let us look at these matters at this moment in our history with this hope, with this spirit of giving, of sacrifice, and let us do what we can. We can all do something, at least have a sense of understanding. The holy woman we remember today could not do many things directly perhaps, but she could encourage those who can work, could sympathise with their struggle, and above all could pray.

Even after her death, she sends a message from eternity that it is worthwhile to labour, because all those longings for justice, peace and wellbeing that we experience on earth become realised for us if we enlighten them with Christian hope. We know that no one can go on forever, but those who have put into their work a sense of very great faith, of love for God, of hope among human beings, find it all results in the splendours of a crown that is the sure reward of all who labour thus, spreading truth, justice, love and kindness on the earth. It does not remain here, but, purified by God's Spirit, is harvested for us and given us for our reward.

This holy Mass, the Eucharist, is itself an act of faith. With Christian faith we know that at this moment the wheaten host is changed into the body of the Lord who offered himself for the world's redemption and in that chalice the wine is transformed into the blood that was the price of salvation. May this body immolated and this blood sacrificed for humans nourish us also, so that we may give our body and our blood to suffering and to pain-like Christ, not for self, but to impart notions of justice and peace to our people. Let us, then, join together intimately in faith and hope at this moment of prayer for Doña Sarita and for ourselves." (At this moment the fatal shot struck Archbishop Romero)

**Hear the last 50 seconds of this homily and the assassin's shot:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM7MTfJVYwM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM7MTfJVYwM)

**Read more homilies and writings by St Oscar Romero here:** [www.romerotrue.org.uk/homilies-and-writings](http://www.romerotrue.org.uk/homilies-and-writings)  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35804>

**Frank Regan comments:** I note with shame the defrocking of two Chilean bishops for abuse of minors. Despite that bad sad news, there is some good news. Today in Rome the Pope canonises Archbishop Oscar Romero. St Oscar died of a bullet wound to the chest as he celebrated Mass. The Pope today will wear the blood stained cincture Romero was wearing that day. It is the first time in Church history that martyrdom for the faith which does justice is being recognised. Here in the UK we have Thomas à Becket who died defending the rights of the church. Romero died defending the rights of the poor. It is true that much institutional religion gives God a bad name. But every 'while in a once' faith and fidelity rhyme.

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP MARK O'TOOLE OF PLYMOUTH

*This Pastoral Letter was read out in the Churches and Chapels of the Diocese of Plymouth on the weekend 29/30 September:*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, We have all been deeply sickened to hear of the most recent catalogue of historic abuse of the young and the vulnerable. Such devastating acts against the innocent are particularly horrifying when they have occurred in a Church context. It is heart-breaking to hear of the failures of clergy in particular - deacons, Religious, priests, bishops and a cardinal.

The words from today's Gospel hit hard; "Anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones, who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck". I was struck, too, by yesterday's Feast of the Great Archangels - Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, especially St Michael, who is the strong Defender of goodness in the face of great evil. As we hear accounts from victim survivors of this terrible abuse, we know we need to call on the strength of St Michael to bring this evil out into the light. We must allow the truth to be told. It is important to recognise that the procedures we have adopted these past years are a vehicle to build trust anew. Decisions regarding these matters are now not overseen by Bishops in the Church in England and Wales, and have not been so, since the Nolan principles of 2001. Every diocese has an Independent Safeguarding Commission, and compulsory reporting of suspected criminal behaviour is mandatory for all of us.

No doubt, we will continue to hear accounts of historic failures. There is still much to do and I want to thank all those who work so hard in our diocese, to ensure our parishes, schools, and communities are safe places for all, especially the most vulnerable. Yet beyond the protocols, we are all aware of the people who have suffered and who continue to suffer. First among these are the victim-survivors of abuse. To anyone who carries this burden or who has been hurt in any way, I say how sorry I am. Please let us know if there is any more we can do. I think also of many of you for whom these latest revelations cast a dark shadow over your own faith, and of the vast majority of good deacons, priests and bishops who carry the burden of the failures of their colleagues with a particularly heavy heart.

How can we all continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at this moment? There are two things I would like to suggest. Firstly, we must do so with great humility and with a very deep awareness of the wrongs that have happened. This wound affects the whole Church. We know some bishops, and others, have failed to respond adequately. St. John of the Cross said, "Where you do not find love, pour love in and you will draw love out." And in what we have come to know, there is a huge lack of love and the abuse of those seeking love. For this reason, I am asking the deacons and priests to come together in the three counties of the diocese to pray together in services of penitence and healing. If you felt able to join us, I would be very grateful. I will be sending out details of this in due course.

Secondly, in the face of this evil, grave moral failure, the lack of virtuous leadership, cover-ups and other such scandalous behaviour, we must take comfort from the Gospel and renew our own deep following of the Lord. In St John's Gospel, when some of His disciples had stopped following Him, Jesus said to Peter, "And you, too, will you also leave?" With St Peter, do we not also want to reply, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Only you have the message of eternal life." We ask the Lord to help us remain steadfast. Within the struggle and pain of this time, it is to Him that we turn and seek the renewal, the healing and the purification that only He can give, for the reform of His Church.

Please pray for me.

Yours devotedly, Rt Rev Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35730>

## YOUTH SYNOD FOCUSES ON SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

**Russell Pollitt SJ** 9 October 2018 **Source: Vatican Media**

Three participants at the Synod of Bishops on Youth attended the daily press briefing on Monday and addressed the two issues of the sexual abuse of minors and the role of women in the Church. These included Maltese Archbishop Charles Scicluna, auxiliary bishop of Lyon, France, Emmanuel Gobilliard and Italian author Mr Thomas Leoncini. After offering their impressions of the Synod, two issues were addressed: the sexual abuse of minors and the role of women in the Church.

Archbishop Scicluna opened the briefing by saying that he was touched by the very vocal presence of 30 young people at the Synod who, at times, reacted vociferously to what they heard. He said that this gives the bishops a good indication of what is expected of them. Bishop Gobilliard said that the young people reminded the bishops that they are part of the Church and showed them the "pathway" to preach the Gospel more authentically. Mr Leoncini said that Pope Francis was, for many young people, the greatest leader amongst leaders and that they really felt listened to and accompanied by him. He said that the Synod has shown him that the Church is not fearful to ask questions that seek radical answers.

Archbishop Scicluna addressed abuse directly. He said that the comments made last week by Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Melbourne were an important "mea culpa" which captures the sense of all the Synod Fathers. He said that young people are searching for an authentic Church and that every working group at the Synod has touched on this issue. Stressing the need for action, he said that bishops must be accountable not only to God but also to their people. "Stewardship is the word, protection is the word," Archbishop Scicluna said. He added that he had cried with victims many times. The archbishop said that when he meets with victims they are often no longer young. "It pains me that justice takes so long. This is also very painful to Pope Francis". He said that he is a direct witness of how Pope Francis suffers because justice seems to be so slow.

Bishop Gobilliard said that it was better for sin to be revealed than hidden because this enables victims to begin the healing process and helps the Church to deal with it. He said that the situation of abuse is one that the Church is ashamed of. It was important for the bishops to count on young people's accompaniment so that this issue is dealt with in formation and in places like seminaries. The bishop also remarked that because the Church has faced this scandalous behaviour it does not mean that there should be restraint from talking about this important aspect of being human.

Speaking about the role of women in the Church, Mr Leoncini said that the small group he was in spoke extensively about women's rights -- recognising that this also differed from culture to culture. Bishop Gobilliard commented that many women were responsible for active participation in local Churches and this is an important fact that must be acknowledged. Archbishop Scicluna said that the role of women is an important issue that the Holy Father has been vocal about. He said that the Church needs to listen closely to women and give them more important leadership roles. Pope Francis, the archbishop said, has already called for this in the Curia. He also said that it is very important that women are empowered in local Churches.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35771>

## CHRISTIAN AID WARNS UK GOVERNMENT NOT TO 'PLAY POLITICS' WITH AID

**Source: Christian Aid** 9 October 2018

Christian Aid has today warned the UK Government not to "play politics" with overseas aid in a way that harms the poorest.

Responding to the speech this morning by Penny Mordaunt, the Secretary of State for International Development, which was briefed to *The Sun* newspaper, the charity said that "progress does not always involve 'win-wins'", adding that the suggestion that private sector investments could replace rather than supplement public aid and still be effective at addressing poverty is "wrong". Any attempts to play politics with the aid budget, said Christian Aid, "will raise questions about how aid policy is being developed and in whose interests".

Christine Allen, director of policy and public affairs at Christian Aid, said: "Public development aid has a vital role to play when it comes to eradicating poverty and meeting the world's sustainable development goals (SDGs) in a way that leaves no one behind. Publicly funded support for the most vulnerable is a hallmark of a civilised society.

"Private investment is also needed but is much less likely to reach the most vulnerable communities in the poorest countries. Suggesting that private sector investments, which have to make a return for investors, could replace rather than supplement public aid and still be effective at addressing poverty is wrong. It is also dangerous, as it risks increasing debt levels in many developing countries and leaving vulnerable communities at the mercy of global markets, and is less likely to ensure that money is spent in a way that tackles climate change.

