

# Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin January 2020

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St Bernadette's Parish House, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 4HT

## Loving God of peace,

Strengthen my determination to work

for a world of peace and justice;

My conviction that,

whatever our nationality or race,

we are all global citizens,

one in Christ;

My courage to challenge the powerful

with the values of the gospel;

My commitment to find nonviolent

ways of resolving conflict —personal,

local, national and international;

My efforts to forgive injuries and to

love those I find it hard to love.

**Amen**

'Peace alone is holy. Peace alone is holy. Not war.'

*Pope Francis*



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**Pax Christi**  
**Peace Sunday**  
**19th January 2020**



**Peace Sunday on 19 January 2020** is an opportunity to spread widely Pope Francis' World Peace Day message. Each parish will have a Peace Sunday liturgy booklet. Downloadable copies available at:

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/peace-sunday-2020/>

The Pope Francis' World Peace Day  
message available at:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco\\_20191208\\_messaggio-53giornatamondiale-pace2020.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20191208_messaggio-53giornatamondiale-pace2020.html)

## First Catholic dioceses in England divest from fossil fuels

The Diocese of Middlesbrough and the Diocese of Lancaster have today announced their commitment to divest from fossil fuels, becoming the first Catholic dioceses in England and Wales to divest. Their divestment announcements are made together with two Catholic religious orders - the English Provinces of the Congregation of Jesus and the Presentation Sisters - alongside nine other local churches and Christian institutions in the UK.

They join more than 160 other Catholic institutions around the world that have already committed to divest from fossil fuels. Faith institutions constitute the greatest number of organisations contributing to the global 'fossil free' movement - which now stands at a total of over [\\$12 trillion of assets](#) divested globally.

The announcement is made on the feast of the Epiphany, and at the start of a key year for climate action globally, and particularly in the UK, with the [COP26 conference to be held in Glasgow](#) in November 2020.

In September 2018, UN Secretary General António Guterres said: 'Climate change is the defining issue of our time – and we are at a defining moment. We face a direct existential threat... If we do not change course by 2020, we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us.'

In his [pontifical message](#) to government negotiators meeting in Madrid at COP25 last month, Pope Francis similarly declared that the climate emergency is a 'challenge to civilisation' needing 'a clear, far-sighted and strong political will, set on pursuing a new course that aims at refocusing financial and economic investments toward those areas that truly safeguard the conditions of a life worthy of humanity on a healthy planet for today and tomorrow.' For these Catholic institutions, the response to this Papal call, especially in the light of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, has been the commitment to divest from fossil fuels.

Last week, the outgoing governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, said that although cuts to investment in oil and gas companies are beginning to take place in the financial sector, the process is not moving fast enough. Carney made clear that all companies and financial institutions must consider their justification for continued investment in fossil fuels, warning of the [increasing risk of 'worthless' assets in the sector](#).



The full divestment announcement and list of institutions divesting can be found on the Bright Now blog (<https://brightnow.org.uk/blog/>)

Bishop Terry Draney, the Bishop of Middlesbrough, said: *'With growing awareness of people's concerns for the care of our common home, supported by the Trustees and Council of Priests of the Diocese, and after thorough scrutiny of diocesan investments and with support from Operation Noah, the Diocese of Middlesbrough has decided that now is the time to divest from fossil fuels. The evidence and the urgency of the climate crisis are all around us. However, as Pope Francis points out very clearly in his Encyclical Letter on The Care of Our Common Home, Laudato Si', nothing will succeed if we do not begin with personal conversion, a change in lifestyle, a change of mindset.'*

Sister Frances Orchard CJ, Provincial Superior of the Congregation of Jesus, said: *'Our decision to divest from fossil fuels was motivated by our concern for our planet and climate justice for all who inhabit our world, especially those living in poverty. We had previously supported engagement with oil and gas companies, as we were impressed by the efforts of our investment managers to put pressure on those companies to change course. However, our younger members were rightly questioning our strategy, and our investment managers also become exasperated by the lack of integrity of the companies they were engaging with and agreed that the time had come to divest. We believe that divestment from fossil fuels is the right decision given the urgency of the change we need to see.'*

James Buchanan, Bright Now Campaign Manager for Operation Noah, said: *'We are delighted that the Dioceses of Middlesbrough and Lancaster have decided to divest from fossil fuels, as well as two more Catholic religious orders. We hope many other Catholic institutions will join them in taking this prophetic step out of love for God's creation and those most affected by the climate crisis - above all those living in the world's poorest communities.'*



Operation Noah is a Christian charity working with the Church to inspire action on the climate crisis. It works with all Christian denominations.

