

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)

## BELFAST: PRIEST CHALLENGES POLITICIANS AT FUNERAL OF LYRA MCKEE

**Jo Siedlecka** 24 April 2019 (Updated 25 April 2019)

Father Martin Magill, parish priest at St John's Catholic Church, Belfast, received a standing ovation after giving this address at the funeral of murdered young journalist Lyra McKee, in St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Belfast. He said: "I commend our political leaders for standing together in Creggan on Good Friday. I am however left with a question: 'Why in God's name does it take the death of a 29 year old woman with her whole life in front of her to get us to this point?'"

Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald and DUP leader Arlene Foster, were present and slowly rose to their feet after the congregation stood up and applauded.

**Watch a BBC clip here:** [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-48039266](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-48039266)

### Fr Magill's address (slightly abridged) follows:

I have no idea what you Sara, Lyra's partner must have felt on Thursday night when those shots rang out and Lyra was hit and fell to the ground. I can't begin to imagine what you Lyra's mum, and you her sisters and brothers must have gone through when Sara phoned to tell you Lyra had been shot. I can't imagine the agony of your drive to Altnagelvin hospital knowing that Lyra had died.

Many of us here in this cathedral have been praying for you since we heard the dreadful news and will continue to do so. Since the story of Lyra's murder broke on Holy Thursday into Good Friday, there has been an enormous sense of grief and solidarity with you from many people at this huge injustice. Many, many wonderful things have been said about her including the warm and deserved tributes paid to her by the Secretary of State and by MPs of all parties in the House of Commons yesterday evening. In death Lyra, has united people of many different backgrounds, as further evidenced by this diverse congregation at her funeral.

Like so many others I couldn't believe it when I heard the 7am news on Good Friday morning that Lyra McKee had been shot dead the previous night. I'd met Lyra on several occasions, we had kept in contact by phone, 'what's app', and Twitter. I would however have to confess that I wasn't aware of her great love of Harry Potter. I hadn't heard the term 'Hufflepuff' until I did an internet search and found this definition - 'Hufflepuff is the most inclusive among the four houses; valuing hard work, dedication, patience, loyalty, and fair play.' It struck me that the definition could just as easily have been about Lyra.

Let me give a brief overview of Lyra's life. She was born on 31 March 1990. She attended Holy Family PS just off the Limestone Road. In her early days at school, she struggled with reading and required extra support. Things changed dramatically when one of her teachers, Mr O'Neill began to read to her class *The Twits* by Roald Dahl. This was the spark that got Lyra interested in reading and then thanks to her granny Patricia Lawrie buying her each of the Harry Potter books as they were published this led to her life-long interest in Harry Potter and later on to exchanges in social media with JK Rowling. Lyra's love of reading was further nurtured when she went to St Gemma's High School, just off the Oldpark Road also in North Belfast.

Her interest in journalism began at the age of 14 when she wrote for the St Gemma's school newspaper. Shortly afterwards Lyra became involved in a charity called "*The Headliners*" which gives young people a voice by using journalism and media as a tool for learning and campaigning. This project played an important part in her being awarded the Sky News Young Journalist Award 2006. After school and further education, Lyra studied online journalism at Birmingham City University graduating with an MA degree.

Over the years her writing has won her much acclaim such as her letter when she was 24 to her 14 year old self about growing up as gay in Belfast. In 2016, aged just 25, she was acknowledged internationally as an exceptional achiever with an exciting future by *Forbes* magazine in their 30 under 30 list because of her work as an investigative reporter. Last month the *Irish Times* featured Lyra in an article considering the 10 rising stars of Irish writing. Her memory also lives on in her TED talk, "*How uncomfortable conversations can save lives*", about the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting. Her book on the murder of Rev Robert Bradford, the Member of Parliament for South Belfast, called *Angels with Blue Faces* was due to be published later this year.

Lyra came to see me as part of her research on a book she was working on called *Lost Boys*. We met on several occasions and kept in contact. I knew absolutely nothing about 11 year old Thomas Spence and 13 year old John Rodgers, who vanished at a bus stop on the Falls Road in West Belfast in November 1974. They were both living in St John's Parish at that time where I am presently the parish priest and it was for this reason Lyra came to see me. By the time Lyra had told me their story and what she hoped to do, I was fully behind her. Nichola her sister who spoke earlier described Lyra like 'a dog with a bone' when she had found something that interested her. I certainly experienced her gentle, determined doggedness.

When we exchanged greetings on New Year's Day and I wished her well not only in the writing of *Lost Boys* but also in her search for the remains of the boys which she made clear to me was very important to her. She replied in this way: 'If that's the only thing that comes out of this, it'll be worth it. It's the only thing I really want out of it, to find them and the others.' In the course of her investigations, Lyra had discovered that other children had disappeared and she had wanted to find their bodies. I pray that her work will be taken up and that their bodies will be found and even more importantly that there will be no more 'lost boys' or 'lost girls.'

When I consider Lyra's determination, it strikes me that she was the embodiment of the St Gemma's school motto: 'truth and charity.'

On Good Friday, the day on which Christians all over the world recall the suffering and death of Jesus Christ we also wrestle with the mystery of suffering. For you Lyra's nearest and dearest, you came to know the experience of Good Friday in your own lives. For those of us who follow Jesus, we believe that the shedding of his innocent blood on the cross was enough - in the words of the hymn: *'the cross has said it all'*. We don't need any more innocent blood to be shed. The irony could not be more poignant when we consider the signing of the Good Friday agreement which was about ensuring there would be no more deaths like Lyra's.

Earlier in this service, we listened to Matthew's account of the Beatitudes which was chosen by her family in remembrance of Lyra learning these by heart when she was a pupil at St Gemma's. The beatitude *'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God'* is very timely. Many of us will be praying that Lyra's death in its own way will not have been in vain and will contribute in some way to building peace here.

Since Thursday night we have seen the coming together of many people in various places and the unifying of the community against violence. I commend our political leaders for standing together in Creggan on Good Friday. I am however left with a question: 'Why in God's name does it take the death of a 29 year old woman with her whole life in front of her to get us to this point?'

As Christians recalled the death of Jesus on the cross, we remembered that his death was not in vain but was for us the doorway to eternal life. I dare to hope that Lyra's murder on Holy Thursday night can be the doorway to a new beginning. I detect a deep desire for this. One of Lyra's friends was reported as saying: 'We have had enough. There is a younger generation coming up in the town and they don't need guns put in their hands. They need jobs, they need a better health service and education. They need a life, not a gun put in their hands.'

To those who had any part in her murder, I encourage you to reflect on Lyra McKee journalist and writer as a powerful example of 'The pen is mightier than the sword'. I plead with you to take the road of non violence to achieve your political ends. It was encouraging to see that those who provide a political analysis to the organisation responsible for her death chose to call off their parade on Easter Monday following the call from Fr Joe Gormley, the parish priest in Creggan where Lyra was killed. To those still intent on violence, I ask you to listen to the majority of the people on your beloved island of Ireland who are calling on you to stop.

I pay tribute to the courage and determination of the women who in a very powerful gesture of non violence, one by one placed their hands in blood red paint on a wall and said loudly *'we are not afraid'*. I commend the 140+ people in Creggan who have contacted the police. There is a rule in many of our communities that we do not, we should not, give information to police and that, to do so is to become a 'tout.' But that was one of a number of rules - rules that also said that it was OK to brutalise children for petty crimes, or rules that say you can live in the locality until you are told you can't or rules that said that the only way we could gain 'freedom' was by other fellow-human beings losing their lives. But this week I have seen these rules turned on their head. I have seen many people stand up and condemn this culture of violence and coercive control. We need to send a very different message and so I appeal to those who have information about Lyra's murder but who haven't yet come forward to do so now. If you want to see an end to these brutal rules, and see a new society built on justice and fairness, on hope and not fear, then you can help build that society by letting the police know what you know. There will be special measures put in place to ensure your safety and where you will not be intimidated by coercive controllers, if you do so.

To the many politicians present in this cathedral today, let me say again those words which one of Lyra's friends had said: 'the younger generation need jobs, they need a better health service and education. They need a life, not a gun put in their hands.' As politicians you will be familiar with the first report of the Independent Reporting Commission published last October which examined in depth paramilitary style attacks and found a clear correlation between these attacks and areas of social deprivation. Lyra's friend is right in pointing out that our young people need jobs, and education and training to get those jobs. All our young people need a life that gives them an aspiration for the future. As our politicians we need you to be working together to make that happen so that especially for those living in deprived areas that they will feel the peace process is working for them as well - and especially for young people living in these communities.

To the press and media which Lyra was so proud to be part of - I ask you to report on what is being done in these areas - to praise good work where you find it and report when it is not happening.

I know you as politicians have a very difficult job to but then so too did Lyra. There is another valuable lesson from her life - she was like 'a dog with a bone' when she believed she could make a difference. When it comes to our peace process, I would love to see this dogged attitude to the rebuilding of an Assembly that works for the common good. As I listen to the radio every morning, all I seem to hear about various initiatives in Northern Ireland are these words, 'without a minister, this can't be taken forward'. I pray that Lyra's murder may be the catalyst needed for parties to start talking, to reform that which was corrosive in previous Assemblies and to begin anew.

On Easter Sunday, Christians all over the world celebrated the most important event of the Christian year, the resurrection of Jesus. It was because of his resurrection that we believe in life beyond the grave and in the words of today's second reading from John 14: *'in my Father's house there are many dwelling places.'* It is in this hope of eternal life and happiness that we gather in prayer and now into the tender mercy of a loving God and Father I commend Lyra McKee.

**Read in full at <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36980>**

**Mark Simpson, BBC News Northern Ireland writes:** To have political leaders from Belfast, Dublin and London all under the one roof made it a funeral like no other. The disagreements over Brexit and the return of the Stormont Assembly were put into context by matters of life and death. But those political disputes were not forgotten; quite the opposite. The message from the pulpit to political leaders in Northern Ireland was clear – sort out your differences now, don't wait.