"Aid has been marred for years by donor countries putting their own priorities, and those of private sector actors, ahead of the needs of the countries and people who should benefit from that aid. This distorts the purpose of aid and while there may be some areas of overlapping interests, progress does not always involve 'win-wins'. It would be wrong to play politics with aid in a way that harms the poorest. Any attempts to do so will raise questions about how aid policy is being developed and in whose interests.

"The UK's contribution to fighting inequality must be rooted in global solidarity and the principle of self-determination, not be a renewed form of imperialism." <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35774>

## A JOURNEY OF HOPE - A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO SENTENCING REFORM

'*A Journey of Hope*' is a document offering a Catholic approach to sentencing reform. Drawing upon the legal, political, and academic insight of a range of experts, as well as input from those who have worked in the prison service, this report sets out some meaningful ways in which sentencing policy can be reformed in England and Wales. "Despite evidence that community sentences are more effective, many people who have committed nonviolent crimes are still sent to custody for short sentences that only serve to disrupt their lives. Meanwhile over the last decade, the average lengths of medium-to-long term prison sentences for the same offences have actually increased leaving more people locked up for longer. All this has created an unsustainable prison population in a custodial estate which cannot possibly provide a safe, decent or rehabilitative environment. Put simply we are locking up far too many people than we can reasonably care for or help to turn their lives around." - Bishop Richard Moth, Lead Bishop for Prisons

***A Journey of Hope: A Catholic Approach to Sentencing Reform*** will be available for download on Thursday 18 October at: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Advocacy/Prisons/Sentencing-Reform>

## NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARDED TO CONGOLESE DOCTOR AND YAZIDI WOMAN

**Source: Vatican Media/Pax Christi** 8 October 2018

This year's Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Congolese Dr Denis Mukwege and Yazidi-Iraqi Nadia Murad who was held captive by IS/Daish, for their work against sexual violence in armed conflicts. The Norwegian Nobel Committee made clear it wanted to send a special message about sexual violence with this year's Nobel Peace Prize. It said on 5 October, that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2018 was awarded to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad "for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict." Both laureates, it said, "have made a crucial contribution to focusing attention on, and combating, such war crimes."

The Nobel Committee said there were good reasons to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Dr Mukwege and Murad, who was named the United Nations first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking. "Denis Mukwege is the helper who has devoted his life to defending these victims." The 63-year old Dr Mukwege founded a hospital in Eastern Congo and treated thousands of women, many of whom were victims of gang rape. He also provides HIV/AIDS treatment as well as free maternal care. Although the Second Congo War, which killed more than five million people, formally ended in 2003, violence remains rampant, with militias frequently targeting civilians. Dr Mukwege's hospital was the subject of threats, and in 2012 his home was invaded by armed men who held his daughters at gunpoint, shot at him and killed his bodyguard.

The Nobel Committee also noted the bravery of his fellow Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad, saying that she tackled sexual violence by speaking about her experiences in Iraq. "Nadia Murad is the witness who tells of the abuses perpetrated against herself and others. Each of them in their own way has helped to give greater visibility to war-time sexual violence so that the perpetrators can be held accountable for their actions."

Murad is an advocate for the Yazidi minority in Iraq and for refugee and women's rights in general. She was enslaved and raped by Islamic State fighters in Mosul, Iraq, in 2014. She isn't alone: an estimated 3,000 Yazidi girls and women who were victims of rape and other abuses by Islamic militants. She managed to escape after three months and chose to speak about her experiences. Murad was only 23 when she was named the UN's Goodwill Ambassador and her book, *'The Last Girl'* tells of her captivity, the loss of her family and her eventual escape. Last year Nadia Murad met Pope Francis, who expressed deep concern about sexual violence and other atrocities. During that conversation at the Vatican, she sought spiritual support for the suffering of her people and thanked him for having spoken out about crimes not just against Christians but also against other ethnic and religious minorities, including the Yazidi.

Pax Christi International said in a statement: 'Pax Christi International congratulates Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, recipients of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for their courageous work to end sexual violence against women as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Their heartbreaking witness and their stories about the devastating reality of victims of sexual violence have moved many people around the world, raising greater concern and attention at international policy levels for these grave abuses.'

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee has rightly chosen to highlight the widespread phenomenon of sexual violence in situations of war and armed conflict, which is taking place globally and causing severe and damaging consequences for its many victims: women, men, boys and girls, as well as their families and whole communities. Often victims are afraid to speak out and, if they do so, perpetrators are not held accountable, despite sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict constituting a war crime under international criminal law and a violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Around the world, Pax Christi members and partners are faced with this reality on the ground in their work with communities. Pax Christi International fervently hopes that this Nobel Peace Prize will give the international community stimulus to undertake more decisive action and provide more funding for the prevention of sexual violence in situations of war and armed conflict as well as for the protection, assistance and justice for victims, in line with their commitments at the international level. Furthermore, we hope that actions will be taken to address sexual violence and its root causes in transitional justice and peace processes. Today is an important day for the victims of sexual violence in situations of war and armed conflicts as their heroic defenders have been honoured with the highest recognition for peace work at the international level. As partners along the path to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and the dignity of victims, our peace movement congratulates the accomplishments of Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad and recognises that their work embodies the spirit of just peace that our current world so badly needs.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35762>

## PEACE JOURNALISTS ADDRESS VATICAN CONFERENCE

**Source: Vatican Media/Vatican Dicastery for Communication** 14 October 2018

In a world in which bad news floods the media, the Vatican Dicastery for Communication held an International Conference on 'Peace Journalism' on Saturday, promoting this concept - along with the peace that comes with it.

Four peace journalists from Italy, Lebanon, China and Norway spoke at the event. Norwegian Professor Johan Galtung, creator of the concept, was one of the speakers. He defined Peace Journalism as "editors and reporters making choices - about what to report, and how to report it - that create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value non-violent responses to conflict." Galtung highlighted the definition of peace, explaining that there is 'violence' - which is self-explanatory; 'negative peace', which implies a complete lack of interaction, either peaceful or violent, between two parties; and 'positive peace', which means interactions that involve "linking good to good".

Galtung began to develop the theory in the 1960s, through studying and analysing the way news was reported in Norwegian newspapers "and this was when we were talking about Cuba and Congo" he told Vatican Radio. Galtung reached four conclusions: the news had to be negative (it had to have something to do with war and violence); it had to be 'actor oriented' not structure - there had to be someone to blame; it had to affect our countries (élite countries); and in particular it had affect important people in important countries. So, he explained, take any event and see if it meets one or all of these four criteria: at this point, it's easy for it to become news.

Sixty years on, Galtung says: "Peace journalism is split into two: 'negative' peace journalism, which tries to find solutions to conflicts in order to reduce violence; and 'positive' peace journalism, which wants to explore the possibility of more positive cooperation. In other words, the first focuses on the negative aspect and the second on the positive aspect" he said.

Pope Francis dedicated his Message for World Communications Day 2018 to "peace journalism" and Galtung expressed his gratitude for this. He said he believes that Pope Francis is one of the greatest positive figures of our time and "obviously I am deeply struck by his stance on a concept such as "peace journalism" and find his support a great boost. Commenting on how Pope Francis, in his message, affirms that "peace is the true news", Galtung answers the question: "Why is it so difficult for the media to inform about peace? Why does it appear only to be interested only in war?" According to Galtung this is "Because they don't know how to write about it, they don't even know how to conceptualise peace!" He noted there was a remarkable case in Denmark when suddenly, people started talking about 'reconciliation', about reconciliation with regard to important events that had taken place in Denmark in the past and the journalists didn't write about it because they did not even understand it!

He also expressed his opinion that women journalists are generally more attentive and more capable of putting "peace journalism" into practice than their male colleagues. Galtung calls for all schools of journalism in the world today to introduce the concept of 'Peace Journalism'.

Rey-Sheng from China, stressed the importance of 'constructive journalism'. He explained that journalists must make a concise effort at solving problems and not simply "digging them out".

Italian Stefania Tanesini spoke of 'dialogic journalism'. This style, adopted within the Focolari movement, describes the "concrete experience of hundreds of journalists", who hope that their style will strengthen an empathetic and constructive dialogue whilst "constantly searching for peace".

Vanessa Bassil was the fourth speaker. She is the founder of Media Association for Peace (MAP): the first non-governmental organisation in the Middle East, Northern Africa and Lebanon dedicated to fostering the role of media in building peace. She explained to Marine Henriot the need for Peace Journalism in the Middle East, an area of the world which is surrounded by conflict, in which people feel the crisis, "people are desperate, they are hopeless", she said.

Vanessa believes that promoting a "constructive", "hopeful" and "inspiring" journalism would bring back hope to the people. It would help them "deal with conflict in a more inspiring way, in a more constructive way". "And thus", she concluded, "we will have a society that is more safe, that is more secure and that is more peaceful."

She also addressed the Syrian refugee crisis. Lebanon, with a population of four million, is currently hosting two million Syrian refugees fleeing conflict and hardship. "There is a lot of conflict between the host community and the refugees", she said. "We have decided to report positive stories about refugees". By going out and meeting refugees living in camps, she and her colleagues tell "stories that give hope, that give inspiration".