<http://operationnoah.org/>

## BUT Big Tech have entered the oil business that STILL wants to expand

Google, Microsoft, and Amazon have been very vocal about their efforts to reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels. **But** as the Wall Street Journal and Gizmodo have reported, these same companies are currently teaming up with the fossil fuel industry to help them squeeze as much oil and gas out of the ground as possible. Find out more at: <https://www.vox.com/recode/2020/1/3/21030688/google-amazon-ai-oil-gas> A Global Witness report last year showed that the global oil and gas industry plans to spend \$5 trillion on the exploration and extraction of new reserves in the next decade, when the vast majority of known fossil fuel reserves need to remain in the ground to avoid climate catastrophe.

In October, the Guardian reported that Shell and Exxon are planning to increase production of oil and gas by 35% between 2018 and 2030 – when global carbon emissions need to fall by 45% by 2030 if we are to meet the Paris Agreement target of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C. Major oil companies are spending hundreds of millions of pounds each year to lobby against climate action (the same article shows that they are spending an average of just 3% on low-carbon technologies, meaning that 97% of expenditure is going towards fossil fuels): <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/mar/22/top-oil-firms-spending-millions-lobbying-to-block-climate-change-policies-says-report> Last week, Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, said that while cuts to investment in oil and gas companies are beginning to take place in the financial sector, the process is not moving fast enough. He made clear that all companies and financial institutions must explore their justification for continued investment in fossil fuels: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/dec/30/firms-must-justify-investment-in-fossil-fuels-warns-mark-carney>

Find out more  
About campaigning for  
Fossil –fuel  
divestment



<http://operationnoah.org/>



<https://brightnow.org.uk/>



## Violence as We Begin 2020



Mexico reported a record total of 31,000 murders in 2019. A few days into the New Year, we hear reports of continuing violence in many parts of the world. For example, there were more drone strikes in Somalia, continuing attacks in Syria, and the killing of Iranian General Qassem Suleimani.

Pax Christi USA Executive Director Johnny Zokovitch issued [a statement](#) following the killing of Qassem Suleimani: 'Such actions go against everything we stand for as people of faith and are incompatible with the message of Jesus.'

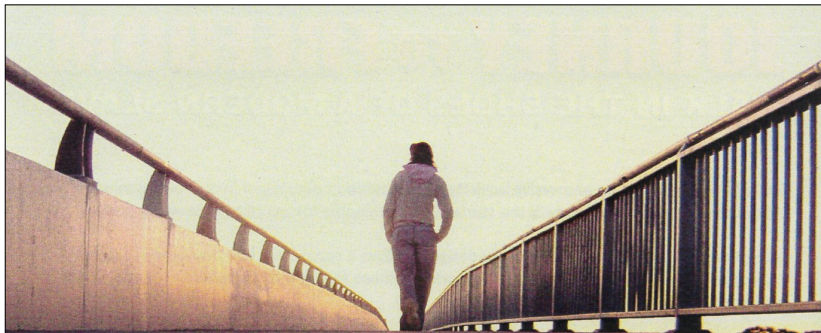
During his Angelus address on January 5th, Pope Francis made an [appeal for peace](#). He reminded us of his [World Peace Day message](#): Peace as a Journey of Hope: dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion.

Regarding the potential escalation of violence between Iran and the West, more analysis pieces are here from [Eli McCarthy](#), [Paul Rogers and Richard Reeve](#), [Rose Marie Berger](#) and [Cardinal Turkson](#). There is also a radio interview with [Paul Rogers](#). We recall Walter Wink's words on the myth of redemptive violence: 'Its metaphor is not the journey but the fortress. Its symbol is not the cross but the crosshairs of a gun. Its offer is not forgiveness but victory. Its good news is not the unconditional love of enemies but their final elimination.'