Hundreds gathered for the funeral of Ms McKee, from a Catholic background, at a Protestant cathedral. Her family chose the location due to its reputation as a "shared space" in a divided city. At the beginning of the service, the Anglican Dean of Belfast, the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, said: "Lyra was a person who broke down barriers and reached across boundaries, this was her hallmark in life, this is her legacy in death. As a journalist she pursued truth wherever it took her, never content with the sullen silence of unanswered questions." He added: "She was a child of the Good Friday agreement. She was a primary school pupil in north Belfast when the agreement was signed. She grew up to champion its hope for a society that was free from the prejudices of the past." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-48039266>

**A LETTER TO MY 14 YEAR-OLD SELF BY LYRA MCKEE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED ON *THE MUCKRAKER* IN 2014.**

"Kid, It's going to be OK. I know you're not feeling that way right now. You're sitting in school. The other kids are making fun of you. You told the wrong person you had a crush and soon, they all knew your secret. It's horrible. They make your life hell. They laugh at you, whisper about you and call you names. It's not nice. And you can't ask an adult for help because if you did that, you'd have to tell them the truth and you can't do that. They can't ever know your secret. Life is so hard right now. Every day, you wake up wondering who else will find out your secret and hate you. It won't always be like this. It's going to get better.

In a year's time, you're going to join a scheme that trains people your age to be journalists. I know the careers teacher suggested that as an option and you said no, because it sounded boring and all you wanted to do was write, but go with it. For the first time in your life, you will feel like you're good at something useful. You'll have found your calling. You'll meet amazing people. And when the bad times come again – FYI, your first girlfriend is not "the one" and you will screw up that history exam – it will be journalism that helps you soldier on.

In two years' time, you will leave school and go to a local technical college. Don't worry – you're going to make friends. These will be your first real friends in semi-adulthood, the people who will answer your calls at 4 o'clock in the morning. In the years to come, you'll only keep in touch with Gavyn and Jonny but you'll remember the others fondly. When you're 17, you'll tell them your secret and they won't mind. It will take courage but you will do it. Gavyn will become Christian and you will fear that he will hate you, but one afternoon, you'll receive a text message saying: "This changes nothing. You'll always be my friend." Accept him for what he is as he has accepted you.

You'll go to university, like you always planned to, but you'll drop out because it reminds you of school where people were cold and you had few friends. The campus is just too big and scary. But this experience will be the making of you. You'll be making your way in the world for the first time. Through this, you will meet the people who become your best friends. They'll help you replace all the bad memories with good ones. For the first time in your life, you will like yourself.

Three months before your 21st birthday, you will tell Mum the secret. You will be sobbing and shaking and she will be frightened because she doesn't know what's wrong. Christmas will be just a couple of weeks away. You have to tell her because you've met someone you like and you can't live with the guilt any more. You can't get the words out so she says it: "Are you gay?" And you will say, "Yes Mummy, I'm so sorry." And instead of getting mad, she will reply, "Thank God you're not pregnant". You will crawl into her lap, sobbing, as she holds you and tells you that you are her little girl and how could you ever think that anything would make her love you any less? You will feel like a prisoner who has been given their freedom. You will remember all the times you pleaded with God to help you because you were so afraid, and you will feel so foolish because you had nothing to worry about.

You will tell your siblings. No one will mind. Mary will hug you in the food court in Castlecourt as you eat KFC together and tell you she's so proud of you. The others will joke about how they always knew. They will all say some variation of "I love you," "I'm so proud of you," "This doesn't change a thing." You will feel so lucky. You watched James get thrown out of his house after coming out to his parents. You were in Michael's house the night his mum said she would "beat the gay out of him". You will feel guilty for being the lucky one and getting it easy in the end, even though you went through hell to get there.

You will fall in love for the first time. You will have your heart broken for the first time, and you will feel like you might die of the pain. You won't. You will get over it. Right now, you're wondering if you'll ever be "normal". You are normal. There is nothing wrong with you. You are not going to hell. You did nothing to deserve their hate.

Life will not only get easier, it will get so much better. You will walk down the street without fear. Teenage boys you've never met will not throw things at you and shout names. Your friends will be the best anyone could ask for. You will be invited to parties. You will have a social life. You will be loved. People will use words like "awesome" and "cool" and "witty" to describe you, and you'll forget the times the other kids said you were "weird" and "odd" and a "lesbo".

You will do "normal" things. You will spend time with your Mum. You will go to work and pay your bills. You will go to the cinema with your best friend every week because that's your ritual – dinner then an action movie where things explode. You will fall in love again. You will smile every day, knowing that someone loves you as much as you love them.

Keep hanging on, kid. It's worth it. I love you."

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

**Press release** 19 April 2019: Patrick Corrigan, Northern Ireland Programme Director of Amnesty International, said: "All at Amnesty are utterly devastated at the news that Lyra McKee has been shot dead while carrying out her job as a journalist. Lyra was a great young journalist, whose commitment to truth was absolute and whose laughter could light up a room. The bitter irony was that Lyra was due to speak at an Amnesty International event at the Queen's Film Theatre in Belfast on 4 May about the dangers of reporting violent conflicts." The event for World Press Freedom Day, was to involve a screening of *A Private War*, a film about war correspondents Marie Colvin and Paul Conroy, and a panel discussion on the dangers facing journalists, featuring Lyra McKee and photojournalist Kevin Cooper, chaired by Patrick Corrigan.

Patrick Corrigan added: "Journalists put themselves on the frontline in the battle for truth every single day. Every day, it becomes more dangerous for reporters to do their job on behalf of us all. Lyra McKee was one of those courageous seekers after truth, with a life ahead of her and so much to give. Our thoughts are with Lyra's partner, her family and many friends." <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/lyra-mckee-devastating-news-death-northern-ireland-journalist>

## GRETA THUNBERG CONDEMNS UK'S CLIMATE STANCE IN SPEECH TO MPS

**Damian Carrington and Peter Walker** *The Guardian* 23 April 2019

The UK government's active support for fossil fuels and airport expansion is "beyond absurd", Greta Thunberg has told MPs. The 16-year-old Swedish student, who sparked a global youth-based movement when she began a "climate strike" outside Sweden's parliament last year, gave a typically blunt speech. She told MPs: "This ongoing irresponsible behaviour will no doubt be remembered in history as one of the greatest failures of humankind."

Thunberg, who had earlier met the heads of several of the UK's political parties, also said today's generation of leaders around the world had not acted fast enough to halt climate change. "You lied to us. You gave us false hope. You told us that the future was something to look forward to," she said. "You don't listen to the science because you are only interested in solutions that will enable you to carry on like before."

Some consider the UK to be a leader in the fight against global warming, but Thunberg was fierce in her criticism: "The UK's active current support of new exploitation of fossil fuels, like for example the UK shale gas fracking industry, the expansion of its North Sea oil and gas fields, the expansion of airports, as well as the planning permission for a brand new coalmine, is beyond absurd." She said the UK had a "mind-blowing historical carbon debt", referring to the nation's cumulative emissions since the industrial revolution. The UK government also uses "very creative carbon accounting", she said, by not including the emissions from imported goods in headline figures. The former UN chief Ban Ki-Moon also recently criticised the UK government's funding of fossil fuel projects in other countries.

Thunberg said there was still just about time to stop climate change: "I'm sure that the moment we start behaving as if we were in an emergency, we can avoid climate and ecological catastrophe. Humans are very adaptable. But the opportunity to do so will not last for long." She said the deciding factor for every new economic development must be the level of carbon emissions it will produce. "Every time we make a decision we should ask ourselves; how will this decision affect that [emissions] curve?"

About 1.6 million students are estimated to have skipped school to protest against climate inaction, prompting some criticism over lost education. Thunberg said: "I assure you we will go back to school the moment you start listening to science and give us a future. Is that really too much to ask?"

Earlier on Tuesday, Jeremy Corbyn and several other Westminster party leaders met Thunberg at parliament, with a symbolic place left at the table for the absent Theresa May. Thunberg, who came to London to speak at the Extinction Rebellion environmental protests, and was due to address activists at Parliament Square later on Tuesday, met Corbyn, the Liberal Democrat leader, Vince Cable, the Green MP Caroline Lucas and the Westminster leaders of the SNP and Plaid Cymru, Ian Blackford and Liz Saville Roberts. May was chairing cabinet on Tuesday morning. Her spokesman said he did not have information about whether the prime minister had been invited to see Thunberg. Organisers of the event said May had been invited, but there had been no response. A place at the table was left empty, with the prime minister's name. Thunberg told the MPs: "We just want people to listen to the science." Corbyn told her: "Well done for what you have done."

Lucas, the former Green leader who is the party's sole MP, told the activist: "I think all of us are really committed to trying to ensure that there's an ongoing way to really make sure that all of our policies and all of our work in parliament is properly scrutinised by young people with a perspective on climate in particular. We want young people's voices to be heard in parliament. This is such an important moment, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say we have just 11 years left to get off the collision course we are on for climate catastrophe. That sense of urgency is here as never before, at a time when there have been protests on the streets not just of London but around the country and all the different nations of the UK. More than ever, politicians have our ears open to your message."

While in parliament Thunberg also met the Commons Speaker, John Bercow, as well as the former Labour leader Ed Miliband and the Lib Dem MP Layla Moran. Outside on Parliament Square, more demonstrators supporting the Extinction Rebellion group were massing, with police warning they risked arrest if they did not remain in a certain area and the protest continued after midnight. More than 1,000 people have been arrested amid sit-in protests in London over the past week, which blocked Parliament Square, Oxford Circus and Waterloo Bridge. Activists are still at Marble Arch. More than 10,000 police were deployed to contain and then break up the protests.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/23/vacant-seat-for-may-as-party-leaders-meet-greta-thunberg>

**See also:** <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/23/greta-thunberg-full-speech-to-mps-you-did-not-act-in-time>



## "CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION", SAY CHRISTIANS JOINING CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTS IN LONDON

23 April 2019: The Extinction Rebellion protests in London portray the deep Christian tradition of civil disobedience for justice, and show the willingness to make sacrifices on behalf of others. Father Martin Newell of Christian Climate Action said: "Getting arrested, going to prison, that's something I'm willing to do. It's not something I want to do, I have other things I'd rather be doing with my life, but I'm willing to do it to make this happen. And there are many of us willing to make sacrifices. For me, I'm trying to follow Jesus. He showed us the redemptive power of suffering love, on the cross and in his passion, that's the way of the cross, it's the path I am called to follow in these situations".