Vanessa uses the example of a lady they spoke to who fled Syria with her family. She told them about her "story of survival, of strength, of how she was able to do all of this alone." This, according to Vanessa Bassil, shows that they are not only "victims" but "independent people, capable of doing and of surviving". And she chooses to transmit this through "empathy, and not only sympathy."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35802>

## WORKING INSIDE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO REVITALISE THE TOOLS OF NONVIOLENCE

**Pat Gaffney** reports: In 2016, Catholic peace practitioners, academics, theologians and members of Pax Christi International gathered to urge 'our Church to be a living witness and to invest far greater human and financial resources in promoting a spirituality and practice of active nonviolence and in forming and training our Catholic communities in effective nonviolent practices.' As a Catholic international movement for peace called 'Pax Christi, the Peace of Christ,' we had hatched a plan to take the experiences of peacemakers to the Vatican and open a process to move the institutional church closer to a commitment to nonviolence. Pope Francis, we knew, would be open to this process, as he has never minced his words or shunned controversy in speaking out against global violence and warfare today: 'Never war again. With war, everything is lost' (2014); and 'We plead for peace for this world dominated by arms-dealers, who profit from the blood of men and women' (2015).

In spring 2016, 80 people from 35 countries came together in Rome. There were no keynote speakers, all voices were equal, including representatives from the Vatican. In fishbowl settings, we listened to contemporary experiences of nonviolence; we deepened our knowledge of Jesus' way of nonviolence; we began to outline how active nonviolence and just peacemaking frameworks might be better woven into the life of the church to move us beyond a 'world war in instalments'. Pope Francis used that phrase while addressing the Rome conference.

It was important for us to include the voices of those who face violence head-on but who choose a nonviolent path of response. Sister Nazek joined from Iraq. Her community had been expelled from Mosul in 2014, their houses ransacked. Her challenge to military responses was clear: 'We can't respond to violence with worse violence. In order to kill five violent men, we have to create 10 violent men to kill them...? It's like a dragon with seven heads. You cut one and two others come up.' Sister Nazek believes that speaking like this and engaging with her people is a tool of nonviolence, essential to the process of rebuilding Iraq. Her community have just returned to Mosul, choosing to face the past but look to the future, rebuild homes and schools and community amidst fear and suspicion.

Paco da Roux, a Jesuit from Colombia, has worked for more than 20 years with communities in the Magdalena Medio, one of the most violent regions in the country. Paco spoke of the role of critical dialogue as a tool of nonviolence: 'It is my conviction that dialogue transforms people. We go to the guerrillas and the paramilitaries immediately after a massacre or attack. We try to respect them. We tell them that we don't understand what they are doing. We tell them we believe they are doing it because they believe it is the best for the Colombian people. Then we start a dialogue, inviting them to be consistent with human dignity.' This is risky and painstaking work, carrying many set-backs and disappointments, but Paco, now a member of Colombia's Truth Commission, is convinced that deep transformation of individuals and communities is needed to bring a just peace to Colombia.

A very personal experience, illustrating that nonviolence is a life choice, came from Katarina Kruhonja from Croatia: 'During an air-raid, we were thinking and praying in a small group, talking and thinking about what might be the love for our enemy in this very situation? Some said maybe the love of enemy now is to kill him/them, to prevent him/them from doing more atrocities. This kind of logic alerted me deeply. I started to think what would it mean to love my enemy in this time of war... then I made a choice from my will. I said: 'Killing my enemy, for sure, is not the way Jesus would love his enemy.' So, I chose to love my enemy as Jesus would. I did not know what this would mean. This choice was my first move from the logic of violence, and I felt I could breathe again.' Motivated by this experience and the people she gathered around her – conscientious objectors, academics, educators, community workers – Katarina was first director of the Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights in Osijek.

We also drew on the knowledge of academics such as Maria Stephan, who worked with Erica Chenoweth on the effectiveness of nonviolent civil resistance (*Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*). Mel Duncan, from Nonviolent Peace Force, affirmed nonviolent strategies, especially of non-armed peace-presences in countries such as Sudan, Colombia and Sri Lanka. Marco Ghisoni, working with the Italian NGO, Operazione Colomba, shared experiences of accompaniment in Syria and Lebanon, effective nonviolent approaches to de-escalating violence between host and refugee communities.

There were some immediate fruits from the gathering. Pope Francis made the theme of his 2017 World Peace Day message '*Nonviolence, a Style of Politics for Peace*'. He noted that for many nonviolence is sometimes taken to mean surrender, lack of involvement and passivity, but he stressed that this is not the case. Pope Francis wrote of the results and consistent practice of the nonviolence of Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and the Liberian peace women, offering them as role models for society. Another 'fruit' of the conference was a flurry of media coverage, debate and discussion within and beyond the church as to whether the church was abandoning 'just war' theory. For many, this was seen as a huge threat; for others, a moment whose time had come.

For us involved in the process, it was an opportunity to share the experiences of thousands around the world working to prevent injustice and social conflict, to offer civilian approaches to protection and peace-building, to educate people in mediation and conflict transformation, and to train people in nonviolent resistance and non-co-operation. It was an opportunity to create a just-peace rather than a just-war response to injustice and conflict. The experiences, papers and learning from the first part of this project were gathered in the book, *Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence*, published by Orbis Books in 2017.

<https://peacenews.info/node/9169/working-inside-catholic-church-revitalise-tools-nonviolence>

- **Peace News** is the newspaper for the UK grassroots peace and justice movement. We seek to oppose all forms of violence, and to create positive change based on cooperation and responsibility. See more at <https://peacenews.info>
- **Pat Gaffney** has been general secretary of the British Section of Pax Christi since 1990. [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

## WW1: 'STOLEN YOUTH' IS THEME OF THE AUTUMN COLUMBAN NEWSLETTER

**Ellen Teague writes:** The commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War 1 (WW1) is being marked by the Columban missionaries with an issue of their *Vocation for Justice Newsletter* being devoted to remembrance through peacemaking.

Yet, serious remembrance of wars calls for serious work for peace. The book and film *'Testament of Youth'*, a true story by Vera Brittain, documents how she lost her fiancé Roland, her brother Edward, and close friend Victor to WW1. She lamented that "our youth has been stolen from us" and became a life-long pacifist. She said, "the pacifist's task today is to find a method of helping and healing which provides a revolutionary constructive substitute for war." Assumption Sister Jessica Gatty, a niece of WW1 poet Siegfried Sassoon, says his poems "still speak to us today in an increasingly violent and militarised world, where "there is bitterness at the collusion of society around the talk of heroism, glory and suchlike".

Christian peace organisations such as Pax Christi promote peace education and alternatives to war. They celebrate the witness of conscientious objectors, criticise arms trading and highlight that dead civilians comprise at least 80 per cent of the casualties of modern warfare. In August, they hosted survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, calling on the UK government to endorse the international nuclear ban treaty.

Wars are not inevitable, says the Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW). They happen as a result of the decisions of a few powerful people, require vast sums of money, and the obedience of troops. MAW says the \$1,000 billion per year military expenditure could be used instead to feed, house and educate the world's peoples. Wars carry massive social, economic and environmental costs. An escalating nuclear conflagration could destroy life on the planet. One of its vice-presidents, Bruce Kent, writes in the issue that "war is not an inevitable fact of life - there are better ways of settling disputes".

The centrespread highlights stories of peace activists. It shows the stained glass window of St Columban at Bobbio, where the white dove on his shoulder represents love of nature and of peace.

Summer 2018 saw climate crisis realities hitting home. *'Hothouse Earth'* media stories marked record high temperatures, droughts and wildfires globally. Climate change is a real security threat, and indeed a weapon of mass destruction. We may be close to a tipping point that will drive the planet into an irreversible hothouse state. Poor communities in the global south are already suffering terribly. Environmental crises and social justice cannot be addressed by conflict. They need the resources currently devoted to war. Too many young people are still having their youth stolen from them.

**The newsletter can be downloaded at:** [www.columbans.co.uk/media/vocation-for-justice-magazine/](http://www.columbans.co.uk/media/vocation-for-justice-magazine/)

## PEACEMAKING RESOURCES – 100 YEARS SINCE END WW1

Pax Christi has resources available for Remembrance week which commences with Remembrance Sunday 11 November. The season of remembrance will run from October through November. Think about the tone, language and symbols that are appropriate when exploring what Remembrance means to people and also for conveying our responsibility to work for peace and an end to all war. Respect for others is key. Order copies of our new postcard to distribute - £2 per 100 copies.

**Inclusive voices and stories: Catholic Conscientious Objectors of the First World War** - Pax Christi has created a resource with brief stories of some Catholic COs of WW1. Hold a prayer service or gathering to remember their exceptional stand against war. Names and stories of COs could also be incorporated into naming ceremonies at Remembrance events. Available on our website, or order from the office.

**International dimension of war** - Parishes and communities today include many people with direct experience of war. How can this be reflected? Towns may have twinning links with war-torn areas or countries that were involved in the First World War. Weave their stories into events and services. Do something practical for refugees here or abroad. Those killed in recent wars. This should include civilians, medics, journalists, aid workers, members of diplomatic teams, soldiers, to reflect the full tragedy and cost of warfare.