Pax Christi's work for peace will continue in 2020 [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

Can your parish  
organise a collection to  
support the work of  
Pax Christi






**JOURNEY TO FREEDOM**  
WALK IN THE SHOES OF A MODERN SLAVE

**Lee House Exhibition**

With grateful acknowledgement for the contributions made by:



With special thanks to Mark Rotherham and the team of volunteers who made this project possible

An immersive walk through exhibition developed in collaboration with Lancashire Constabulary that tells the stories of three people forced into modern slavery. Using bespoke audio/visual and sensory design, we are immersed in the real-life stories of those forced into domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and enforced labour.

**Visit the Exhibition**  
at  
**St Benedict's High School**  
**Whitehaven CA28 8UG**  
between 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm  
on  
**Thursday 26th March 2020**  
**All Welcome**

*Sponsored by Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission*

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION AND ACTION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

8<sup>th</sup> February the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child then and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000 and her feast day an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking.

From Pope Francis address to participants on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking

“.....I would like to conclude by quoting Saint Josephine Bakhita. This great Sudanese woman “is even today an exemplary witness of hope for the many victims of slavery; she can support the efforts of all those committed to fighting against this ‘open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ’”. May she inspire us to extend gestures of brotherhood to those who find themselves in a state of submission. May she enable us to engage, to be called to the encounter.

Let us pray:

Saint Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured unspeakable hardship and suffering.

Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O Saint Josephine Bakhita, assist all those who are entrapped in slavery;

Intercede on their behalf with the God of Mercy so that the chains of their captivity will be broken.

May God himself free all those who have been threatened, wounded or mistreated by the trade and trafficking of human beings.

Bring comfort to survivors of this slavery and teach them to look to Jesus as an example of hope and faith so that they may find healing from their wounds.

We ask you to pray for us and to intercede on behalf of us all: that we may not fall into indifference, that we may open our eyes and be able to see the misery and wounds of our many brothers and sisters deprived of their dignity and their freedom, and may we hear their cry for help.

Amen.”



To read full address  
[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2018/february/documents/papa-fran-cesco\\_20180212\\_contro-tratta.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2018/february/documents/papa-fran-cesco_20180212_contro-tratta.html)



**The UN COP25 climate change talks in Madrid have ended, with complaints that governments have not shown enough ambition in their commitments to tackle the climate crisis.**

The talks, which overran by two days, saw countries formally recognise the need to set more ambitious targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions ahead of COP26 in 2020.

But decisions on the final rules underpinning the Paris Agreement were postponed until the next summit, which will take place in **Glasgow in 2020**.

Some countries were accused of blocking progress in negotiations.

**Call on the government to urgently tackle the climate emergency**

CAFOD's Director of Advocacy Neil Thorns, who attended the Madrid conference, said: "It's unbelievable when we've seen people worldwide calling urgently, loudly and ever more desperately for action that the negotiators at the COP in Madrid have responded so meekly.

"These conferences feel like a million miles away from the reality of those families in Zimbabwe facing the worst drought in 40 years and having to deal with their crops failing and the impact that will have on their families.

"The new UK government must start straight away doing all it can to urge countries to increase their ambition ahead of next year's COP. We need pledges to cut emissions quickly and deeply enough to keep temperature rises below the catastrophic 1.5-degree threshold. This leadership role means having a credible domestic story with concrete plans and policies which get our own house in order.

"As Pope Francis has warned, history will judge harshly those who 'hold on to power only to be remembered for their inability to take action'."

<https://e-activist.com/page/44225/petition/1>



The Global Catholic  
Climate Movement

*Creator God, Your love is manifest in the very air we breathe.  
Let it comfort and refresh us when hope seems small.  
Redeemer God, Your grace is manifest in every moment of choice.  
Let It heal our wounded world.*

In 2020, **we will multiply our efforts** to bring God's healing to troubled time. Together, we remain committed to seeing **God's will for love and justice be done in our world.**

The 2020 climate summit (CoP 26) is to be held in Glasgow from 9th –19th November 2020.

Christian groups in Europe are already talking about a walking pilgrimage to the summit. We are on their route, it is a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness in our own churches and to provide hospitality and hear about their journeys.

A chance to become involved and to work with others to help bring about the change needed. In Lancaster Diocese we have supported protests against fracking and were represented in a CAFOD group at the UN Climate talks in Poland in December 2018.

One of them, Fr Hugh Pollock, said: "*Our way of life – our use of fossil fuels and rising CO2 levels – isn't just affecting us, it's having a huge impact on the lives of people around the world, often on the poorest countries*".