Helen Burnett, an Anglican priest from a parish in Caterham in the Diocese of Southwark, led prayers at an interfaith prayer ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, along with Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. "There's such a deep sense of spiritual crisis that is deeply intertwined with the ecological crisis that we are facing. This is a movement that draws all of that together".

When creation is threatened, churches and Christians are called to speak out and act as an expression of their commitment to life, justice and love. Care for creation and justice are at the centre of the World Council of Churches (WCC) work on climate change. The Bible teaches the wholeness of creation and calls human beings to take care of the garden of Eden (Gen 2:15). The God of the Bible is a God of justice who protects, loves and cares for the most vulnerable among his creatures.

The present world development model is threatening the lives and livelihoods of many, especially among the world's poorest people, and destroying biodiversity. The ecumenical vision is to overcome this model based on over-consumption and greed. Since the 1970s, the WCC has helped develop the concept of sustainable communities. Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992, the WCC has been present at all UN climate change conferences.

Over the years, the WCC has helped foster a movement for climate justice touching millions of people around the world, including thousands of congregations who rang their bells for fair and ambitious climate action in 2009 and are connected in prayer each year during Time for Creation.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change>

## SALFORD ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR LAUDATO SI CENTRE

18 April 2019 (Updated 24 April 2019): This Lent, parishes and schools of the Diocese of Salford were asked by Bishop John Arnold to take the environmental crisis more seriously and to make changes in their own lives that would make a difference. The Bishop didn't just ask others to make changes, he has responded to his own challenge by beginning a major environmental project - the *Laudato Si* centre - in the grounds of his own residence, Wardley Hall.

Named after Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment and human ecology, the centre will create a space for practical action to care for our common home, which will help to leave a sustainable world for future generations. The final elements of the project will be agreed after a period of consultation with parishes and schools. The plan includes a walled vegetable garden, an outdoor classroom, chickens, a forest school and a wildflower meadow. This ambitious multi-phase project will take at least three to five years to fully realise. It will be open to the public and it is hoped will inspire the local schools and parishes to transfer some of the ideas on display into their own communities.

At the Centre ecological solutions to problems such as single use plastic will be taken from across the globe - solutions such as an 'eco brick', which is also produced in Cambodia. The eco brick is a way of putting old plastic bottles to good use. When the bottles are packed with waste plastic they become a very useful material and are used instead of bricks for building walls. These are the materials that will be used to build the raised gardens and other small structures at Wardley Hall. The 'eco brick' is an indication of the Centre's aims to be a place for practical action, inspired by faith, rooted in prayer and that gives a sense of the sacred for people of all faiths and none. People will have the opportunity to proactively engage with the pressing environmental issues facing our generation and the generations who follow.

A statement from the diocese says: "Our goal is to make the Diocese of Salford a flagship for effective action on Climate Change and by launching this initiative the Bishop is putting his words into action on his own doorstep."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36941>

## CAFOD: PLAN YOUR SUMMER CREATION CELEBRATION

Will your parish take action this summer and be part of 'Our Common Home' campaign?

We're very excited to share the resources for our new campaign, *Our Common Home*. We are calling on the UK government to be more ambitious with climate action. We need our leaders to set a 'net-zero' emissions target before 2045, meaning that the emissions we put into the atmosphere are no greater than the ones we remove.

We are asking parishes to hold a Creation Celebration during the summer, which is a mass, followed by food and conversation, and a petition to show your group's support. If you are the CAFOD Campaigns Volunteer in your parish, you'll be sent an Organisers' Guide with your Campaigns Update any time now. For more see our climate page:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-Change>

Please contact the Volunteer Centre if you need more information or an Organisers' Guide.

[https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-Change?utm\\_source=April%20Volunteer%20E-Bulletin&utm\\_medium=Email](https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-Change?utm_source=April%20Volunteer%20E-Bulletin&utm_medium=Email)

## SRI LANKA: ACN LAUNCHES APPEAL AS DEATH TOLL CLIMBS ABOVE 320

**John Pontifex and Joop Koopman** 23 April 2019

Aid to the Church in Need has launched an urgent appeal for Sri Lanka today (Tuesday, 23 April) in the wake of the Easter Sunday attacks that left more than 320 dead and 500 injured. Bishops and other Church leaders contacted by the Catholic charity have asked for "prayers that peace and harmony may be restored" following the atrocities.

Daesh (ISIS) militant Islamists have claimed responsibility for the attacks, which targeted three luxury hotels and three churches in coordinated blasts that went off during Easter services. At a time of shock and mourning, ACN has responded by pledging support for a country where the charity is committed to helping with church buildings, Mass stipends for priests, Child's Bibles and other Christian literature, training of seminarians and help for Sisters.

Just hours after the attacks, ACN spoke by telephone to Bishop Warnakulasuriya Devsriya Valence Mendis of Chilaw, who called the attacks "a crime against humanity." "Our Easter joy was taken away from us," he said, adding that Easter Sunday "became a day of mourning". In an appeal to ACN, Bishop Mendis added: "We need your prayers that peace and harmony may be restored to our country. As an act of solidarity, we must pray for all Christians who are suffering because of their faith." Describing "the brutal attack, these acts of absolute violence that we cannot understand," the bishop said the bombings were "totally unexpected" and that there were good relations among the different faiths.

The bombings on Sunday began in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, at about 8.45am with an explosion at St Anthony's, the country's national Catholic shrine. About 45 minutes later, in Negomba, about 20 miles away, another Catholic church, St Sebastian's was targeted and later the same morning a bomb exploded at the Protestant Zion Church in Batticaloa, on Sri Lanka's east coast. There were also explosions at three top-end hotels in Colombo, popular with Westerners. Although Daesh said it was behind the attack, the claim is being treated with caution amid Sri Lankan government claims that Islamist group National Thowheed Jamath was responsible.

Despite making up less than nine percent in a majority Buddhist population, Christians in Sri Lanka have traditionally enjoyed good inter-faith and inter-ethnic relations with Catholics and Protestants well represented in both Tamil and Sinhalese communities.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36970> **Aid to the Church in Need:** [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)

## CARDINAL NICHOLS AND ARCHBISHOP WELBY URGE UK GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

17 April 2019: Christian leaders today called on Government to protect Christians facing persecution and to promote freedom of religion and belief more widely. In a joint Catholic and Church of England response to the Government-commissioned independent review of Foreign and Commonwealth Office support for persecuted Christians, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, and Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, argued that Government should promote freedom of religion and belief as a fundamental human right. They also called on Government to take a joined-up approach to Freedom of Religion and Belief in foreign, aid, security, trade, resettlement and asylum policy, rather than treating it as an isolated diplomatic activity. The independent review was launched by Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt earlier this year and is being led by Bishop Philip Mountstephen, Bishop of Truro.

Cardinal Nichols and Archbishop Welby said in a joint letter to accompany the submission: "Christians form an important part of the social fabric in almost every country of the world. Yet in many places, our Christian sisters and brothers face persecution of an intensity and extent unprecedented in many centuries. This Submission is shaped by their voices and by our commitment to make them heard. We must remember, too, that these threats to freedom of religion or belief are not restricted to Christians alone. Rather, it is a widespread experience of the followers of other faiths. Many are deprived of this basic expression of their human dignity. Similar threats are also faced by atheists and agnostics who seek to uphold crucial decisions of conscience.

"We ask Her Majesty's Government to take note of the practical recommendations offered by our Churches in this Submission and to take meaningful action not only in protecting Christians facing persecution but also in promoting freedom of religion and belief more widely."

The call was echoed by Archbishop Bashar Warda, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil, Kurdistan Iraq, where Christians were chased from their homes in 2014 as ISIS took hold in Northern Iraq. Archbishop Warda said: "The UK government has taken the first courageous step to have the global review into Christian persecution. The next courageous step is to come and listen to those who suffer and witness the persecution, the destruction, the displacement and the frightening figures of persecuted flight. The Church in England & Wales is a great support to us here in Iraq since the coming of ISIS in 2014. Cardinal Nichols made a great impact when he came here in 2015 to see and experience our situation at first hand."

Nigeria has also seen significant violence and persecution against people on account of their religious belief. Archbishop Augustine Akubeze, Archbishop of Benin City in Nigeria said: "Against the backdrop of the violence and bloodshed that characterized the last elections, we are pained that the culture of death is becoming embedded into our daily lives. This persistent devaluation of human life and property poses an existential threat to our personal survival and that of our nation. How can government continue to appear helpless in the face of such shameful tragedy? We strongly appeal to the President, in collaboration with the Governors of Kaduna State and other affected States to seriously take steps to arrest this drift before total anarchy and mayhem consume the entire nation."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36938>

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED WINS 'PATH TO PEACE AWARD'

**Citra Abbott and Joop Koopman** 16 April 2019:

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is to receive an award from the Vatican's permanent observer to the UN for the charity's vital work supporting persecuted Christians. Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, announced that ACN is the recipient of the 2019 Path to Peace Award. The Path to Peace Foundation stated that it had chosen the Catholic charity for the award in recognition of its emergency and pastoral aid for Christians suffering oppression and discrimination.

Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director, Aid to the Church in Need (UK), said: "Such a recognition is both a compliment and a challenge to Aid to the Church in Need. The compliment is to the individual faithful benefactors of ACN who have sustained the Easter hope of the Resurrection during the long Good Friday of appalling suffering, in particular in the Middle East. The challenge is now for ACN and other charities to empower the local Christian communities to renew their presence and bring a true pathway to peace."

Archbishop Auza is president of the Path to Peace to Foundation which, as well as supporting the Vatican's diplomatic work at the UN, funds humanitarian projects in developing countries. Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern, Executive President of ACN (International), will be presented with the award in New York on Wednesday, 22nd May. Previous recipients of the Path to Peace Award include former Secretary Generals of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan, former President of Poland Lech Walesa and other heads of state.