**Readings, liturgy, symbols** - Pax Christi and other peace organisations have created a set of web based resources including the *No More War* image that can be downloaded and reproduced on leaflets, service sheets, as a poster or banner on buildings, bridges, balconies, flagpoles [tinyurl.com/PaxRem](http://tinyurl.com/PaxRem)

**Poppies** - If red poppies are used, can white poppies be used too? "I wear a red poppy because I remember and a white one because I hope." Share the origin of the white poppy [tinyurl.com/PoppyRem](http://tinyurl.com/PoppyRem) Buy white poppies at [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk)

**Celebrate peacemaking** - Encourage your parish, school, community to make a commitment to *'make peace happen'*. This could include saying the Pax Christi prayer each day; drawing up a *'Peace Manifesto'* for the neighbourhood; creating a peace garden with significant plants and symbols; celebrating Peace Sunday on 20 January. Share stories about the success of nonviolence

**Pax Christi has a 12-panel exhibition of 60 nonviolent stories, available for hire.** These websites also have great stories of contemporary peacemaking: [wagingnonviolence.org](http://wagingnonviolence.org) and [nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://nonviolentpeaceforce.org)

**No More War – Let's Make Peace Happen** - A resource flyer is now available to download or you can order directly from our on-line shop [paxchristi.org.uk/shop/](http://paxchristi.org.uk/shop/)

**Jesus Christ Peacemaker** by Terrence J.Rynne £16.99 A new theology of peace that renders the just war theory near mute by making Jesus and his teachings the cornerstone of both theory and practice. Available from our on-line shop as well as an excellent range of other books.

**The Catholic Church and Nuclear Ban Treaty** double-side information sheet - available to download at: [http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/3Catholic-Church\\_Nuclear-Weapons-Ban-VF-ed.pdf](http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/3Catholic-Church_Nuclear-Weapons-Ban-VF-ed.pdf)



## PM PLEDGES ACTION ON SUICIDE TO MARK WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

9 October 2018:

Prime Minister Theresa May announced new funding for Samaritans' helpline and appointed the first UK Minister for Suicide Prevention today as she marked World Mental Health Day. The Samaritans' helpline will remain free for the next four years. New government funding – up to £1.8 million – will help ensure the charity can continue to provide immediate and lifesaving support to everyone who needs it, 24 hours a day.

The Prime Minister also announced that health minister Jackie Doyle-Price will become the UK's first Minister for Suicide Prevention. Around 4,500 people take their own lives each year in England and suicide remains the leading cause of death for men under 45. In her new role, the minister will lead government efforts to cut the number of suicides and overcome the stigma that stops people seeking help. She will bring together a ministerial taskforce and working with national and local government, experts in suicide and self-harm prevention, charities, clinicians and those personally affected by suicide and ensure every local area has an effective suicide prevention plan in place, and look at how the latest technology can be used to identify those most at risk.

Half of all mental illness begins by the age of 14. The Prime Minister made a series of further announcements today on children and young people's mental health:

Recruitment has now begun for new mental health support teams who will work with schools to ensure young people with mental health issues get the help they need – trainees will begin studying in January and join schools across England next year. Starting in 2019, the government will publish a *'State of the Nation'* report every year on World Mental Health Day, highlighting the trends and issues in young people's mental well-being – the first time children's mental health will be reported in this way, alongside their physical health and academic attainment. The government will provide tools to help schools measure their students' health, including their mental wellbeing – building on the commitment to make education in mental health and resilience a compulsory part of the curriculum. The government's new campaign to train a million people in mental health awareness – *Every Mind Matters* – launches today with a pilot in the West Midlands ahead of a national rollout next Spring.

This week the Health Secretary Matt Hancock is hosting the first ever Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit in London, attended by ministers and representatives from over 50 countries as well as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. In a landmark agreement, countries at the summit are expected to support a global declaration today to achieve equity for mental health – the first time national governments have come together on this scale to pledge to put mental health on an equal footing with physical health.

**Read in full:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-pledges-action-on-suicide-to-mark-world-mental-health-day>

## CAUTIOUS WELCOME TO NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION MINISTER

10 October 2018:

National charity POPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide warmly welcomes the Prime Minister's appointment today of Jackie Doyle-Price MP as the first ever Suicide Prevention Minister. Attending the announcement of the new post in 10 Downing Street today, POPYRUS chief executive Ged Flynn praised the PM for this move but made a plea that the government prioritise young suicide: "POPYRUS looks forward to working with the new suicide prevention minister and welcomes this important appointment. The charity has fought long and hard for this government to take suicide seriously," he said.

"However, we want to see a much more obvious emphasis on the fact that suicide is the leading cause of deaths in young people between 10 and 34 of both sexes. This must be a primary focus going forward. Teenage suicide is on the increase. Stemming this is more important than anything if this government is really serious about suicide prevention. POPYRUS believes that suicide is preventable. Let's see if the government does. The Prime Minister cannot seriously claim that the UK now holds mental and physical health in equal esteem. Parity of esteem is way off whilst we hear every day on HOPELINEUK that our young people are often left waiting for lengthy periods for proper, professional mental health support even at the point of suicidal crisis."

"Thus far, too little has been done to demonstrate a real commitment to saving young lives despite our continued campaigns to work with government to end stigma. For example, the Ministry of Justice has failed miserably in accepting the widely held view that the State perpetuates stigma by demanding the criminal standard of proof in reaching a conclusion of suicide at inquest. We are still waiting for a position from HM Government after a seven-year-long campaign led by POPYRUS."

Stephen Habgood, POPYRUS chairman said: "I would like the new minister to come and meet some of our trustees and the many parents whose children's suicides could have been prevented. We will happily work with her to smash suicide stigma, starting with that which is perpetuated by the State itself."

<https://papyrus-uk.org/cautious-welcome-to-new-suicide-prevention-minister/>

- Ged Flynn, Papyrus CEO, was amongst representatives of other organisations invited to a meeting in Downing Street on 10 October with the Prime Minister and members of the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group. The newly-appointed Suicide prevention minister Jackie Doyle-Price was not present at that meeting.
- LBC Radio's Eddie Mair asked for an interview with the new suicide prevention minister, but she was unavailable. So he turned LBC silent out of respect for those struggling with mental health issues, using some of the time he would have spent talking to her.

## RAMAPHOSA VS TRUMP: WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

**Matthew Charlesworth SJ** 28 September 2018

This week we witnessed two opposing visions at the United Nations (UN). The first was President Cyril Ramaphosa's speech to the UN's General Assembly. The speech was given in the context of the unveiling of a statue and the announcement of the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace. Ramaphosa said: "To the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized, the UN today is a beacon of promise in a landscape of doubt." He challenged the UN "to forge a more representative, equal and fair United Nations that is empowered and equipped to lead the struggle to end poverty, unemployment and inequality in the world."

This was in stark contrast to the second vision offered by US President, Donald Trump. After being laughed at, he said, "We reject globalism and embrace the doctrine of patriotism." *Time Magazine* declared that "Trump's 'America First' speech was an attack on the very values of the UN." Underlying this sentiment was fear. Trump articulated this when he said that "America will always choose independence and cooperation over global governance, control, and domination." The fear is that international co-operation and multilateralism is a form of 'control' or 'domination'. This could not be further from the truth. In fact, the UN is a way of helping us facilitate and forge an awareness that we are global neighbours.

In a world where we need to rely on each other, and where powerful elites and corporations are able to evade their responsibilities to the common good, the Catholic Church has long supported the idea of an international authority. The Church encouraged reforms so that structures which existed might move towards greater service of the people of the world. Since Pope Benedict XV in 1919, modern Catholic social teaching has supported and called for reforms to the League of Nations and the UN. With *Pacem in Terris* (1963), Pope John XXIII endorsed the idea of a universal "public authority with power, organisation and means" to manage the global common good (#137). Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI continued this by calling for a strengthening of the UN in their social teachings and speeches to the UN General Assembly.

Recently, Pope Francis called for greater equity and power distribution which is reflective of the world as it is today, and not as it was in 1945, in institutions such as the Security Council and the International Monetary Fund. He called for effective juridical frameworks that can hold governments to account for their 'solemn commitments' - for example the Sustainable Development Goals. This will hold governments accountable, and their progress towards these commitments measured and evaluated. And finally, Pope Francis has called for a more participatory form of governance which would not subordinate the people of this planet to the ideas and ideologies of governments or even the UN system. He urged that they would, through increasing subsidiarity, listen to and serve people, especially those from minority groups.

We must resist the impulse to retreat into our own problems. We must be better neighbours, keeping ourselves alert not only to local needs but also to the needs of our global community. Our Christian response is clear: we should build bridges, rather than erect walls; we are called to encounter the other rather than to retreat into our laagers.