Rosie Venner, ECCR's National Programme Manager, explains why they have launched the new programme, **Money Makes Change**, and what it's all about. It's been an exciting few months behind the scenes at ECCR!



**Money Makes Change** is the new name and brand for our education programme and includes resources for individuals, small groups and churches. We've been working hard to get it ready to share with you, and we launched the programme this week, along with the first in a series of resources.

**Money Makes Change** has grown out of two strands of work – our regional work with churches in the South West and the West Midlands (Ethical Money Churches) and the Your Faith, Your Finance website that was launched in 2013 in partnership with Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Our new programme brings together our work with churches and individuals in a way that we hope is accessible and appealing to a wide audience. The name, **Money Makes Change**, came about as we wrestled with how to link the language of finance to the themes of community, connection and action. We hope the simplicity and alliteration will make it easy to remember!

The strapline '**Connecting faith and finance for a fairer world**' spells out the purpose of the programme. We want to help people understand how the daily decisions we all make about money can impact our neighbours, locally and globally, and all of God's creation. Conversation and prayer around our finances can, and should, lead to action – and we look forward to hearing stories of what this looks like in practice as churches and individuals explore our resources this year.

Our new logo can be interpreted in many ways. It could be a person, a coin and a note or a combination of the two. It may be interpreted as someone offering to the world the resources they are stewarding, reminding us of 1 Peter 4:10:

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.* We hope it conveys the inclusive, positive approach of the programme. We'd love to hear what you see!

If your new year's resolution has anything to do with living more sustainably and helping create a fairer world, and you'd like to get others involved too, then do look at our [first resource](#) – an interactive workshop for small groups – and let us know what you think.

**Let's make 2020 the year we take seriously the call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly, in every area of our lives, including how we use our money.**

**Money Makes Change** is a programme and set of resources we've designed to help Christians explore and make ethical choices around money. The first resource to be launched as part of the programme is for small groups - it offers a conversation-based introduction to questions of money and faith. A handbook for facilitators, PowerPoint, handouts & worksheets, can be downloaded for free from our [website](#)



<https://www.eccr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Money-Makes-Change-PREVIEW-1.pdf>

<https://www.eccr.org.uk/learning-materials/>

## REFLECTION ON POPE FRANCIS' 53rd WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

*From Bishop Marc Stenger, Bishop of Troyes, France and Sr Teresia Wamuyu Wachira (IBVM) Kenya, Co-Presidents Pax Christi International*

Pope Francis' 52nd World Day of Peace message in the year 2019, invited us to reflect on the theme "*Good politics is at the service of peace*". The Pope's message was that politics, though essential to building human communities and institutions, can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole. This year, 2020 Pope Francis's 53rd World Day of Peace theme is "*Peace as a journey of hope: dialogue, reconciliation and ecological conversion*". The reflection on this theme is captured in the following sections of his message (1) Peace, a journey of hope in the face of obstacles and trial; (2) Peace, a journey of listening based on memory, solidarity and fraternity; (3) Peace, a journey of reconciliation in fraternal communion; and (4) Peace, a journey of ecological conversion.

In a world devastated by war and conflicts which often affect the marginalized and the vulnerable of our society, we are being invited to reflect on peace as the object of our hope and the aspiration of the entire human family. The virtue of hope inspires us and keeps us moving forward, even when obstacles seem overwhelming. The Pope discusses the different forms of violence that are tearing humanity apart and their true significance. He points out: "Every war is a form of fratricide that destroys the human family's innate vocation to brotherhood and [sisterhood]".

The message of Pope Francis is a very strong message, a vocational message. This vocation is that of children of God, brothers and sisters. But the Pope underlines "our inability to accept the diversity of others, which then fosters attitudes of ... domination born of selfishness and pride, hatred and the desire to caricature, exclude and even destroy the other". He emphasizes the fact that "war is fuelled by a perversion of relationship, by hegemonic ambitions, by abuse of power, by fear of others and seeing diversity as an obstacle". On the contrary, in respecting, trusting others, seeing them as sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters, we can 'break the spirit of vengeance and set out on the journey of hope'.