Last year, ACN supported more than 5,000 projects in 139 countries worldwide, building more than 2,470 churches, chapels, convents and halls, helping 10,000 priests, more than 11,000 religious Sisters and 14,000 Christian education teachers (catechists). In the Middle East, a priority region for ACN projects, ACN has helped Christians and others who have suffered a genocide - providing food, shelter, medicine, schooling, as well as pastoral support.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36928>

**Aid to the Church in Need:** [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)

## CHURCH AND PEACE PROTESTS EU PARLIAMENT'S €13 BILLION FOR THE ARMS INDUSTRY

Diemelstadt-Wethen, Easter 2019:

With disappointment and protest, the European peace church network Church and Peace is reacting to the decision of the European Parliament on Maundy Thursday, 18 April, to adopt the regulation for the European Defence Fund, thus paving the way for €13 billion to be earmarked for research and development of military equipment in the coming Multiannual Financial Framework (2021 - 2027).

For the first time, the EU will become the financier of the European defence industry with funds from the common budget that will not be available for civilian tasks. This sum will also be supplemented by €6.5 billion for 'military mobility'. There are no plans to make corresponding savings on national defence budgets. The Defence Fund Regulation was adopted on the last day of the legislative period by 328 votes to 231.

In the parliamentary debates and negotiations between Parliament, the Commission and the Council over the last few months, the GREENS/EFA initiative has succeeded in excluding autonomous killer drones from eligible projects. However, it still includes armed drones and weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons. The Greens (GREENS/EFA), the Left (GUE/NGL) and parts of the Social Democrats (S&D) have tried in vain to prevent further unacceptable aspects of the decision. This includes the fact that Parliament will not have access to the allocation and control of funds and to the export of arms technology to countries outside the EU. It will not be able to check whether, for example, the Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, which since 2008 has stipulated that no arms may be exported to crisis areas or warring countries, is being violated.

Together with many civil society groups, churches and organisations across Europe, Church and Peace has repeatedly made public and protested against the threat of billions being invested in the arms industry, especially as the funds for civil violence prevention and transformation are to be reduced to just €1 billion (from €2.3 billion to date). The negotiations on this regulation have been concluded, but the newly elected European Parliament will have to decide in autumn 2019 on the overall Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

On these Easter days, churches all over the world remind us that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ bear witness: non-violence and justice are not only a utopia, but the way to peace for the whole earth. That is why Church and Peace, together with more than one hundred organisations and church groups, is calling for this in view of the European elections: Save the European Peace Project!

Stand up for a European Union that advocates peace and human rights unconditionally. Campaign for a European Union that adheres to the European peace project instead of becoming a military power. Do not let the European Union provide arms to states that wage war or violate human rights to ward off refugees and migration. Increase the funds of the European Union for the promotion of non-violent conflict transformation and human rights.

[https://www.church-and-peace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/PR\\_13bn-Euro-for-arms-industry\\_19042019.pdf](https://www.church-and-peace.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/PR_13bn-Euro-for-arms-industry_19042019.pdf)

**Church and Peace** E-mail: [intlooffice@church-and-peace.org](mailto:intlooffice@church-and-peace.org) - [www.church-and-peace.org](http://www.church-and-peace.org)

## PRIEST ARRESTED IN ARMS FAIR PROTEST

4 April 2019: Fr Martin Newell cp, a Catholic priest from Birmingham, will be in court next week after being arrested last week for a peace protest at the DPRTE (Department of Procurement, Research, Technology, Exportability) Arms Fair in Farnham. He was charged with between £100 and £200 criminal damage to a sign at the Farnborough International airfield and conference centre, and bailed to return to Basingstoke Magistrates Court on April 11. Fr Newell had used red paint to represent the blood of the innocent victims of the arms trade. He wrote *'Yemeni blood on your hands'* and put red paint on his own hands signifying his own complicity by silence in the blood that is shed as a result of the arms trade.

Among those involved in the DPRTE arms fair are the largest international arms companies in the world, such as BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, who are all implicated in exporting missiles and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia, which have been used in the war in Yemen. The DPRTE arms fair was scheduled to be held at the Birmingham NEC. However, following a concerted campaign by Birmingham Stop the Arms Fair the NEC announced at short notice that due to 'health and safety' concerns, it would instead be at Farnborough International airfield in Hampshire, where the Farnborough Airshow is held.

Fr Newell said "The arms trade fuels war around the world in the same way as the sale of guns, and knives fuels death on our streets. We in the UK and other arms companies are still selling missiles and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia, which is being used to bomb Yemen, resulting in the death of innocent men, women and children. I appeal to all in government and in companies producing and supplying arms to hear the cries of the victims of war and the arms trade, and to repent - to turn away - from the spiral of violence, and instead to work for peace. My action at the DPRTE arms fair was an act of conscientious objection to the arms trade, which is a trade in death. My Catholic faith tells me to live by my conscience, to obey God's laws, even where this clashes with human authority. And Jesus came to be a prince of peace, not war, and his mission led him into conflict with the powers that be of his time and place. He wept because his people did not know 'the things that make for peace' (Luke 19:42)".

Fr John Kearns cp, Fr Newell's Superior in the Passionist Order, said: "We offer our support to Martin in his act of conscience and witness. As Catholics, Christians and Passionists, we are called to solidarity with all those who are suffering, all victims of violence and injustice. His willingness to suffer by going to prison for his commitment is a sign of hope and inspiration for us".  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36851>

## CHANNEL 4 INVESTIGATION INTO BRITAIN'S COMPLICITY IN YEMEN CONFLICT

3 April 2019: Christian Aid has welcomed a Channel 4 investigation into Britain's complicity in Yemen conflict. Speaking ahead of Monday's *'Dispatches: Britain's Hidden War'*, Karol Balfe, who leads on Christian Aid's global peace-building programme, said: "The UK's complicity in the war in Yemen is unacceptable. It is unthinkable that at the same time as providing assistance to UN agencies working in the world's worst man-made humanitarian crisis, arms sales from the UK to Saudi Arabia - which are fuelling the Yemen conflict - have increased by two thirds since 2016 and now account for nearly half of Britain's major arms exports. No other arms exporter comes close to this dependence on the Gulf market.

"Our aid is making a huge difference in this crisis, but these efforts are being undermined by our much larger investment in arms. It is shameful that the UK government is effectively putting its own perceived national security and domestic interests ahead of human security and protecting the civilians living through this catastrophic conflict. Channel 4's *Dispatches* will shine a light on the UK's immoral policy of arms exports to repressive regimes. We would urge the UK to suspend arms sales to Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners, since it has been shown time and again that their military operations in Yemen are violating international law by attacking civilians and essential civilian infrastructure, including medical facilities.

"It is time for us to put our money where our mouth is and take a lead in making peace not war, by supporting local peace actors, especially women, to participate fully in peace efforts, and by ending support for the Saudi-led coalition and upholding our own commitments to the Arms Trade Treaty and international humanitarian law."

**Read Christian Aid's 2018 report: *Resourcing War and Peace*:**

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/about-us/report-resourcing-war-and-peace>

**Read more about the programme here:** [www.channel4.com/press/news/britains-hidden-war-channel-4-dispatches](http://www.channel4.com/press/news/britains-hidden-war-channel-4-dispatches)

**Watch Channel 4 *Dispatches: Britain's Hidden War*:** [www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69110-001](http://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69110-001)

## BISHOP CALLS ON UK TO PROMOTE GLOBAL ABOLITION OF DEATH PENALTY

11 April 2019: The lead Catholic Bishop for International Affairs, Bishop Declan Lang of Clifton, has welcomed the international decline in executions, and called on the UK government to use its diplomatic and economic influence to promote global abolition of the death penalty. Statistics released today show that the number of known executions fell by over 30% in 2018 and more than two thirds of countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

Bishop Declan said: "The continued decline in capital punishment gives us cause for hope that this attack on the inviolability and dignity of every human person may eventually be confined to history. Once again, I urge our government to redouble its efforts towards promoting global abolition of the death penalty. There are both diplomatic and economic means of driving forward this goal. For example, the UK has trade offices in more than half of the 20 countries that executed their own citizens last year. I hope that Catholics will continue to speak up on behalf of those at risk of execution and pray for all those affected."

Last year Pope Francis approved a new revision the Catechism, reflecting the Church's longstanding opposition to capital punishment. It reads: "The Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person', and works with determination for its abolition worldwide".

**Link:** [www.catholicnews.org.uk/abolish-death-penalty](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/abolish-death-penalty)



## CALAIS REFLECTION: PEOPLE NOT WALLS

**Barbara Kentish** 11 April 2019

I spent a March weekend in Calais and Dunkirk for a 'People Not Walls' meeting. 'People Not Walls' - a working title - consists of several charities/associations and non-governmental organisations on both sides of the Channel who meet regularly to strengthen our solidarity for the humanitarian treatment of migrants on our borders. Organisations based in France, such as Help Refugees, l'Auberge des Migrants, Utopia 56 and Calais Catholic Worker, the Diocese of Europe, meet with some in England, such as Justice and Peace, the Diocese of Canterbury, Samphire, Seeking Sanctuary and others.

We seek to show our respective governments that investing in barriers is a futile way to build human flourishing. Instead we call for investment in the welfare of the hundreds, if not thousands, who continue to congregate along the coast, from the Belgian border to Calais and beyond. The monthly meeting took place at Secours Catholique in Calais, with 10 or 12 people who are getting to know each other and building a programme of action.

Our Calais friends were downhearted and even traumatised by the recent violence of the riot police, who had demolished a small settlement on the outskirts of Calais. Each time this happens, tents, sleeping bags and clothing are destroyed. They nevertheless hold out some hope that new avenues of collaboration can change the situation. We are planning this on three levels:

1. exchange of information
2. a joint symbolic action on both sides of the Channel on 20 June - World Refugee Day
3. a collaborative campaign for greater humanity from both our governments.

All these objectives are in progress, aided by some semi-professional lobbyists, as well as volunteers, all with determination to seek something better for the hundreds forced to 'drift' around the coastline. For most 'exilés' there is now no alternative but to attempt some illegal entry into the UK.