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<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35708>

## CHURCH ACTION FOR TAX JUSTICE

2 October 2018 **David Haslam, co-ordinator of the Church Action for Tax Justice Network**, shares an update on recent developments in tax justice in the latest newsletter of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility: Tax Justice is increasingly in the news at the present time, with the Labour Party Conference speech by Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell, statements earlier this month by Justin Welby and a new publication '*What to Tax?*' launched at a London conference by auditors KPMG. McDonnell announced a new initiative to bring together institutional shareholders, including churches, trades unions and pension funds, in order to create pressure on companies to pay their fair share of tax. He urged pressure to get companies to sign up to the *Fair Tax Mark*.

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke out on tax twice in September, at the launch of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) Economic Justice Commission report and then at the TUC Annual conference. At the TUC Welby said 'when companies like Amazon can get away with paying almost nothing in tax, there is something wrong with the system', pointing out also that if they don't pay a living wage taxpayers have ultimately to support their employees through the benefits system. In 2017 Amazon tripled its profits in the UK to £72m while the tax it paid to the UK government fell from £7.4m in 2016 to £4.6m last year. This was days after the US company posted a record profit of \$2.5bn (£1.9bn) in its most recent quarter. It is also the case that both the Church Commissioners and the Methodist Church hold shares in Amazon.

The IPPR report called for a radical reform of the UK tax system, especially urging the development of some form of wealth tax to try and reduce the increasing level of inequality. A more effective corporation tax is needed, especially on digital companies.

The fact that one of the 'Big Four' accountancy firms like KPMG is trying to climb on the '*Responsible Tax*' bandwagon is in many ways encouraging. Attending the meeting I was able to point out that if KPMG was serious it would need to address tax scandals in which it has been involved such as Lukoil in Russia, certain Latvian banks which have now gone out of business, the Pilatus Bank in Malta which journalist Daphne Galizia was investigating when she was murdered, and the hollowing out of the South Africa tax system in which KPMG was heavily implicated.

• **Sign up for e-newsletters from the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) at:** [www.eccr.org.uk/](http://www.eccr.org.uk/)  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/357035>

## FRACKING PROTESTERS WALK FREE AFTER COURT QUASHES 'EXCESSIVE' SENTENCES

**The Guardian** 17 October 2018: Three protesters jailed for blocking access to a fracking site walked free on Wednesday after the court of appeal quashed their sentences, calling them "manifestly excessive". The activists, Simon Blevins, 26, Richard Roberts, 36, and Rich Loizou, 31, had been jailed after a four-week trial led to their convictions for causing a public nuisance for a protest at Cuadrilla's Preston New Road site in Lancashire. But judges ruled that the prison terms imposed last month were inappropriate and said that the three men should be freed immediately. Soon afterwards they were discharged from Preston prison, where around 30 supporters – carrying banners reading "smile we're going to win" and "free all frackivist political prisoners" – had gathered to greet them.

After leaving the building to cheers and hugs from friends, Loizou read a statement to the waiting media. "If people break the law out of a moral obligation to prevent the expansion of fossil fuel industries they should not be sent to prison," he said, to applause from the crowd, before urging others to join a demonstration at the Preston New Road site on Saturday.

Earlier, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Burnett of Maldon, said: "We have concluded that an immediate custodial sentence in the case of these defendants was manifestly excessive. In our judgment the appropriate sentence was a community order with a significant requirement of unpaid work. But these appellants have been in custody now for two weeks, the equivalent of a six-week prison sentence. As a result, and only for that reason, we've concluded that the only appropriate sentence is a conditional discharge."

During the appeal it has emerged that the judge who oversaw the trial has family links to the oil and gas industry. Judge Robert Altham's father and sister run JC Altham and Sons. The company is believed to be part of the supply chain for energy giant Centrica, which has invested tens of millions of pounds in fracking. The judicial conduct investigations office later confirmed it had "received a complaint regarding HHJ Robert Altham which will be considered in accordance with the judicial conduct (judicial and other office holders) rules 2014".

The packed courtroom erupted with applause and some supporters began singing after the decision was announced. Loizou's father, Platon, said: "Justice has been done today. We shouldn't be here in the first place, but justice has been done."

The three men had climbed on to lorries outside Cuadrilla's fracking site in a protest last July that lasted almost 100 hours. The three, who were the first environmental protesters to be immediately imprisoned since 1932, were convicted of public nuisance after a trial at Preston crown court. A fourth activist, Julian Brock, 47, was sentenced to 12 months in custody, suspended for 18 months, after he admitted public nuisance over the same protest. Brock did not challenge his sentence.

The appeal was supported by the human rights organisation Liberty and Friends of the Earth. The three men had been granted an expedited appeal amid widespread anger at punishments that were held to be "excessive and extraordinary" for peaceful protesters.

Acting for the appellants, Kirsty Brimelow QC, the head of the human rights team at Doughty Street Chambers, said the prosecution's claim that the appellants had caused serious disruption was not supported by the evidence. In the original case, prosecutors had raised as proof of the disruption that a delivery of maggots had to be delivered on foot to a nearby aquarium. "This was as serious as it got, that they had to wheelbarrow some live maggots into World of Water, rather than drive a truck," Brimelow said. Traffic disruption was limited to the imposition of a contraflow around the site of the protest that delayed traffic by, at most, 20 minutes, she said, adding: "We would dispute massive inconvenience." Brimelow said the disruption had to be seen in the context that the same road had been subject to contraflows both the Friday before, and the Friday after, due to reasons other than protest, "so drivers were quite used to contraflows happening". For the entire month of July there were contraflows on a Friday and anybody local knew that."

She added: "These men now have a criminal conviction, which will very much affect their future lives. In our submission that is enough, that is proportionate to what they did. What the judge has done is imprisoned these people for their views and for a peaceful protest and what's happened as a result is that there has been a chilling effect on protest, and this is something that has not occurred for many many years." Brimelow said the case had caused public outrage, as the appellants were engaging in their rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, which include the freedom to protest, under articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act. "Our submission is that Preston crown court did not keep its part of the convention when it sentenced these appellants," she said. "The appropriate sentences are one of absolute discharge or conditional discharge, because there are no aggravating factors. [The sentence] is manifestly excessive and wrong in principle."

Referring to the judge's family links, Brimelow told the court: "He should not have sentenced, because there is sufficient evidence here to raise apparent bias, in particular we rely on the letter written by his sister in support of fracking in 2014. That letter was orchestrated by Cuadrilla." However, Burnett said he would not accept Altham's potential for bias as grounds in the appeal, saying that the issue needed further investigation and a response from Altham. It emerged during Wednesday's hearing that Altham had refused the defendants an opportunity to bring a defence of necessity in their original trial. "The judge explicitly stated pre-trial he would not hear any evidence about fracking," Brimelow said, explaining that such a restriction prevented her clients from bringing arguments relating to their rights to protest and free speech.

Liberty had intervened in the case with its own submission to the court, saying the sentences would have a chilling effect on future peaceful protests. Responding to the decision, Emma Norton, its head of legal casework, said: "This is a victory for human rights and civil liberties. Civil disobedience plays a vital role in safeguarding our democracy and we are delighted the court of appeal has recognised and protected the rights of these protesters, who should never have been in prison."

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/17/court-quashes-excessive-sentences-of-fracking-protesters?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/17/court-quashes-excessive-sentences-of-fracking-protesters?CMP=share_btn_fb)

## SCIENTISTS PUBLISH STARK CLIMATE CHANGE WARNING

**Source: Christian Aid** 8 October 2018

A stark new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target of 1.5C in the next 12 years, to avoid catastrophic environmental breakdown. Dr Kat Kramer, Christian Aid's Global Climate Lead, who has been following negotiations throughout the week in South Korea, said: "The IPCC scientists have done an amazing job synthesizing over 6000 scientific studies into a comprehensive report on how to limit climate change to manageable levels. Distilled down to its essence, it gives two key messages: one of hope - we can limit climate change to 1.5C of warming and avoid the worst impacts of climate change - and one of urgency - we need to decarbonise as much as possible, as fast as possible, including halving global emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050.

"A failure to act can lead to irreversible impacts and even to tipping points that can lead to global warming spiralling out of control. The challenge is now for the world's leaders and policymakers to keep fossil fuels in the ground, invest in renewables, and in resilience measures to keep their people safe from existing climate risks. They need to be ready to respond to this scientific report with ambitious pledges to act, backed by real plans of action. Individuals too can play an important role in their lifestyle choices, such as eating less meat and dairy, and consuming less energy. We all share this one fragile planet together and so need to act in solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable, those who will be impacted the most if we fail to act."

She added: "As the first country to industrialise the UK has a moral duty to lead the way in the global transition to a low carbon economy. That's why it's great to see politicians from across Parliament making a call for the UK to commit to generating net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. There has never been a more important time for the Government to act on this."

**For more information about climate modelling used by the IPCC see a new report by Climate Analytics: *Integrated Assessment Models: what are they and how do they arrive at their conclusions?***

<https://climateanalytics.org/publications/2018/integrated-assessment-models-what-are-they-and-how-do-they-arrive-at-their-conclusions/> and <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35764>

## NJPN ENVIRONMENT GROUP CELEBRATES 50TH MEETING

**Ashley Ralston and Ellen Teague** 19 October 2018

Recently Ashley's granddaughter asked him, "what are you doing to help the environment?" Reflecting on this, and on the 50th meeting in London of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) Environment Group, which we have both chaired, we reflected on how much the group has achieved since its inception in 2005. The working group was set up at the NJPN's annual conference in July 2005, which had an environmental theme and urged that this issue be given attention at all levels of Justice and Peace work. Of course, we were inspired by the *Laudato Si'* environmental encyclical coming out the previous month. So, around eight people from half a dozen dioceses, missionary groups and agency partners have been meeting three to four times annually for 13 years.