Reflecting on this message, we have the opportunity to act against stereotypes and prejudices of others, cultural domination and cultural blindness and various forms of exclusion experienced in our communities, country, and the global world due to their race, gender, creed, ethnicity, status, orientation and age. More importantly, the Pope poses some critical questions to assist us to reflect on our lack of acceptance, mistrust and fear of others as individuals and/or community. "How do we undertake a journey of peace and mutual respect? How do we break the unhealthy mentality of threats and fears? How do we break the current dynamic of distrust?" How do we deal with the divisions within a society, the increase of social inequalities and the refusal to employ the means of ensuring integral human development which endangers the pursuit of the common good? This calls for deep reflection and the prompting of the Holy Spirit who will enlighten us so that we respond positively by becoming artisans of justice and peace.

According to the Pope, the world develops a strange paradox, while seeking to guarantee peace "through a false sense of security sustained by a mentality of fear and mistrust, one that ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructing any form of dialogue". The climate of fear reinforces the fragility of relationships and increases the risk of violence, creating vicious circles which never lead to a peaceful relationship. The Pope focuses in particular on the danger of nuclear deterrence "that can only produce an illusion of security". Reflecting on this, Pope Francis cautions against the illusion of thinking that we can "maintain stability in the world through the fear of annihilation" as opposed to protecting and preserving life and developing a "global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family of today and tomorrow." Violence in all its forms has never led to peace, including especially the use of weapons of mass destruction. Peace will never be attained through nuclear deterrence or any act of violence, on the contrary, "peace emerges from the depths of the human heart".

We are called to live free from fear as we have a God who loves us despite our weakness and our needs as illustrated in the parable of the prodigal son (Lk 15:11-24). Therefore in our search for peace may we "find inspiration in the love that God has for each of us: a love that is liberating, limitless, gratuitous and tireless". In order to break this dynamic of mistrust, we must therefore "pursue a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God and exercised in dialogue and mutual trust. The desire for peace lies deep within the human heart, and we should not resign ourselves to seeking anything less than this".

The Holy Father speaks about peace as a "journey of listening based on memory, solidarity and fraternity". Reflecting on the horror of the atomic bombs dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 and the memories of the *Hibakusha* (the survivors of the atomic bomb), he exalts the importance of keeping and preserving the memory of past events. Such memories should not only be a reminder in order to prevent similar events happening but also to "enable memory as the fruit of experience, to serve as a basis and inspiration for present and future decisions to promote peace". Keeping memories of victims alive kindles new hope in individuals and communities as opposed to seeking vengeance which tends to create more violence. In view of this, we invite each one of us to study our context and where applicable honour memories of victims so that their and our hope can be kindled in order to harness peace. *cont p8*

*From p7* In the darkness of war and violence, a simple outstretched hand can sometimes spark new energies and rekindle new hope in individuals and communities. Opening and tracing the path of peace is a 'complex' challenge because the interests at stake in relationships are multiple and contradictory. We can only truly reach peace if we seek truth together "beyond ideologies and differing opinions". Through dialogue and listening to one another, this "can lead to mutual understanding and esteem, and even to seeing in an enemy the face of a brother or sister". The peace process is a long term commitment.

The Pope insists that "the world does not need empty words but convinced witnesses, peacemakers, who are open to a dialogue that rejects exclusion and manipulation". The Holy Father then develops the role of democracy which can be "a significant paradigm of this process." He also warns against fractured societies where "the increase of social inequalities and the refusal to employ the means of integral human development endanger the pursuit of the common good". It is up to the Church and its organisations to participate in the service of this common good through transmission of Christian values, moral teaching and social education works.

In the third part of his message, the Pope refers to the Bible where many passages show that the other must never be locked in what they have to say or do, but they must be considered according to the promise that they carry within them. Pope Francis invites us to respect, forgive, reconcile. He calls us to reflect on the power of forgiveness as taught by Jesus Christ (Mt 18, 21-22) – to forgive "seventy times seven". We learn to live in forgiveness so that we can "grow in our capacity to become men and women of peace" and offer that peace to the men and women of our time.

The Holy Father invokes a fraternal communion in each area of existence, social, economic and political. In so doing we emulate Christ who was the first reconciler through his death on a cross "making peace through the blood of his cross" (Col 1:20). In this World Day of Peace message, we are reminded that for those who follow Christ, the journey to peace is sustained by the sacrament of reconciliation which renews individuals and communities. This is a journey that calls for patience and trust, listening to one another and contemplating on the world that God has given to be our common home and that of generations to come.