Two of us had booked to stay over till Sunday and travel northwards to Dunkirk. A quiet farm B&B near the coast seemed far from the struggles of the Calais streets, but we reached Grande Synthe on the outskirts of Dunkirk early next morning. Here, Sylviane, a volunteer friend, met and led us to a nature reserve where we discovered a group of 20 plus Afghans camping in the woods, safe, they said, from police disturbance. One was known to my friend who had seen him in Calais two years before. Others had spent time in Italy before coming North. Pallets kept the men from the worst of the mud, and there was a substantial camp fire. We were offered a cup of tea - I remembered Afghan hospitality from the Calais Jungle - but we had other visits to make.

On to the municipal gymnasium where open ground and surrounding sports pitches have been made available for camping. We saw perhaps a hundred tents of varying sizes and 200-300 people, mostly men, enjoying the comparative warmth of the morning sun. With goods from our friend such as sleeping bags, tents and warm jackets, we were temporarily popular, till these ran out, and the men returned to their serious occupation of getting phones recharged on multiple socket cables. A favourite criticism of migrants is of course that they can afford smart phones. But it is a lifeline for most, not only to keep them in touch with family - generally with free Whatsapp, but also it tells them where the lorries are, the traffic flow, and so on. Perhaps also family can transmit money via phone. There were a few children, one is an Iranian with excellent English after only eight months in Europe.

Sylviane then drove us to a municipal children's holiday centre where women and children are housed - a lovely sheltered modern house in its own grounds. Alas, both the gym and the holiday house will be needed in the warmer weather and the migrants will be out on illegal ground again.

By lunchtime Sylviane decided we needed feeding and took us to an amazing Vietnamese 'eat all you want for a fixed price' meal, where we did just that, without much encouragement. Then we continued on to her house on a street by the sea in town, where she proudly pointed out where the blockbuster 'Dunkirk' had been filmed. Her house, of old 19th century architecture, had been part of the film set, close to where sandbags had blocked the way. Walking along the beach we were treated to enormous ice creams and a visit to an old German bunker on the beach, which a local artist has just completely covered with fragments of mirror, calling it 'Reflections'. Modern barbed wire fences in Calais, old German war bunkers in Dunkirk: you do indeed have to reflect on this stretch of the French coast! Who is protecting whom from what?

My reflections were mostly, however, on the resilience of the migrants, and the support needed by volunteers and aid workers for the long haul in seeking justice on the borders, and that the money spent on walls would be much better spent on food, clothing and shelter for migrants.

**Note:** The political border between the UK and France is on the French coast, rather than mid-way across the sea; border security, therefore, while geographically on French land, is financed greatly by the UK. The hundreds of migrants, having entered Europe through Greece, Italy or even Northern Europe, and crossed several Schengen borders, are brought up short when arriving on the North coast of France, facing a daunting barrier of steel, barbed wire, and 25 miles or so of freezing English Channel.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36899>

**Barbara Kentish** retired recently as J&P Fieldworker for Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. An excellent French speaker, she continues working with the cross channel solidarity group she initiated and other Calais projects.

**See more at:** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36332>

## PERU: ENVIRONMENTALIST LA SALLE BROTHER FOUND DEAD

3 April 2019: The burnt body of La Salle lay brother Paul McAuley, was found yesterday in the young people's hostel he ran in Belén, Iquitos, in the Amazon rainforest. Brother Paul, 71, worked to support indigenous tribes who are trying to protect their ancestral lands from destruction by powerful oil and mining companies. The Peruvian Episcopal Conference said in a statement: "The Bishops' Conference invites the authorities to clarify the facts and find those responsible for this event." The prosecutor's office of the Province of Maynas (Iquitos area) has decided to "open an investigation into the death of the British religious Paul McAuley, director of the boarding school for young indigenous people in Loreto."

Born in Portsmouth, England, in 1947, Paul McAuley had been in Peru since 1995, where he had founded the 'Colegio Fe y Alegría N° 43' in Zapallal, Puente Piedra district, Lima. He then worked in Moyobamba and San José de Amazonas. For 19 years he lived in Iquitos, where he had been in charge of the radio programs 'La Voz de la Selva', he had participated in various development projects for the populations living along the Amazonas and Huallaga rivers, and he had dedicated himself to raising funds for the young natives who came to Iquitos to study. In 2010 the Peruvian government tried to strip Br Paul of his residency rights after he fought and defeated an attempt to begin drilling in Amazonia.

**See: ICN 7 July 2010 - British missionary to be expelled from Peru** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/16459>

In a statement, Jesuit Missions expressed sorrow for the death of Brother Paul McAuley who "worked tirelessly to support indigenous activists and educating people on their environmental and human rights." Director of Jesuit Missions, Paul Chitnis, said: "Brother Paul McAuley showed great courage and determination in standing with people whose rights are infringed by the actions of mining companies. Our thoughts and prayers are with the De La Salle brothers both in Peru and the UK." Jesuit Missions works with the Justice in Mining group within the Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN). It seeks to advocate for the protection of human rights and the environment within places such as Democratic Republic of Congo and the Amazon. Jesuit Missions has also worked with the Jesuits in Guyana to raise awareness of the pressures being put on the Amerindian communities by mining companies. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36842>

## REMEMBERING RACHEL CORRIE

**Kathleen Kern, Christian Peacemaker Teams** 3 April 2019: In 2003, when the Hebron team heard that the Israeli military had crushed Rachel Corrie to death with a Caterpillar bulldozer, the news hit all of us hard. Some of us had conducted nonviolence trainings for the first waves of International Solidarity Movement volunteers that had poured into Palestine to address violence of the Second Intifada. These volunteers had included Corrie, and Tom Hurdall who was shot and later disconnected from life support, as well as Brian Avery, also shot and permanently disfigured. Most of us had at one time or another stood in front of a bulldozer or had friends who had stood in front of bulldozers in an effort to prevent the demolition of a Palestinian home. Israeli soldiers and police had roughed us up, detained us or arrested us. Until Corrie died, I don't think we believed that soldiers would run us, our friends or the Palestinian homeowners over.

Sixteen years later, if I heard soldiers had deliberately run over anyone with a bulldozer in Hebron in this current political climate the news would not shock me. The number of extrajudicial executions that happen in this city simply because Palestinians make soldiers nervous is frightening. Yet right now, less lethal things chip away at my soul: for example, young Israeli soldiers addressing professional Palestinian men in their forties and fifties as "walid" or "boy" as they walk through the checkpoint. Also, can you think of anywhere else in the world where elementary schoolchildren are regularly, routinely blanketed with teargas as they walk to and from school? And little children scurrying from teargas aren't even the images that haunt me. It's the faces of soldiers laughing I can't shake. They laugh as they load the teargas grenades into their launchers, preparing to shoot them at the children.

Adam Serwer, a writer for the *Atlantic*, wrote an article last year about the Trump era, entitled '*The cruelty is the point.*' Nothing is quite so demoralising as cruelty for the sake of cruelty, as watching grown men and women in uniform taking pleasure in mistreating children and our other neighbours in the Old City of Hebron. But while this cruelty can haunt and even paralyse those who care about Palestinians, that's not the lesson to take away from Corrie's life. I remember reading emails to her family after her death and being struck by her optimism and her plans for the future. Her final email to her father particularly moved me: "Thanks also for stepping up your anti-war work. I know it is not easy to do, and probably much more difficult where you are than where I am. ... Also got an invitation to visit Sweden on my way back - which I think I could do very cheaply. I would like to leave Rafah with a viable plan to return, too. One of the core members of our group has to leave tomorrow - and watching her say goodbye to people is making me realise how difficult it will be. People here can't leave, so that complicates things. They also are pretty matter-of-fact about the fact that they don't know if they will be alive when we come back here.

I really don't want to live with a lot of guilt about this place - being able to come and go so easily - and not going back. I think it is valuable to make commitments to places - so I would like to be able to plan on coming back here within a year or so. Of all of these possibilities I think it's most likely that I will at least go to Sweden for a few weeks on my way back - I can change tickets and get a plane to from Paris to Sweden and back for a total of around 150 bucks or so. ... Let me know if you have any ideas about what I should do with the rest of my life."

As the cruelty of the Israeli military occupation increases, and internationals find it increasingly difficult to travel to the Occupied Palestinian Territories because the Israeli government denies them entry, Corrie's words remind us that Palestinian resistance ultimately does not rely on outsiders. And, that like Corrie's father, internationals can undertake much of that resistance in their home countries and communities. Corrie's words also remind us that while internationals can seriously commit themselves to the cause of Palestinian liberation, they do not have to take themselves so seriously. We do this work knowing the risks, but assuming there is a future. And that even if we cannot envision the change that is going to occur, we know that something will change. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36841> **Read more about CPT's work:** [www.cpt.org/](http://www.cpt.org/)

## **"WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?" REV. DR OLAV TVEIT DELIVERS HUFFINGTON LECTURE**

3 April 2019: As he delivered the Inaugural Michael Huffington Lecture at Loyola Marymount University on 1 April, World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit spoke on "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity," the theme of the WCC 11th Assembly in 2021 in Karlsruhe, Germany. In the lecture, titled "*What's love got to do with it?*" Tveit also poses additional questions: What is it that the churches want to say now? What is it that the world needs now? The world needs love, the kind of lifesaving love that is a profound source of unity, Tveit said. "We are neither called to promote, nor to be a source of conflict and polarisation," he said. "That means that we cannot ignore tribalism, racism, nationalism, or any other form of exclusivism – if we are to be the followers of Christ in this world." Reconciliation and unity occur between people face-to-face, Tveit said. "Justice is needed to be able to proceed, but the guilty should not be brought to justice by making everybody guilty, collectively," he said. "That is not justice."

The world is not moving in love towards reconciliation and unity, Tveit admitted. "Even the communities of Christian faith are sometimes quite self-centred and themselves a source of division and even conflict – with a negative effect far beyond their own circles," he said. "In fact, now is actually a time when religion is one of the dividing factors in the world, or at least used and misused to divide, for other purposes than the strictly religious motivation."

It is time to go back to basics, Tveit urged. "The message of Jesus Christ is exclusive in the sense that in a Christian church nothing else can define what the church is," he said. "The ecumenical movement itself, its institutions and organisations, might provide a temptation to serve the interest of one's own community and church, or even one's own personal interests."