One of our first tasks back then was to produce a draft of an NJPN leaflet, *'Greening our Parish'* which was circulated by our members to local deaneries and parishes. We wrote to the bishops of England and Wales at that time to say that "we feel an increasing urgency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales to respond further to the increasingly dire scientific assessments on climate change and other environmental concerns". We offered to support follow up to the Bishops' Environmental Justice Consultation of 12 October 2004. At this meeting Sir John Houghton, former head of the Met office, and Fr Sean McDonagh, a Columban eco-theologian and writer both stressed the urgency of the Christian churches addressing, in particular, Climate Change, Water and Biodiversity. NJPN's input on that day included offering itself as a network willing to be in partnership with the bishops' conference in this area.

Between us, the members of the group have over the years been closely involved with CAFOD's Extractives Campaign, Progressio's Environment Desk, Columban JPIC, Christian Ecology Link, Operation Noah, Eco-Congregation, the Environmental Issues Network of CTBI, and with relevant programmes of other Christian denominations, particularly the Anglicans, Methodists and Quakers. People do not like to be told crushing news about environmental disasters, but we felt that, as Christians, we had a duty to truthfully read the signs of the times so that future generations can have something to cherish. We also wanted to highlight Catholic Social Teaching on Creation Care and Creation-centred theology. From this last perspective all religious communities need to see themselves in the context of creation and to play a role in preserving the environment.

Seven years ago, the group led a half day on creation-centred theology at one of the Network quarterly meetings. Among the quotes discussed was this from Rosemary Radford Ruether in her article *'Eco-Justice at the centre of the Church's mission'*: "Many traditional Christians feel a deep suspicion toward the ecology movement, particularly when it lays claim to theological and religious meaning. They see this as the rise of a new 'nature worship' to be regarded as totally contrary to 'Biblical faith'. What I wish to show is that the Church's mission of redemption of the world cannot be divorced from justice in society and the healing of the wounds of nature wrought by an exploitative human industrial system. Furthermore that this holistic perspective is central to the Biblical vision of redemption. It is a Christianity that divorces individual salvation from society and society from creation that is unbiblical." And then Pope Francis said something very similar in *Laudato Si'*, which underlined the need for "ecological conversion".

We have highlighted the injustices and potential disastrous consequences of climate change, but often to those already acutely aware of the problem. We need to reach and motivate those who are ambivalent, by education work, resources and advocacy. There is a constant challenge to be creative and stay positive. The news earlier this month from the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change that we have 12 years only to work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to reduce warming to 1.5 degrees seemed to be a one-day wonder for the media. And this vital planetary news didn't get much mention in churches.

The group's decision to push dioceses towards having their own environmental policies has proved to be challenging and initial outcomes were disappointing; however, resubmission of the process has seen some dioceses slowly come on board. At present three have policies and at least five others are well into the process. Members of the group regularly give *Laudato Si'* presentations at diocesan and parish level, and there is an increasing trend of meetings being inter-faith, which Columbans would say mirrors the interfaith petition of nearly two million signatures presented at the Paris Climate talks. Our group has supported the Live Simply outreach of CAFOD through advertising and assessing, and more than 40 parishes have now received the award.

However, despite being hugely impressed by efforts to conserve energy, create parish gardens, plant commemorative trees for First Holy Communion and Confirmation occasions, and to promote study of *Laudato Si'* it is true that something more fundamental is needed. The structural issues of injustice and ecological devastation highlighted in *Laudato Si'* present a fundamental challenge to our way of life and, certainly, our way of being Church. The NJPN Environment Group aims to stimulate this reflection, and we welcome both the installation of a new environment worker at the Bishops' Conference and the bishops' 'Global Healing' initiative which is recommended for study during Advent. And meanwhile, let's celebrate Church moves to disinvest from fossil fuels, tackle destructive extractive industries and challenge militarism, since military activity is a massive source of pollution and waste of resources. The Day of Prayer for Care of Creation on 1 September and Creation Time until 4 October are supported by Pope Francis, and have been picked up by many Church organisations.

Have we been prophets? Have we read the sign of the times? Over the last 20 to 25 years many environmental NGOs have joined United Nations bodies in leading the way to seeing that the fate of our planet has been firmly put into our own hands, particularly challenging the sustainability of the prevailing global development and our dependence on fossil fuels. Climatic instability and disasters are growing apace. We need to listen and take stock, then proclaim what is happening to God's Creation - that is our prophetic role and we do it as best we can.

We see our presence in the NJPN network as yeast in a dough of many-faceted justice and peace initiatives. We campaign, support the annual NJPN conference and persist in trying to dialogue with the Church hierarchy. Fantastic solidarity is given by Pope Francis, and it was great to see a *'Walk for the Climate'* setting off from St Peter's Square on 4 October, organised by our friends at the Global Catholic Climate Network. Yet, despite the overwhelming evidence, many are still unaware or indeed don't really care about the environmental consequences of their actions. Being a witness to the need for a more sustainable future for our common home means that our group will continue its mission well into the future.

**LINK:** [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/environment/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/environment/)  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35839>

## COLUMBANS LAUNCH SCHOOLS JOURNALISM COMPETITION 2019

Marking the Feast of St Francis and following on from the success of last year's inaugural Columban Schools Journalism competition, the Columbans have launched a 2019 competition with the title: *'The Challenge of Climate Change'*.

Students aged 15-18 inclusive are invited to write an article or make a video report that informs and raises important issues on the topic. Two separate competitions will be held, one for students in Ireland and one in Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales). Each has two categories - writing and video. Closing date for entries: 8 February 2019. The objective of the competition is to encourage students to use their journalistic writing and mobile skills to look at a topical issue which is relevant to society today and resonates with both Catholic Social Teaching and Columban mission. The Pope's environment encyclical of 2015, *Laudato Si'*, is a major inspiration.

High-profile judges from the world of journalism have been secured for the competition.

In Britain, the judges are: John Vidal, a journalist who was environment editor at *The Guardian* for 27 years; Ruth Gledhill, a multi-media Editor at *The Tablet*. Before that she was the religion affairs correspondent for *The Times*; Nick Benson, senior reporter at *The Universe* Catholic weekly newspaper; Josephine Siedlecka, founder and editor of *Independent Catholic News*; Tom O'Reilly SSC, Columban priest and writer with experience of Columban mission in Pakistan.

The winning articles and videos will be announced in Columban media on 15 March 2018, and some will feature in the Columban *Far East Magazine*.

Columban Missionaries believe the crisis of human-induced climate change, which threatens all life on Earth, is a key moral issue for the Churches. Climate Change raises serious spiritual and ethical concerns about the distribution and use of our planet's finite resources, the destruction of biodiversity and the web of life, and wasteful lifestyles. The competition aims to help young people engage with these issues. Irish Columban Fr Sean McDonagh - one of the judges in Ireland - is known around the world as an eco-theologian and writer who works to raise awareness on the connections between justice and peace issues, environmental sustainability and faith. He is an outspoken critic of policies that allow for the systematic degradation of the environment, linking them to global poverty and the increased suffering of the poor. Fr Sean is the author of numerous articles and nine books including *Climate Change: The Challenge to All of Us*, *Greening the Christian Millennium*, *Care for the Earth*, *Dying for Water* and *On Care for Our Common Home - Laudato Si'*.

The Columbans are delighted that video footage from Operation Noah, CAFOD and the Global Catholic Climate Movement have been made available to the competition to help young writers explore the issue of climate change and faith.

**All details about the Schools Journalism Competition can be found at:** [www.columbancompetition.com](http://www.columbancompetition.com)

## INTERFAITH WEEK 2018 EVENT WITH A FOCUS ON FAITH & CLIMATE CHANGE

**Annie Merry writes:** I'd like to invite you to an Interfaith Week 2018 event on 15 November 2018 with a focus on ***Faith & Climate Change: Sharing Actions, Advice and Practical Support on Energy***. The event will be held from 10am - 2pm on the Wirral and will include refreshments and lunch - it's free to attend. We anticipate confirming a venue shortly. We can cover meeting space hire costs and will provide excellent catering. Please get in touch if you are interested, particularly if you are already taking environmental actions and would like to share your journey with others.

The event is supported by Merseyside Council of Faiths, Energy Projects Plus, Wirral Council, Wirral VCA, Planet Heswall and many other partners and individual faith communities from across our city region. The event is the next step in the development of a fledgling Liverpool City Region Faith & Climate Network aiming to bring together people from different faith communities, Eco Churches, Cool Wirral (Climate Strategy Group partners) and others with expertise, knowledge and interest to shape, grow, share and inspire practical actions on climate change across the city region.