In this message of peace, the Pope also invites us to reflect on 'ecological conversion' as a way to build peace. Thus, each one of us is challenged to examine our exploitative, domineering, abusive and selfish attitude towards the environment and the resources that our Creator has entrusted to us as the custodians. This is also a reflection on the way we treat others especially the marginalized and vulnerable. We are therefore invited to walk the journey of "ecological conversion" so that we respect and nurture the earth and all that lives in it, inclusive of the human life. Through ecological conversion we challenge ourselves and others to a new way of looking at life while appreciating God's generosity to us for giving and sharing the earth with us. This calls for a change in attitude and transformation in the way we relate with the Creator, who is the origin and source of all life, with others and with God's creation in all its rich variety. Thus, as the Pope points out, "We need to change the way we think and see things, and become more open to encountering others and accepting the gift of creation, which reflects the beauty and wisdom of its Creator". Moreover, reflecting on the recent Pope's visit to the Pan-Amazon Region and his reflection on this visit, the call to us is to endeavour to work towards peaceful relationship between communities and the land, between present and past, between experience and hope. Pope Francis also invites us to find new ways of living together, celebrating and sharing life with others as well as respecting and appreciating the earth as our common home.

Finally, the Pope returns to the theme that opened the text, that of 'hope'. "Peace will not be obtained unless it is hoped for" emphasizes Pope Francis who designates patience and confidence as supports. He continues to expound on this. In the first place this means believing in the possibility of peace, believing that others need peace just as much as we do. Here we can find inspiration in the love that God has for each of us; love that is liberating, limitless, gratuitous and tireless.

May all of us across the five continents - old and young, women and men, all created in God's image and likeness "experience a life of peace and develop fully the promise of life and love dwelling in their heart". As we continue to serve in our different contexts and capacities; as we advance our Pax Christi International four focus areas: (1) Nonviolence as style for politics of peace; (2) The nuclear weapons ban treaty ; (3) Extractives in Latin America; (4) Renewed Israel-Palestine peace process; and as we look forward to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Pax Christi International in May 2020 in Hiroshima, may the inspiration of this 2020 World Day of Peace message continue to be the impetus that drives us. May we continue to work for a world where all will experience equality and social justice; where 'the other' no longer is treated as an enemy but a friend, where swords will be turned into ploughshares, where God's creation will be nurtured and respected and all will come together in gratitude to the Creator of us all.

May the Creator of new beginnings walk gently with each one of you and bring peace to you and your family this New year 2020. As you create cultures of peace in your day to day living, may you experience peace, joy and hope.

**Bishop Marc Stenger, Bishop of Troyes, France Sr Teresia Wamuyu Wachira (IBVM) Kenya, Co-Presidents Pax Christi International**  
<https://paxchristi.net/2019/12/30/reflection-by-the-co-presidents-of-pax-christi-international-on-pope-francis-53rd-world-day-of-peace-message-1-january-2020/> <https://pcintlorg.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/reflection-co-presidents-pci-1-jan-2020.pdf>



Extracts from **TRIBUTE TO DR EDWARD P ECHLIN, A FRIEND OF THE EARTH**

**Ellen Teague** 2/1/2020:

Dr Edward P Echlin, eco-theologian and organic gardener, died just before Christmas at the age of 89 years. We in the UK churches have lost a great advocate of "ecological conversion". The natural world has lost a dedicated friend.

I have known Edward and his wife Barbara since Christian Ecology Link (or CEL, now Green Christian) was founded in the early 1980s. He spoke at conferences of the National Justice and Peace Network in the 1990s, and his firm promise that despite getting invitations to speak from around the world he would never fly was the first time I realised how serious the response to environmental crises needed to be.

In 2012, he ran a workshop at CEL's 30th anniversary conference in Bristol, arguing that small scale, biodiverse, organic food production not only preserves soil and stabilises climate but is also the most productive form of agriculture. That same year he helped Sisters of St Joseph of Peace and associates - gathered in London from the United States, Haiti, El Salvador and Britain - to explore their mission of Peace and Care for Creation.

He urged a move away from an oil-based lifestyle, undertaking gardening, and supporting local environmental initiatives such as farmers' markets. He presented a Hubbard squash plant from the Echlin's organic garden to the sisters. He was always generous in drawing attention to the unsung heroes who have put climate change on the agenda of the Christian churches in Britain, and paid warm tribute to Barbara, a great networker in building up the Green Christian movement.