For the first time in the WCC's history, the term "love" will be included in a theme for an assembly. "The church is called to be the expression of this love in a broken and sinful world," Tveit reflected. "How could the ecumenical movement, trying to unite the churches in this call and to bring forth the signs of the reign of God – that is, justice, peace and joy – into this world – how could this movement be something other than a movement of love?" The WCC speaks truth to power, Tveit concluded: "We do so driven by love for all, and particularly for those suffering, occupied, colonised, excluded, non-privileged, marginalised, discriminated against."

**Link to the lecture by the WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit**

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/speeches/whats-love-got-to-do-with-it-the-ecumenical-future-of-the-churches/>

**WCC general secretary visits Los Angeles with a focus on love, unity, WCC press release 1 April 2019**

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-general-secretary-visits-los-angeles-with-a-focus-on-love-unity>

**WCC general secretary: "We believe in God's love", WCC press release 31 March 2019**

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-general-secretary-we-believe-in-gods-love>

## **CARDINAL: CREATE A SENSE OF BELONGING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO COUNTERACT GANG CULTURE, KNIFE CRIME**

7 April 2019: Cardinal Vincent Nichols joined other church leaders at the Standing Together rally in Trafalgar on Saturday 6 April to call for an end to knife crime, to demand action and to stand alongside young people, families and communities affected by the scourge of violent crime. Reflecting afterwards, Cardinal Vincent spoke about the need to warn young people about gangs and to provide them with alternatives: "I know some of our Catholic schools in London are leading the way in the work with the Metropolitan Police to try to explain to young people early in their lives about the dangers, about the risks, and about how to react."

"The only way of counteracting a gang culture is to create for young people a sense of belonging to something else: something that's positive, creative and attractive to them. I had a request from a priest this week who's looking to start a boxing club in his parish. In my youth in Liverpool there were a lot of Catholic parishes with boxing clubs because they taught discipline and the right use of strength. They even produced a few world champions (John Conteh was one) but this was the alternative to gang culture and this is the kind of reaction we need to involve young people in a way that calls out their commitment and helps them to build discipline and self-control in their lives, and that's the best counter to some of the worst influences today."

The Cardinal also made reference to negative social media influences: "In families and schools we need to be scrupulous in telling each other the truth and not hiding behind the half-truths, crudeness and unworthiness of things that are cheap, quick and popular today. Young people need deep roots so they can stand tall and grow to their full potential."

He also had a direct message to young people who have found themselves involved in gangs or carrying knives: "If you or your friends are involved in gangs, try to find a way out. If you or your friends carry or possess knives, go to one of the banks and anonymously get rid of the knife in your possession, just get rid of it. It doesn't make you safer, it puts you at risk of using it and not only will you cause harm to somebody else, you'll damage your own life. So build friendships, find places where you can go and sit and honestly talk and share your experiences with other people. Say your prayers, turn to God, turn to Christ and let your life grow from that relationship with Jesus rather than from anywhere else." Continuing to emphasise the need for prayer and to look to the Cross not just as a place of sorrow and suffering but a place that witnesses the birth of new hope, he said: "For families worried about their youngsters, talk, talk, keep talking. To families who are worried and strained in their relationships, find times of silence when you sit together, say a simple prayer."

In the Diocese of Westminster, secure knife bins where knives can be disposed of anonymously are available at the Parishes of St Ignatius in Stamford Hill and St Mellitus in Tollington Park. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36871>

**Listen to Cardinal Vincent's address here:** <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/create-a-sense-of-belonging-for-young-people-to-counteract-gang-culture-says-cardinal/>

## CHESHIRE PARISH BECOMES FIRST IN DIOCESE TO WELCOME REFUGEE FAMILY FROM SYRIA

**Simon Caldwell** 1 April 2019: A Catholic church in Cheshire has become the first in the Diocese of Shrewsbury to welcome a family of Syrian refugees. Parishioners of the Church of Our Lady and St Christopher in Romiley, near Stockport, have welcomed a family of five from a refugee camp in Lebanon where they have lived since 2012 when they fled the country's civil war. The couple in their 30s, whose children are all aged under 10 years, were resettled under the Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme to relocate 20,000 refugees from the Syrian conflict. Parishioners were so generous in raising money to bring the family to Romiley that there was a surplus of funds so large that the parish is able to use it to relocate a second family later this year. Arrangements made by parishioners of St Winefride's Church, Sandbach, to relocate a Syrian family are also well advanced and, according to Sean Ryan, Caritas national coordinator for the scheme, there is strong interest among parishioners of St Agnes' Church in West Kirby, the Wirral, to bring a family of refugees there too.

Canon Michael Gannon, the parish priest in Romiley, said that the Muslim family flew from Beirut to be welcomed by a party of parishioners who introduced them to their new home and provided them with a hot meal. Their arrival was the conclusion of an initiative which began in August 2017 with an appeal to raise the £9,000 to apply to the Home Office to take part in the scheme, for which Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury acted as the lead sponsor. Mr Ryan visited the parish on two occasions to speak in the church and a 'core group' of 17 people, with a range of professional skills, was set up to prepare for the arrival. Private rented accommodation within the parish was obtained and fitted and repaired through the generosity of parishioners who gave money, contributed items such as furniture, and who volunteered to carry out tasks such as painting and gardening. Now that the family is in Romiley, the group will help them to integrate them over a period of two years, assisting them, for instance, in learning English and in how to access and use public services.

Canon Gannon, a Vicar General, said the project had not only benefited the family but also the life of the parish. "It has made a difference to people who previously knew each other perhaps on nodding terms," he said. "To see people working together for a common purpose has been uplifting to me and a great joy," Canon Gannon said. "This project has helped relationships grow and develop in this parish." He said: "It is putting the Gospel into practice. It is just giving this family an opportunity to make a new start after the loss of their home in Syria and the chance to rebuild their lives following the devastating experience they had." He continued: "I am personally, as parish priest, absolutely delighted ... it is just wonderful to be able to do something practical to help a family who were forced to leave their country in very sad circumstances. This is very much love in action, the Gospel in action. It is something Pope Francis fully endorses and I am just very pleased that our parish has been able to respond to that challenge and to the call of the Holy Father. We are going to do it again and that's thanks to the generosity of our parishioners who exceeded the target for *Our Mission Together*." A total of 30 per cent of funds raised by the *Our Mission Together* initiative were allocated for such parish projects.

The first Catholic parish in the country to welcome a family of refugees from Syria was St Monica's in Flixton, in the neighbouring Diocese of Salford where Mr Ryan is based. Mr Ryan said two other Salford parishes have since welcomed refugee families and eight more will do so by the end of summer, bringing the total of Salford parishes involved in the scheme to 11. "We are hoping we can get some (Shrewsbury) parishes closer to the border with Salford to go forward as well," said Mr Ryan. "I think we are looking at a quiet revolution. I think it is hard to overstate the capacity of this scheme to transform the lives of families who have lost everything. It is really breath-taking the results we are seeing in Catholic parishes."

He added: "It is a whole-society approach where grass roots ordinary people are working with government departments providing world-class support - they can't do enough to help us. We are seeing something amazing here, transforming people's lives to the sound of raucous laughter, jokes and transforming parishes into the bargain. It has been a wonderful experience for everybody." <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36826>

## CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE AWARDS 2019

The Celebrating Young People Awards honour the achievements of those truly remarkable young people (aged up to 25) who make our communities and our world a better place. Nominated by friends and family, teachers and clergy, award recipients are drawn from throughout England and Wales and reflect achievements in every area of social action. Their achievements show us all how ordinary young people can do the most extraordinary things. Last year recipients included young carers, peer mentors, a group of climate change activists, a student challenging bullying, an eighteen year old who feeds and supports his local homeless community, and a mental health campaigner. The 2019 Awards take place on 3 July 2019 in London's Leicester Square with guest of honour Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Nominations close on 24 May 2019 – go to: <http://millionminutes.org/nominate>

**The Jimmy Mizen Award** - Promoting Solidarity & Peace

**The Cardinal Hume Award** - Living out the Option for the Poor

**The Joseph Cardijn Award** - Protecting the dignity of workers.

**The Dorothy Day Award** - Fostering community and participation

**The Barbara Ward Award** - Caring for the environment

**The St Josephine Bakhita Award** - Celebrating human dignity

**The Pope Francis Award** The Pope Francis Award will be selected from all the nominations and presented by Cardinal Nichols.

**The Cymfed Award** - Inspiring youth leader

**Million Minutes** enables youth action and advocacy activities that give voice and support to young people to transform their lives and their world. Young people are often seen and not listened to. They get shut out of decision-making, stereotyped, and scapegoated for society's problems. And it's not right. Young people's energy and vibrancy shouldn't be underestimated. They care about the future. They can change the future for the good of all. At Million Minutes we want to enable young people to be the ones to build a world based on the principles at the heart of Catholic social teaching – the principles of dignity and equality, of service to the poor and the oppressed, of care for the world and the promotion of peace and solidarity.

<http://millionminutes.org>



## KEY QUOTES FROM *CHRISTUS VIVIT - CHRIST IS ALIVE!*

2 April 2019: The Holy See has released Pope Francis's Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit (Christ is Alive!)*

Pope Francis's new Exhortation is the fruit of six months of prayer and reflection on the conclusions of the Synod on Young People last autumn. The Holy Father has produced a direct and heartfelt appeal, addressing himself both to young people and to the entire church, placing before us the figure of Christ, "the true youthfulness of a World Grown Old."

Twelve key quotes from the Pope's new Exhortation follow:

- Jesus had no use for adults who looked down on the young or lorded it over them. On the contrary, he insisted that "the greatest among you must become like the youngest."
- It is unhelpful to buy into the cult of youth or foolishly to dismiss others simply because they are older or from another generation. Jesus tells us that the wise are able to bring forth from their store things both new and old (cf. Mt 13:52). A wise young person is open to the future, yet still capable of learning something from the experience of others.
- It is important to realize that Jesus was a young person. He gave his life when he was, in today's terms, a young adult.
- Let us ask the Lord to free the Church from those who would make her grow old, encase her in the past, hold her back or keep her at a standstill. But let us also ask him to free her from another temptation: that of thinking she is young because she accepts everything the world offers her, thinking that she is renewed because she sets her message aside and acts like everybody else.
- The Church should not be excessively caught up in herself but instead, and above all, reflect Jesus Christ. This means humbly acknowledging that some things concretely need to change, and if that is to happen, she needs to appreciate the vision but also the criticisms of young people.
- Our present-day culture exploits the image of the young. Beauty is associated with a youthful appearance, cosmetic treatments that hide the traces of time. Young bodies are constantly advertised as a means of selling products. The ideal of beauty is youth, but we need to realise that this has very little to do with young people. It only means that adults want to snatch youth for themselves, not that they respect, love and care for young people.
- If you are young in years, but feel weak, weary or disillusioned, ask Jesus to renew you. With him, hope never fails. You can do the same if you feel overwhelmed by vices, bad habits, selfishness or unhealthy pastimes. Jesus, brimming with life, wants to help you make your youth worthwhile. In this way, you will not deprive the world of the contribution that you alone can make, in all your uniqueness and originality.
- Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen. Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle! Don't be parked cars, but dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anaesthetised. Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly!
- At every moment in life, we can renew our youthfulness. When I began my ministry as Pope, the Lord broadened my horizons and granted me renewed youth. The same thing can happen to a couple married for many years, or to a monk in his monastery. There are things we need to "let go of" as the years pass, but growth in maturity can coexist with a fire constantly rekindled, with a heart ever young.
- Youth ministry, as traditionally carried out, has been significantly affected by social and cultural changes. Young people frequently fail to find in our usual programmes a response to their concerns, their needs, their problems and issues... we should take into greater consideration those practices that have shown their value - the methods, language and aims that have proved truly effective in bringing young people to Christ and the Church. It does not matter where they are coming from or what labels they have received, whether "conservative" or "liberal", "traditional" or "progressive". What is important is that we make use of everything that has borne good fruit and effectively communicates the joy of the Gospel.
- Rather than being too concerned with communicating a great deal of doctrine, let us first try to awaken and consolidate the great experiences that sustain the Christian life. In the words of Romano Guardini, "when we experience a great love... everything else becomes part of it".
- Many young people have come to appreciate silence and closeness to God. Groups that gather to adore the Blessed Sacrament or to pray with the word of God have also increased. We should never underestimate the ability of young people to be open to contemplative prayer.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36832>

***Christus Vivit - Christ Is Alive!*** RRP: £5.95 ISBN : 9781784696177 [ctsbooks.org/christus-vivit](https://ctsbooks.org/christus-vivit)

**Read the full document here:**

<http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2019/04/02/0276/00556.html#inglese>

## BISHOPS WELCOME *CHRISTUS VIVIT* + FULL TEXT

2 April 2019: Pope Francis today released his Post-Synodal Exhortation *Christus Vivit* (*Christ is Alive*) to Young People and to the entire People of God, following the Synod of Bishops in October 2018. The theme of the Synod was *'Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment.'*

The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales has welcomed document. Three delegates from the Conference attended the Synod of Bishops in October 2018: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, Bishop Ralph Heskett, Bishop of Hallam and Bishop Mark O'Toole, Bishop of Plymouth. Welcoming the publication of *Christus Vivit*, they said: "What a joy it is to receive this Post-Synodal Exhortation *'Christ is Alive'*. Reading it brings back all the best features of the Synod of Bishops we attended last October: the vitality of young people; their love for the Church and for us Bishops; their willingness to face the difficult challenges before us; their capacity for prayer and a living, loving relationship with Jesus. We thank Pope Francis so warmly for this remarkable document which will now be poured over by many young people and brought to bear on their lives.

"The closing words of this Exhortation will be so welcome: 'The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith. We need them! And when you arrive where we have not yet reached, have the patience to wait for us' (299). Here is a great invitation from Pope Francis asking all of us to reflect on so many aspects of our world today, a world in which hunger, homelessness, violence, cruelty and exploitation touch and diminish the lives of so many young people. These and many other challenges face young people in particularly dramatic ways, including the rights and roles of women and our own past in the Church (42); the exploitation of the images of young people (79); the desires, hurts and feelings of young people, including their sexuality (81); the digital world (86); abuse of every kind (95).

"The Pope writes with great vigour of the message of the Living Christ and invites young people to 'make the most of these years of youth' (143), in friendship with Christ (150), in 'strong social friendships' (169) and always as 'courageous missionaries' (175). He also spells out the challenges for ministry in the Church and speaks about the task of true discernment. In *'Christ is Alive'* we have received a great gift. Now we can open the wrapping and delve into the richness of what we have been given!" <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36833>

## COULD YOU BE A COMMUNITY STORYTELLER?

Let's take a fresh look at Greater Manchester:

- What are the challenges in your neighbourhood that should be tackled?
- Who is doing amazing work that should be celebrated?
- What's causing poverty, and what could be done to help make society better?

We know there are loads of powerful stories out there, waiting to be told. And by working together, we think we can tell them really well. Church Action on Poverty's new community storyteller project will allow some of the untold stories in our region to get the attention they deserve.

We are looking to work with up to 10 people who understand through personal experience what poverty is really like in Greater Manchester, and who want to help loosen poverty's grip across the region. Our media unit coordinator will help you use your smartphone to make short films. We will provide apps, equipment and professional tips and techniques that can make your videos stand out. We'll all work together to share ideas expertise. We'll identify and develop stories from our own communities. We'll work together to edit them, and then Church Action on Poverty will help ensure the stories are seen and have an impact, as we work towards a more compassionate society.

Why are we doing this? Well, there can be a tendency sometimes for campaigners, journalists, church leaders and politicians to try to speak on behalf of people in poverty. We recognise that often, people don't need a spokesperson – they need an opportunity to be heard and listened to. Having an authentic message matters. It helps remove the stigma around poverty, helps challenge the myths and misunderstandings, and helps raise issues that people without that experience won't have thought of. A study in 2014 of ten major media outlets found that only 4% of articles allocated significant space to the voices of people in poverty, and 78% included no direct quotes from people in poverty.

We want to tell new stories, and to do that we need new storytellers. Are you interested? If so, please email [gavin@church-poverty.org.uk](mailto:gavin@church-poverty.org.uk), phone 0161 872 9294 or send us a message at [facebook.com/churchpoverty](https://www.facebook.com/churchpoverty)

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED NEWS

**Will you sponsor Fr Richard?** Fr Richard Howard from the Diocese of Salford is undertaking an Olympic distance triathlon to support Christians in Egypt through Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). He'll be swimming 1.5 Km, cycling 40km and running 10 km in Southport on 19 May. You can sponsor him online at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/frrichardstriathlon> or by card or cheque through the NW Office of ACN 01524 388739 [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org).

### ACN Retreat Days for the Suffering Church

This year Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) will be offering four day-long retreats in the NW. These days will include Holy Mass, information sessions about the issues faced by Christians in other parts of the world, private and guided prayer, a chance to send messages to struggling Christians elsewhere in the world and more. The days run from 10am until 4pm. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch, but drinks and biscuits will be provided. The cost is £15 per person. Spaces are limited, so please book in advance: ACN NW: 01524 388739 [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org)

**Dates and venues as follows: Saturday 25 May** Salford Cathedral; **Saturday 8 June** Sandymount House of Prayer, Liverpool; **Saturday 22 June** Our Lady & St Michael's, Workington; **Saturday 5 October** Lancaster Cathedral.

## BLACK HISTORY FILM AT TATE LIVERPOOL 29 March – 12 May 2019

Arthur Jafa's film *Love Is The Message, The Message Is Death* traces black history and black experience in America.

Arthur Jafa is a film director, cinematographer, and visual artist who has worked with musicians and directors, including Stanley Kubrick, Spike Lee, Solange Knowles and Jay-Z.

*Love Is The Message, The Message Is Death* includes: a civil rights march, former US President Obama singing Amazing Grace at the eulogy for the 9 Charleston parishioners killed by a white supremacist, Martin Luther King waving from the back of a car and Beyoncé in her video for 7/11. These images are combined with footage shot by Jafa himself, including his daughter's wedding, his mother dancing, and footage from previous works, mixing his personal experience with a collective one. The seven-minute video is a poignant montage of historic and contemporary footage, cut at a rapid-pace and set to Kanye West's gospel-inspired *Ultralight Beam*.

*'I want to make black cinema with the power, beauty, and alienation of black music. That's my big goal.'* Arthur Jafa

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-liverpool/exhibition/love-message-message-death>

## MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL TO MARK 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF PETERLOO MASSACRE

Mancunians will mark the 200th anniversary of one of the darkest days in British political history when artists from more than 20 countries gather for this year's Manchester International Festival. The city will host the world premier of a two-part commission to honour the bicentenary of Peterloo – the 1819 massacre that saw 18 people killed when government troops charged into a crowd of pro-democracy protesters.

*The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo* will see a new work by composer Emily Howard and poet Michael Symmons Roberts, performed by 40 musicians the BBC Philharmonic, the BBC Singers and three Hallé choirs. Emily Howard said it has been "such a privilege" to create a work of art to remember Peterloo. "Many people in Manchester know about Peterloo, but most people here and beyond don't know what happened. This was such a landmark in history and to create a work of art that can raise awareness of it is wonderful."

ANU, one of Europe's most daring theatre companies, will also take to the streets for a day-long series of immersive performances inspired by the stories of those who died in the massacre at St Peter's Field.

Other works at the festival include *Tree*, which will take audiences on a thrilling journey in search of the soul and spirit of contemporary South Africa. Created by Idris Elba, whose album *Mi Mandela* provides the soundtrack, and Kwame Kwei-Armah, the new Artistic Director of London's Young Vic, this major world-premiere production takes place in the round within Upper Campfield Market Hall, one of Manchester's most atmospheric spaces.

The full line-up for the 18-day biennial festival includes the filmmaker David Lynch, with his largest UK exhibition of visual art to date, and Maxine Peake. Artists previously announced include Yoko Ono, who will open the festival with a message of peace to the world, Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, and Skepta. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the bed protests Ono and John Lennon made in the name of peace.