**Please reply by email by 1 November 2018** to register your interest in attending and advise if you would like to share information on actions that your faith community has / is / plans to make on energy; include your name, faith community and any additional needs that you have (including dietary, access and anything else) and we'll be in touch.

Please share this invitation with members of faith communities who might be interested in attending.  
Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you,  
Annie

PS. I've attached some background information and joining details to the Faith & Climate Network Facebook group which has emerged from the 2017 Faith & Climate Change event held in Birkenhead during Inter Faith Week 2017.

Annie Merry Chief Executive Officer | Faiths4Change 0151 705 2162 | 0797 620 5629 [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk)  
[faiths4change.org.uk](http://faiths4change.org.uk) | [facebook.com/faiths4change](https://facebook.com/faiths4change)  
Twitter: [@faiths4change](https://twitter.com/faiths4change)  
(NB. I work Tuesday to Friday).

### Faith & Climate Network Liverpool City Region

Inspired by Cool Wirral (Climate Change Strategy), Faiths4Change and partners Wirral Council, WING – Merseyside Women of Faith, Merseyside Council of Faiths, Energy Projects Plus, Merseyside Environmental Trust, Emansys and Planet Heswall coordinated and contributed to an Interfaith Week 2017 event in Birkenhead.

**'World Faiths', Climate Change & Community Influence'** brought together over 40 members of different faith communities and partners to share, explore and consider local faith based actions on climate change together. Lots of actions, ideas and innovative ways forward emerged as did many 'how can we' questions around energy, waste, water and engaging local communities. Faith community actions shared included walking buses to places of prayer and worship, food sharing, plastic free, energy efficient heating & lighting, herb & food growing gardens, clothes recycling and even bee hives & honey to sell / share. People attending agreed that opportunities for people of faith to come together in partnership to explore ideas and actions around climate change locally needed to be developed.

Climate change is happening now and **2019 is a national Year of the Environment**, a year of action is being coordinated across the Liverpool City Region – it's time to act, share and inspire.

Faiths4Change has set up a Faith & Climate Network Facebook group to keep the discussions and peer sharing going. Once you have joined the group you'll be able to start and add to discussions in the group, share information about events or activity, put out questions to the group and follow what others are up to.

**Join at:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/faithandclimatenetwork/>

## RESOURCES RECOMMENDED BY GREEN CHRISTIAN

***Our Common Home, Caring for God's Creation – an Ecumenical Study Course*** (five weeks) – this Study Guide was composed by an ecumenical group of Christians in Birmingham 2017/2018: Janet Nock, Margaret Healey Pollett, the Revd Alison Geary, Ruth Tetlow, Miriam Wilcher.

**Download at** <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/birmingham-our-common-home-study-guide.pdf>

The authors are happy for people to reproduce all or parts of this study outline providing acknowledgement is given – [ruthtetlow@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthtetlow@btinternet.com). Please tell us at Green Christian if you use it too [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

**Operation Noah's "Tenants of the King"** – a new four part study guide to enlarge your heart, inspire your thinking and move you to action. **Download at** <http://operationnoah.org/resources/tenants-of-the-king-study-guide/>

## WHY FAIRTRADE IS IN DIFFICULTY, AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO

**BLOG: Poverty and Inequality - A personal response by Ruth Murray** 23 September 2018

Traidcraft, the pioneering Fairtrade brand that brought us 'campaign coffee' and went on to develop huge range of Fairtrade products, has announced that it proposes to cease trading at the end of the year unless a solution can be found. Along with many others I was deeply saddened, but sadly not that surprised. Two years ago my own fair trade cotton fabric business was in exactly the same situation and I had to close it.

So why is the current environment so toxic for ethical traders? Ethical businesses, and fair trade ones in particular, are motivated by growing their businesses to have the maximum possible impact. They want to keep the price they sell at as low as possible so that their wares are as accessible for as many people as possible. They need to cover their costs and pay the wages, but they aren't trying to maximise profit for its own sake. It's all about selling as much as possible so they can place more orders and support more people. Traidcraft, and my business, were structured to achieve exactly that.

The cost prices are, of course, higher than for other sellers. That's the whole point of fair trade – to make sure that the people you are buying from receive a fair price plus a premium to improve life in that community. And the purchase will usually take place in a currency that is secure for the producer. A fair trade business doesn't want the producer to take on the risk of currency fluctuation. That wouldn't be fair. In addition, fair trade businesses try to provide contracts that cover a long period, giving income security to the partners they work with. They leave themselves little wriggle room.

But a fair trade business model has become increasingly untenable. After the Brexit referendum there was an immediate change in the value of the pound. I had ordered fabric in May that was delivered in July. When I came to pay for it, the cost had increased by an unsustainable 15% solely due to the currency fluctuation. I couldn't see how this situation would change and, in the spirit of behaving fairly, I gave notice to my suppliers, and set about selling through the remaining stocks and paying all my bills to make sure that no-one was left out of pocket. I was miserable. My business had been a completely viable going concern pouring thousands of pounds into disadvantaged communities in India, and yet it all came to an end so quickly. The same drivers are at play with the Traidcraft scenario, and they must be miserable too. Collaborative and powerful relationships developed over decades with talented and now thriving communities are at risk of coming to an abrupt end and it all feels so unnecessary.

So what can we do? I would urge everyone with the means, to bring forward their Christmas shopping and spend at [traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://traidcraftshop.co.uk), and to have a look at <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/Buying-Fairtrade> for other places that you can still buy fairly traded products. All the businesses that specialise in Fairtrade will be facing the same pressures as Traidcraft. They all need our support if we want them to survive.

There are other businesses that aren't ethical from the ground up. They sell a range of products, some of which are Fairtrade and some aren't. We need to keep up pressure on these businesses to maintain their Fairtrade ranges. They will also be feeling the pinch, but they are in a better position to be able to keep these ranges, especially if they know that we love them. Keep telling them, by whatever means you find convenient – letters to customer services, Twitter, Facebook... The current co-chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Fairtrade are Holly Lynch MP (Labour) and Will Quince MP (Conservative). Why not contact them to let them know that we think fair trade is still important.

For those of us committed to thoughtful consumption, the options are narrowing. Many of the foods, textiles and homewares we buy originate in communities that are often exploited. I am mourning that we now have fewer routes to use our pounds to create a change. We must speak up while we have the chance.

• **Ruth Murray is a Methodist and formerly ran *Fair Trade Fabric*.**

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/why-fair-trade-is-in-difficulty-and-what-we-need-to-do/>

## UK: MORE THAN 440 HOMELESS PEOPLE FOUND DEAD IN PAST YEAR

10 October 2018: More than 440 people experiencing homelessness have died on streets or in temporary accommodation in the UK in the past year, an investigation has found. The figures were compiled by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) as part of their long-term project, *Dying Homeless*, to count those that die when experiencing homelessness in the UK. Data shows there were at least 449 deaths in a year - more than one each day. It is acknowledged that the figures are likely to be a substantial underestimate as no official body counts homeless deaths in Britain. The causes of death were varied, including violence, drug overdoses, illnesses and murder, among other reasons. The average age at death was 49 for men and 53 for women, almost 40% lower than the average life expectancy of 82 years in the UK.

These compelling statistics remind us of the constant danger those living through homelessness face as part of their daily lives, and are released in the same week as World Homeless Day on 10th October, an annual event to bring awareness to the homelessness crisis and encourage people to get involved. Amanda Dubarry, Chief Executive of Catholic charity Caritas Anchor House, said: "We are appalled at the unacceptably high numbers of deaths amongst people experiencing homelessness across the UK. We hope these statistics will be a wake-up call to the crisis of homelessness, for both the public and the authorities involved, especially as the colder winter months approach and the danger for these vulnerable people increases."

**LINK: Caritas Anchor House** [www.caritasananchorhouse.org.uk](http://www.caritasananchorhouse.org.uk)

**Read more at** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35779>

## NEW FILM TAKES STAND AGAINST MILITARISM

**Source: Quakers in Britain** 18 October 2018

*War School*, a provocative film launched this week, is set to challenge the British government's attempt to entice children into support for war. Timed to coincide with the centenary of the end of World War I, *War School* tells the story of another battle. This one for the hearts and minds of Britain's children in an increasingly militarised society.

On the streets, on television, online, at sports events, in schools, advertising and in fashion, the military presence in UK's civilian life is increasing daily. Public concern is growing too. *War School* records the efforts of Quakers in Britain, ForcesWatch and Veterans for Peace UK to challenge the government about militarism, particularly in classrooms. This documentary feature by Mic Dixon uses archive, observation and veterans' testimony from Britain's century of conflict. It unpacks the government strategy to target the education system and to promote public support for its war machine.

Ellis Brooks works on peace education for Quakers in Britain. He says: "One hundred years after the end of WWI, Quakers are inspiring a new generation not only to prevent war, but to build peace. World War I was hailed 'the war to end all wars'. Yet war has not stopped. Death and destruction continue to ravage war-torn communities and Britain's foreign policy and arms industry is part of that picture. For war to proceed the government needs ongoing public support. One way to get that support is to saturate the public space with militarism without any exploration of the morality of danger of war."

While the government promotes military values to the public, Quakers work through peace education to ensure young people are equipped with the facts and critical thinking skills to evaluate for themselves what will make the world safer.

There are preview screenings around the country, including Oxford, central London, Chelmsford, Leicester, North and South Wales. The list is growing. The first screening and panel discussion is in London at 6.30pm on Friday 19 October, in Friends House, central office of Quakers in Britain (opposite Euston Station).

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35837>

### LINKS

**War School** [www.war.school](http://www.war.school)

**Forces Watch** [www.forceswatch.net](http://www.forceswatch.net)

**Veterans For Peace** <http://vfpuk.org>

## GALLERY OLDHAM

We have three new exhibitions to see this autumn. *'Peace and Plenty? Oldham and the First World War'* has just opened and takes as its starting point the experiences on the home front for the people of Oldham as the 'Great War' drew to a close. The exhibition, co-curated by historians Alan Fowler and Terry Wyke uses Gallery Oldham's extensive collections to explore how Oldham's mills, shops and people all adapted to meet the needs of the war- revisiting everyday lives, losses and achievements. 1918 also saw the first general election in which all men over the age of 21 and women over the age of 30 could vote. To mark this centenary we have borrowed several items relating to women's suffrage including an important and previously unknown letter written by Annie Kenney.

The exhibition runs until 12th January.

We are delighted to be a partner in the Asia Triennial Manchester 18, with exhibitions and events taking place across the city on the theme of *'Who Do You Think You Are?'* For this exhibition we are hosting artist Jai Chuhan with *'Refuge'*, premiering new paintings which take inspiration from her position as an Indian-born British artist.

More details available at [www.asiatriennialmanchester.com](http://www.asiatriennialmanchester.com)

Taking us through into spring *'Mahtab Hussain: You Get Me'* will explore the critical question of identity among young working-class British Asian men through a series of 24 portraits taken over a nine year period in Birmingham, Nottingham and London. *'You Get Me?'* investigates the dynamic relationship between identity, heritage and displacement.

**For all the latest updates to our programme and activities please check our website:** [www.galleryoldham.org.uk](http://www.galleryoldham.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @GalleryOldham

## STILL ALICE | LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE

Alice Howland is stubborn, clever and driven – a professional at the top of her game. But, diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's at the age of 50, she is compelled to confront her new reality and draw on her resilience to remain independent for as long as possible. Alice strives to remain true to the woman she has always been, while relationships shift within her family, in her work and, most importantly, with her self. Uncompromising yet tender, this new adaptation of the award-winning novel truthfully acknowledges life with a progressive disease – its conflicts and burden, and its small, priceless victories. Featuring British actress Sharon Small as Alice, this play is a unique insight into the experience of a woman fighting to maintain her identity as her world changes. Tues 6 Nov – Sat 10 Nov. Tickets £30-£10 <https://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/still-alice>

## DIARY DATES

### OCTOBER

**28 Liverpool Romero Celebration** 11am Metropolitan Cathedral Celebrant Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP (visit the recently installed bust of Oscar Romero in the cathedral)



## NOVEMBER – CAFOD CAMPAIGN EVENTS

**CAFOD Campaign Retreat *Countering Consumerism*** – all events from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays in November this year:

**3 November in Liverpool:** Sandymount House of Prayer, 16 Burbo Bank Road, Blundellsands, Crosby, Liverpool L23 6TH

**17 November in Lancaster:** Boarbank Hall, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH. or

**24 November in Salford:** Wardley Hall, Wardley Hall Rd, Worsley, Manchester M28 2ND

The day is built around Pope Francis' encyclical *Gaudete et Exsultate*. Shared lunch. Free but donations welcome.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/countering-consumerism-lessons-from-gaudete-et-exsultate-registration-47461730313>

Ged Edwards, Community Participation Co-ordinator – CAFOD, CAFOD Liverpool Volunteer Centre, 27 Crofton Road, Liverpool, Merseyside L13 5UJ 0151 228 4028 or 07779 804 241 [gedwards@cafod.org.uk](mailto:gedwards@cafod.org.uk)

## OTHER DIARY DATES IN NOVEMBER

**2-4 'Women Stand Tall'** weekend for women led by Sr Moira Meeghan at The Irenaeus Project 32 Great Georges Road. For a booking form email [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) or phone 0151 949 1199

**3 CAFOD Family Fast Day Briefing** 7pm - 8pm St Joseph's Parish House, St Joseph Catholic Church, Slyne Road, Skerton, Lancaster, LA1 2HU

**3 CAFOD Lancaster Memorial Mass** 6pm St Patrick's Catholic Church, 22 St. Johns Road, Morecambe, LA3 1EX  
[lancaster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:lancaster@cafod.org.uk)

**3 CAFOD Salford Memorial Mass** 12 noon at St Mary's, Duke Street Denton M34 2AN. Contact CAFOD in Salford on 0161 705 0605 or [salford@cafod.org.uk](mailto:salford@cafod.org.uk) for more details

**3 National Mass of Thanksgiving for Romero's canonisation** – [details on www.romerotrue.org.uk](http://www.romerotrue.org.uk)

**3 CARJ AGM** <https://www.carj.org.uk/2018/10/19/carj-agm-3-november-2018/>

**3 Conference: "Palestine: Reframing the Debate"** 10am-4pm Chester. Further info: [joseph.oneill777@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.oneill777@gmail.com)

**4 Height Methodist Community Church, King Street, Salford, M6 7GY** Churches across Salford have come together to put on a pop up cafe (3-5pm). Learn more about **Christian Aid's Christmas appeal**, enjoy music, food and drinks, and a quiz!

**10 Autumn Fiesta** Festival of Food, Music and Family Activities 10.30am-3pm St Thomas Church Lancaster to raise Awareness and funds for Refugee and Asylum Seekers Groups

**10 CAFOD Soup Lunch** 12 noon – 1.30pm Our Lady & St Edward's Parish Centre, 4 Malborough Drive, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9UE [lancaster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:lancaster@cafod.org.uk)

**11 Remembrance Sunday** <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/remembrance-2018/>

**11-18 Interfaith Week** [interfaithweek.org](http://interfaithweek.org) 020 7730 0410

**13 Chester World Development Forum** Speaker local firefighter Anthony McCarthy on his ongoing work with the project in Nepal **Classrooms in the Clouds**. [www.classroomsintheclouds.org](http://www.classroomsintheclouds.org) The Unity Centre, Cuppin St, Chester CH1 2BN. 6.45-9pm

**16 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night** 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £3.00 (children £1). All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fund raising project. Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419

**17 CAFOD Lancaster retreat** 10am-4pm Augustinian Sisters, Convent, Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH All welcome. Lunch provided. Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/countering-consumerism-lessons-from-gaudete-et-exsultate-registration-47461730313>

**17 Christmas Craft Fair** 10.30am-3.30pm Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT in aid of Chifundo UK, empowering girls and women in Malawi. Free admission. Refreshments. Book a stall for only £10. Contact 01244 381490.

**17 Church Action on Poverty Conference** Manchester [church-poverty.org.uk/conference](http://church-poverty.org.uk/conference) 0161 872 9294

**17 NJPN Open Networking Day** London 10.30-1.30 CAFOD, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7JB. An open discussion on 'Re-envisioning Justice & Peace'. This will be a shorter meeting to allow those who wish to attend the Solemn Evensong in Thanksgiving for Romero's Canonisation in Westminster Abbey at 3pm – tickets from <https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/48330137743>

**18 World Day of the Poor** [csan.org.uk](http://csan.org.uk) 020 7281 0297

**19 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church** [csw.org.uk](http://csw.org.uk) 020 8329 0010

**23 Chester Friends of Palestine** 6.30-8.30pm Room 301, Riverside Building, University of Chester, Castle Drive, Chester, CH11SL Chris Matheson MP will be speaking on his recent visit to the West Bank. [ChesterFriendsofPalestine@hotmail.com](mailto:ChesterFriendsofPalestine@hotmail.com)

**24 Stockport Annual Fairtrade Fair** 10.30-3.30 at the Guildhall opposite Stockport College. Lots of different FT stalls.

**27 Time out on Tuesdays** an ecumenical quiet day for everyone at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lance, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW 10am – 4pm Cost £10

**28 Red Wednesday** Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Take a stand for Faith and Religious Freedom. More info at <https://acnuk.org/red-wednesday-2018/> ACN's NW office has #TimeToSeeRed glasses to give away to participating schools and parishes in NW England and North Wales. Aid to the Church in Need 01524 388739 [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org)

## DECEMBER

**1 World AIDS Day** National AIDS Trust [worldaidsday.org](http://worldaidsday.org)

**10 UN Human Rights Day** [unmeditation.org/](http://unmeditation.org/)

**15 Chester Friends of Palestine**, street campaigning 10.30am-12.30pm. Meet up outside HSBC, Eastgate, Chester. We will also be giving out Christmas cards. Further information: [ChesterFriendsofPalestine@hotmail.com](mailto:ChesterFriendsofPalestine@hotmail.com)

**18 International Migrants Day** [un.org/en/events/migrantsday](http://un.org/en/events/migrantsday)

**30 Sunday Worship led by Sarah Teather, Jesuit Refugee Service** Radio 4 8am-10am

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.
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