Edward was critical of the obsession so many Christians have with 'inner journey' spiritualities and debates about church structures. He suggested that the Churches should focus much more on, and indeed have "a priceless contribution" to offer to, the Earth community in its struggle to mitigate climate change. We sometimes forget that we are the "prophetic presence of the living and risen Jesus Christ". He was a 'hands-on' kind of theologian. He wandered around allotments to discover the "precious wisdom" of allotment holders, and, indeed, to learn from the wisdom inherent in the whole soil community of plants and animals. He had enormous respect for the world's small growers and farmers, highlighting that their efforts feed millions throughout the world. It was rare to turn up to a meeting with Edward and Barbara and not be treated to tasty tomatoes or pears from their garden.

He was born on 15 January 1930 in Detroit, Michigan, USA. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1948 and remained a Jesuit for 25 years. In the early 1970s he lectured in England - at Ushaw College, Durham, and as Catholic Lecturer at the Anglican theological college at Lincoln. He was laicised and married Barbara in December 1974. Always interested in the environment, from the eighties onwards he focused all his efforts on relating Jesus Christ and the Earth. He saw rebuilding a mutually supportive relationship of humans with the Earth community, as the defining issue of the twenty-first century. He wrote three books: *Earth Spirituality, Jesus at the Centre* (1999/2002), *The Cosmic Circle, Jesus and Ecology* (2004), and *Climate and Christ, A Prophetic Alternative* (2010). He also wrote numerous articles in both academic and popular journals and magazines, and had a chapter in the 2017 book *Reclaiming the Common Good* - How Christians can help rebuild our broken world.

*Earth Spirituality: Jesus at the Centre* traced Edward's own life journey - from the starting point of his childhood experiences in the Great Lakes of North America, through years with the Jesuits, to his life in Southern England as an ecological theologian and organic gardener. He presented wonderful images of a childhood in Michigan which greatly influenced his concern for the natural world. As a boy, he remembered seeing the stumps of trees everywhere. Some were as tall as a boy because lumberjacks, working on snowshoes and wielding two-man saws, worked despite the thick snow which carpeted the State between November and March. "As I grew up, homes for car workers were replacing the cleared farms which had replaced the woods," he said, and he was alerted to other environmental issues too. The passenger pigeon was extinct by 1914 but there were elderly people around during his boyhood who "remembered them whistling through the sky in their millions." He says that, "we wondered as boys if it could happen to other birds, to animals, to us too". To read the full article <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/38631>

*Lancaster Diocese F&J Commission were members of the planning group for the NJPN Conference "Our Daily Bread: Food Security, People and Planet" in 2010 and Dr Echlin, as well as helping us to reflect on our work, always brought lovely food to share from his garden to share.*

**LITTLE VOICES: BIG DIFFERENCE – JESUS JUSTICE AND JOY**

With **John Bell**, of the Iona Community  
A day with the well-known broadcaster and liturgist  
*Leeds Trinity University,  
Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth*

*Saturday 4th April 2020 10:15am – 4:30 pm*  
A real inter-generational day to explore issues of  
social justice through stories and singing.  
Free to attend but please book a ticket through

Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/little-voices-big-difference-tickets-73797984759>

Leeds Diocese Justice and Peace Commission



Saturday 04 April 2020

10:15 – 4:30

Leeds Trinity University  
Brownberrie Lane, Leeds LS18 5HD

Find out how song and stories can inspire you to go to church and feel empowered to make a difference in the world!

**A day of listening, talking, singing, asking questions and exploring answers**

This day is free to attend – though a voluntary collection will be taken as some point.

**Booking via our Eventbrite page is essential as numbers are limited**



**Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 23 February 2020**

As followers of Jesus, we are called to speak truth to power – especially when too many are struggling to make ends meet across the UK. Martin, a single parent from Halifax says “ I just snack, I don’t eat proper meals. The children always come first and I just eat small bits here and there”

This Church Action on Poverty Sunday, through our gifts and prayers, we can give people like Martin the opportunity to speak truth to power.

Could you hold a soup lunch; take a collection; use our worship resources to reflect and pray for change. We provide packs of fundraising resources and worship materials to help you make the most of Church Action on Poverty Sunday.

[www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday)

PAX CHRISTI PEACE SUNDAY  
19 JANUARY 2020



Resources [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

The theme for 2020 is  
“Good politics serves peace”

Every year Pax Christi promotes the Holy Father’s World Peace Day Message on the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This is in the Liturgical Calendar cycle of prayer.