<https://inews.co.uk/culture/manchester-international-festival-peterloo-yoko-ono-idris-elba-david-lynch-arts-culture/amp/>

The **Manchester International Festival** runs from Thursday 4 July to Sunday 21 July – more info: <https://mif.co.uk>

## POWERFUL AND PERSONAL PETERLOO NOVEL TO COINCIDE WITH THE 200 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Legend Press are delighted to announce the acquisition of World rights for *The Song of Peterloo* by Carolyn O'Brien. The novel will be published on 1st August 2019, to coincide with the 200 year anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre on 16th August 2019.

Manchester 1819: Prices are high and wages are low, but as the poor become poorer, the rich are alarmed by their calls for reform. Mill-worker Nancy Kay struggles to support her ailing mother and sensitive son. Desperate to provide for them, she is inspired to join the growing agitation. But, as she risks everything to attend a great assembly on St Peter's Field, Nancy is unaware the day will go down in history, not as a triumph but as tragedy; the Peterloo massacre.

This is one woman's story of belief in change, pieced together by her family and friends and the two men who share her momentous summer. A story of hope, and sacrifice, and above all, courage.

Lauren Parsons, Commissioning Editor of Legend Press comments: 'We are thrilled to acquire this intensely emotive and powerful novel by Carolyn O'Brien. The novel shines a light on this now infamous massacre, which is now alarmingly politically relevant today.'

Carolyn O'Brien was born in South Manchester, and lives in the nearby market town of Altrincham with her husband and two children. Carolyn works part-time as a consultant lawyer, as well as writing. Follow Carolyn on Twitter [@CarolynManc](https://twitter.com/CarolynManc)

## DIARY DATES

### MAY

**3 'Westminster Abbey: Nuclear weapons are nothing to be thankful for'. Pax Christi** will be supporting a witness outside Westminster Abbey.

**11 NJPN AGM & Open Networking Day** London 10.30am – 4pm [justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**12 -18 Christian Aid Week 2019** [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

**14 Quiet Day** 10am-4 pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**14 CWDF Forum** 6.45pm – 9.00pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street, Chester, CH1 2BN Speaker Shantele Janes Director of CHAWREC – the Chester, Halton and Warrington Racial Equality Council. Shantele will give a brief outline of CHAWREC's activities, then focus on their work with refugees and asylum seekers. Followed by CWDF AGM. Further info 01244 350323.

**15 International Conscientious Objector Day** - Annual event in Tavistock Square, London [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk)

**17 "Chester's Got Talent!" – alternative Eurovision 2019** 7-11.59 pm, St Columba's Hall, Newhall Road, Chester CH2 1SA A "PALOVISION" Charity Concert. Music, comedy, ceilidh dancing. Drinks bar. For those wishing to avoid the Eurovision Song Contest in Israel, this event will feature local musical talent and all proceeds will go to benefitting Palestinian charities. Further details from Joseph O'Neill: [joseph.oneill777@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.oneill777@gmail.com) To perform, contact Linda Jennings: [sales@intuneative.co.uk](mailto:sales@intuneative.co.uk)

**18 Pax Christi Annual General Meeting**, London [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk)

**18 and 19 Launch of CAFOD's new climate campaign, *Our Common Home***, at weekend Masses at Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Church in Preston. Come and meet members of our Campaigns Team from Romero House in London and see how you could run the campaign in your parish. Details Patrick Gardner [pgardner@cafod.org.uk](mailto:pgardner@cafod.org.uk) 01772 733 310

**21 Feast day of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter** - Inspiring Conscientious Objector of WW2 [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk)

**25 Stop Arming Saudi Silent Vigil** 12.30 -1.30 at The Cross, Chester. All are welcome to join - please wear black if possible. Organised by Chester CND. Further information [chestercnd@gmail.com](mailto:chestercnd@gmail.com)

**26 Quiet Day** 10am-4 pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle –see 14 May

**29 Chester Friends of Palestine** 7.15-9pm, Room 204, Riverside Building, University of Chester, Castle Drive Chester, CH1 1SL Group Meeting at Riverside Campus. Topic to be confirmed

### JUNE

**1 Walk Together for CAFOD** Good Shepherd Parish Madeley are repeating last year's walk from the church to Ironbridge starting with a short service at St Mary's at 10am, then walking down the Silkin Way to the Village Hall in Jackfield, Ironbridge. We are not collecting money; merely an awareness raising walk. All welcome, please bring sandwiches to eat in the village hall.

**1 Towards Equality: a Quaker Land Value Tax Event** 10am-4pm at Mount Street Meeting House in Manchester. Speakers include Peter Bowman (Coalition for Economic Justice) and Peter Reilly (Labour Land Campaign). Quaker MEP Molly Scott Cato has also provisionally accepted an invitation to speak. All are welcome to join in exploring ways to work together to share ideas on LVT and land reform. For further information, please contact [jocelyngaskell@hotmail.com](mailto:jocelyngaskell@hotmail.com)

**6 Liverpool Friends of the Earth Gary Mahoney Memorial Debate: *Climate Change and the Media*** 7.30- 9.15 pm Adelphi Hotel, Ranelagh St/Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, L3 5UL. Contact Info: Liverpool Friends of the Earth 07786 7467048.

An informal evening, largely based around questions from the floor, which we hope will make an important contribution to discussion of vital and topical environmental and social concerns. Panellists: Helen Pidd, North of England Editor *The Guardian* [Chair], Kevin Gopal, Editor, *Big Issue North*, Dr Neil Gavin, Senior lecturer in Politics, University of Liverpool. This event is co-hosted by Merseyside Environmental Trust and supported by Faiths4Change and Philosophy in Pubs.

**15 CAFOD EVENT** St Catherine of Sienna Community Centre, School Lane, Didsbury, Manchester M20 6HS. A chance to meet **CAFOD's new director, Christine Allen** and some of CAFOD's Trustees and Central Leadership Team, as together we explore our mission looking to the future. Reserve your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/national-volunteering-conference-manchester-tickets-56481395374>

**11 Quiet Day** 10am-4 pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle –see 14 May

**15 Sustainable Chester Spring Fair** Grosvenor Park, Grosvenor Park Road. Chester Friends of the Earth would like this to be an event that links all the Sustainable groups in the region and welcome joining up with anyone else. Get in touch to help organise, arrange for a stall or speaker slot ASAP. Info:Helen Tandy, Chester & District FoE [Helenchesterfoe@hotmail.com](mailto:Helenchesterfoe@hotmail.com)

**22 Quiet Day** 10am-4 pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle –see 14 May

**26 Climate Change Lobby: "The Time Is Now"**. We'll be gathering at Westminster to connect the poor to the powerful by sharing our concerns on climate change with leaders who can make a difference. Politicians will act if their constituents tell them that they want change. Further info: [www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow)

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby> [www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/join-climate-lobby](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/join-climate-lobby)

**29 Sabeel-Kairos 2019 Conference: *Faith into Action*** Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX.

Key speakers: Rifat Kassis, from Kairos Palestine, David Cronin, author and blogger on Israel/Palestine, and Professor Adam Sutcliffe, from Independent Jewish Voices. We will also be hearing about Sabeel-Kairos's Investing for Peace campaign alongside campaign partner War on Want, and engaging in a panel debate and plenty of discussion! Palestinian crafts and food, view exhibitions and information stalls. Tickets £30 which includes a buffet lunch, and tea/coffee/biscuits on arrival. Book at:

<http://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/sabeel-kairos-2019-conference-faith-into-action/>

### JULY

**4-21 Manchester International Festival** <https://mif.co.uk>

**9 CWDF Forum: *Climate Change Apathy?*** 6.45– 9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street, Chester, CH1 2BN. Our final Forum meeting before the summer break. We will have a talk by Linda & Stewart Shuttleworth on the theme '*The psychology of apathy about climate change...and what to do about it!*' They will explain some of the psychological understanding of apathy and inaction in the face of climate change – with the talk leading into some discussion and development of ideas about actions

**20 World Refugee Day** <https://www.unhcr.org>

**26-28 NJPN Conference 'Forgotten People, Forgotten Places: Being Church At The Margins'** - SEE page17 BELOW



## NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FORGOTTEN PEOPLE, FORGOTTEN PLACES

**National Justice and Peace Network** 26 March 2019

Pope Francis calls us to be 'a Church which is poor and for the poor'. For NJPN this means to be with those on the margins as equal partners, enabling them to find their own solutions to the issues they face.

Conference 2019 will work with Church Action on Poverty who are undertaking a three-year project to challenge the Churches about where they put their resources. It will hear from 'communities of praxis' who are already involved on the margins, and engage in social analysis and theological reflection from their perspective.

Join us in 2019 to explore mission, theological reflection and social action with people who have been pushed to the margins of society by poverty.

We will explore building Churches that:  
are interested in building the kingdom, not just growing the Church;  
listen to voices from the margins  
expect to be challenged and changed by our neighbours,  
put an emphasis on sharing food and hospitality;  
are hungry and thirsty for justice.

### **Speakers:**

**Revd Deirdre Brower Lutz:** has worked as a pastor in urban/marginalised communities in Bristol and Manchester and lectures at the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester.

**Professor Anthony Reddie:** the leading scholar in the practice of Black Theology in grassroots communities of faithful practice.

We will also hear inspiring and challenging stories from Churches and groups that are living out the vision of a 'church of the poor' - being Church on the margins of our society.

### **Conference Chair:**

John Battle, former Labour MP, Chair of Leeds Justice & Peace Commission

### **Workshops:**

There will be workshops from a range of organisations and speakers, all looking creatively at how our churches can be more open to people on the margins.

### **Children and young people:**

Children and young people are a vital part of the NJPN conference. There will be a crèche for children under 5 and a programme of activities for 5-11-year-olds. 12-18-year-olds will explore the conference theme in an active and thought-provoking weekend. NJPN is committed to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable people. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to attend conference. Our rates for children and people on low incomes are subsidised. We count on the generous donations of those who can afford a little extra to make that possible.

### **Booking Form:**

[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Forgotten-People-Forgotten-Places-booking-form.pdf](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Forgotten-People-Forgotten-Places-booking-form.pdf)

National Justice & Peace Network, **Tel:** 020 7901 4864 **Email:** [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) <https://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference>

- 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.
- Sign up for weekly e-bulletins from NJPN (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues) and resources at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) 020 7901 4864

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*