Pax Christi sends resource materials to every parish in the country to help them mark and celebrate the day.

Please ask your parish priest about a Peace Sunday collection.

This is the source of Pax Christi funding

A free film for the whole parish

Responding to Laudato Si together



**GLOBAL CARING**

**LIVING IN HARMONY WITH GOD’S CREATION**

A free download for parishes & individuals  
Ideal evening event or short course  
Sponsored by the Bishops’ Conference  
More info, trailer and DVD version:

**A CaFe Production**

[www.ourcommonhome.co.uk](http://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk)

[www.ourcommonhome.co.uk](http://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk)

January **Northwest NJPN Newsletter**

Download at:

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-north-west/latest-jp-news-from-the-northwest-2/>



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## WE SEE YOU

Annual Memorial Lecture

### MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Kevin Hyland OBE

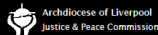
The UK's first, independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and how Ireland's representative to the Council of Europe, Independent Group of Experts for Trafficking

#### THE EVENT WILL

- explain the scale of the problem;
- equip you to recognise the signs;
- give strategies on how to respond;
- bring together those already involved.

19 January 2020, 2-4 pm (doors open at 1:30pm) at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA

For further info: [atherton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:atherton@rcaol.org.uk) or 0151 522 108281



Sunday 19th January 2020 2-4pm

Liverpool Archdiocese Justice & Peace J&P Memorial Lecture

**Kevin Hyland OBE:**

**former 1st UK Antislavery Commissioner and head Met. Police**

At LACE Croxteth Drive, Sefton Drive, Sefton Park

Liverpool L17 1AA

Refreshments from 1:30pm Lecture at 2:00pm

Q&A 2:40pm Event closes 4:00pm

**Stop Human Trafficking – A New Year Resolution:** Join forces with other local organisations to learn about Human Trafficking and what you can do to recognise and combat it in your parish.

Info: [s.atherton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:s.atherton@rcaol.org.uk)

NJPN Open Networking Day

**SATURDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2020**

St Nicholas of Tolentino Parish Hall, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE.

10.30am – 4.00pm

'Our Common Home - creative responses'

**Speakers:**

**For a Global Response: Fr Augusto Zampini Davies** an Argentine priest, currently Director of Development and Faith at the Dicastery for Integral Human Development of the Vatican, an **expert/advisor to the Amazon Synod** and former theological advisor to CAFOD

**For a Local Response: Nikki Jones** freelance researcher on energy and climate change, and founder of Avon Needs Trees **Organised with Clifton Justice and Peace Commission.** There will be opportunity to hear about justice and peace activities from groups around the country. Representatives of Catholic/Christian Agencies will report on their work and suggest practical ways of becoming involved in campaigning for social justice. Tea and coffee will be provided, bring your own lunch.

Everyone is Welcome **For further details contact:**

Geoff Thompson Tel: 020 7901 4864

Email: [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)



42nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
of the

NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK  
**17th—19th July 2020**

The Hayes Conference Centre,  
Swanwick, Derbyshire  
2020 Vision: Action for Life on Earth

Information and booking forms at:  
[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

### Events & Opportunities for Awareness Raising

#### January

10th-12th Christians Aware Conference [www.christiansaware.co.uk/calendar](http://www.christiansaware.co.uk/calendar) T:-116 254 0770

18th-25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk) T:0203 794 2288

19th Peace Sunday [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) T:0208 203 4884

19th Memorial Lecture by Kevin Hyland advisor to Santa Marta Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery 2:00pm at LACE Liverpool L17 1AA page 11

23rd Friends Meeting House Settle 7pm–9pm "How the media influenced the General Election" run by Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom North

27th Holocaust Memorial Day [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

#### February

8th NJPN Open Networking Day Bristol [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

8th Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

9th Racial Justice Sunday [www.carj.org.uk](http://www.carj.org.uk); [www.catholicchurch.org.uk](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk)

23rd Church Action Poverty Sunday [www.church-poverty.org.uk/Sunday/](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/Sunday/)

24th –8th Fairtrade Fortnight [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk) T:020 7405 5942

#### March

Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission

Email: [lfjcm@gmail.com](mailto:lfjcm@gmail.com)

[www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk)