

Pope's prayer intention for June: Compassion for the world amidst Covid-19 pandemic

In his prayer intention for the month of June 2020, Pope Francis asks everyone to pray for those who are suffering, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to inflict all sorts of difficulties around the world.



Many people suffer due to the great difficulties they endure.

We can help them by accompanying them along an itinerary full of compassion which transforms people's lives.

It brings them closer to the Heart of Christ, which welcomes all of us into the revolution of tenderness. We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

New dates for the postponed 42nd Annual Justice & Peace Conference



'2021—ACTION FOR LIFE ON EARTH'

23–25 July 2021

The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

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Watch the NJPN Conference Speakers on Liverpool J&P's YouTube at <https://bit.ly/2MIw4t9> ;

What's in a name?

What's in a name? An identity, certainly, an anchor, assumption, affirmation, and, yes, a challenge. My name, or yours, is a door to many possibilities, and to many unknowns. To change a name is to plunge, perhaps unwittingly, down the rabbit hole and find oneself not in a land of make belief but in a new wonderland where identity, assumptions, and so on are not the established givens as of old but are experienced as emerging realizations of new possibilities.

Something like that happened to many religious congregations of sisters after the Second Vatican Council. For many of us the Council's call to renewal and a return to the sources opened pages of forgotten, or suppressed, history and revealed a past that had been consigned to the closet. For the Sisters of St Joseph of Newark it meant re-reading the original history and Constitutions where we found ourselves to be *St Joseph's Sisters of Peace*, *Sisters of St Joseph of Peace* or simply *Sisters of Peace*, names by which we'd been known until the 1920s. "The very name, Sisters of Peace, will, it is hoped, inspire the desire of peace and a love for it" [First Constitutions]. With joy and hope we reverted to the title *Sisters of St Joseph of Peace* in 1970; fifty years on we are still living into the consequences of that name change.

First came the challenge of *Justice in the World*, the bishops' synod of 1971, focusing on the liberation of the poor and oppressed and including a call for wealthy nations to consume less. So we've heard that before! A 1974 General Chapter (a gathering of elected representatives of the Sisters) took *Peace through Justice* as its theme and committed the congregation to a direction where the promotion of justice would be "integral to our mission and spirituality". If you want peace, work for justice, as Pope Paul VI directs. Subsequent General Chapters deepened that commitment. The 1990 gathering, for instance, focused on the realization that there is but *One Creation – One Future* for all and the 1996 Chapter, emphasising this



Carbon Footprint 101

May/June 2010 CSG Process

Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace

The Sisters learn to measure their carbon footprint.

interrelatedness of all life, issued "a call to integrity as we endeavour to match the words we speak with our actions for justice and peace".

The call to integrity was for all of us, individually and together. From Greenham Common to Extinction Rebellion, Sisters felt compelled to participate. Congregationally, we might point to WATERSPIRIT, an ongoing project set up at property we owned on the New Jersey, USA coastline as a *centre of ecology and spirituality... with a focus on water as critical to sustaining all life*. A congregational Land Ethic commits all of us, and all the ministries we sponsor, to a greener lifestyle; ministries in El Salvador and Haiti work at the grass roots level, always with this integrity in mind; policy on investment decisions is guided by these same concerns, and a congregational Resources for Mission Fund is directed both to structural change and meeting direct needs, with, at this time, an emphasis on empowering women, especially organizations of poor women impacted by climate change.

So, what's in a name? Definitely, a call to change, to adapt, to live the charism of justice and peace, with all the integrity and faithfulness we can muster.

Margaret Byrne, CSJP



Congregation of the
**Sisters of St. Joseph
of Peace**

Pursuing justice, we seek God's gift of peace.



Our Future Networking Days in 2020

Saturday 19th September 10.30-will be arranged via zoom details in July

AGM to be rearranged to Saturday 21st November

10.30-4.00 London (venue tbc) with zoom access for those unable to travel



Religious in JPIC - Climate Change and The Environment

With the innocence of youth, sheer grit, rugged individualism, the unrelenting determination of Greta Thunberg has captivated many of the young and catapulted climate debate talks to centre stage worldwide becoming a force polarising community worldwide to reduce their carbon footprint - even though some household names are still sceptical of the science and still to be converted. Unquestionably, Blue Planet and Sir David Attenborough's passion for creation and the environment has too brought newfound supporters, groups and forces to campaigning echoing the same sentiments expressed by a multitude of organisations and networks over almost five decades. So, to new campaigners and activists alike, I say, 'Welcome'. Welcome also Extinction Rebellion and all new initiatives to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Kyoto Protocol 1997; Copenhagen 2010; Cancun 2011; Durban - Cop 17; Doha Climate Summit 2014; COP 21 Paris 2015 and to the 17 Global Development Goals. You join over fifty members affiliated to NJPN over its 40-years plus on the road echoing the same message as a multitude of individual campaigners have done, representing all denominations of faith, and those of none, joining hands and walking in peace with religious, monastics, missionaries and lay volunteers all working for the relief of poverty, for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation and the environment.



Mill Hill Missionaries (a secular society of which I'm a life Brother member) pride themselves on their rugged individualism too. Our involvement is enacted via priestly, brotherhood and lay ministry, mainly abroad. But action, prayer, and giving of our lives

completely to enacting the Gospel is what drives us in the spirit of Cardinal Herbert Vaughan, our founder. However, we shouldn't forget that hidden behind doors are contemplative groups of women and men - whose vows do not incorporate or allow for external action but are spiritually active offering mass, prayer and making personal sacrifices for the success of the Gospel, to fix the climate and the environment; many, are well versed in Catholic Social Teaching and thus are spiritually connecting with us. Other more active women and men's orders carry our message too under the banner of JPIC-LINKS (a group representing over 120 religious orders). Abroad, and in the EU religious orders boast affiliation with AEFJN (the Africa, Europe, Faith and Justice Network) bringing Africa's concerns to the European community incorporating all the issues we are concerned about.

Since the turn of the year our world has been turned upside down and stopped in its tracks because of COVID-19. This has halted our normal social activity and traditional ways of campaigning, protesting, marching and usual activity to meet in common to raise concerns on many social issues but particularly climate change and the environment. However, let's remember, (including the millions who took part in school strikes months ago) that though we have needed to place our common issues on the back burner, they will have chance to rekindle themselves when the virus is contained and stopped. We will resume these activities again continuing where we left off, but meantime, let's remain united in the spiritual family of God's people growing towards holiness in everything we undertake to do for the common good and for humanity.

Eddie Slawinski.
JPIC Office.



Two Mill Hiller priests, a brother & a lay associate carry the message.



Post Pandemic Church:
paralysed or energised?
recovered or re-imagined?

MINI-CONFERENCE
by ZOOM



Saturday 18th July 2020

Session 1 10.30-12.00
Forgotten People

Session 2 2.00-3.30
Our Response?

Book via eventbrite

(bookings close 11pm Friday 10th July)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets-108604414728>

BECOME A MEMBER OF NJPN

Membership is open to local groups, families and individuals. Individual Subscription only £25 a year (but you are welcome to give more!) Low Income £15. Download a membership form from the website or contact the office.

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Thoughts on the Implications of the Covid-19 Crisis

Introduction

2020 was due to be the year when global emissions peaked with countries enhancing their plans to meet their obligations under the 2015 Paris Agreement (to keep the rise in global temperature to 1.5C). This was to culminate in the International Climate Conference in Glasgow in December (COP26) when urgent global action would be confirmed to tackle the climate emergency. Global action to tackle the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems was also to be agreed at the Biodiversity Conference in China in October.

However, the Covid-19 virus crisis has upstaged all these ambitious plans, taking the focus away from the climate and ecological emergency with the world focused on tackling the crisis and endeavouring to mitigate the impact of the economic shock reverberating around the world. We cannot know at this stage what the long term impact of the virus will be on society, but it is likely to be profound.

In this short article for the J&P newsletter I wanted to offer a few personal thoughts on some aspects of this crisis and how we might emerge eventually with a fairer, more just society. The virus can be a catalyst for real change if we can learn from this crisis and act with renewed wisdom and vision. Over the last few weeks I have been studying the Global Catholic Climate Movement online course on Laudato Si' (LS) - was there ever a more appropriate time to study Pope Francis's inspiring encyclical? and reflecting on what LS can teach us about this crisis.

Some Observations

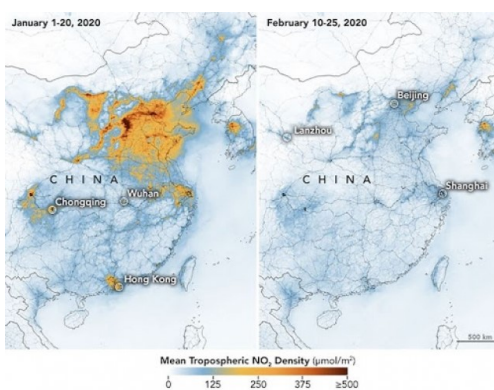
The virus is a warning to humanity to reform its ways. It is a reminder of the power of nature and that by continuing to destroy vital ecosystems and wildlife habitats we are inviting such viruses to jump species from animals to humans (scientists believe that Covid-19 originated in bats). Given the opportunity these kind of viruses will proliferate and jump species – such opportunities are to be found in the live wild animal markets widespread in Asia, but also in intensive farming with animals kept indoors in close confinement. Densely populated cities with poor housing enable the virus to spread easily and become infection hotspots.

Many of us are in lockdown, confined to our homes, or only allowed out for a short time each day (as I write this, globally the no of people in some kind of lockdown is approx. 4.5 billion!). However, these dramatic changes in our lives have forced us to slowdown and appreciate what is all around us but we don't usually have the time to notice. Many have enjoyed the arrival of spring over the last few weeks, either in our gardens, or when taking daily exercise (the decent weather has certainly helped). We can see and appreciate God's loving hand in the butterflies, bees, birdsong, insects, flowers and trees. Hence we have an opportunity to reflect on our connection with nature along with the damage our lifestyles are causing to the environment.

Whilst confined to our homes, nature and wildlife have seized the opportunity to flourish, especially in tourist hotspots in the UK such as the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales. Wildlife has also been seen encroaching on deserted cities around the World [1].

The importance of communities having local access to local green spaces has been highlighted for mental health, wellbeing, exercise and recreation.

There have been significant reductions in air pollution in major cities across the world as traffic levels have fallen dramatically and industry shutdown [2]. It has been estimated that globally CO2 emissions could reduce by 5% this year due to the reduction in car travel, shipping, and air travel [3]. Hence it may turn out that 2019 will be the year of peak emissions, declining from now on towards zero by 2050 (or sooner!).



Many people have been able to work effectively from home, holding online meetings etc. This change of working culture could result in permanent reductions in traffic levels and air travel when the recovery does come with ongoing permanent benefits to air quality and emissions.

In most countries Governments have responded to the crisis by following scientific advice on how to seek to bring the pandemic under control and save lives. We can hope that Governments will

now be more ready to listen to scientists who warn of the devastation of climate and ecological breakdown unless we take urgent action.

The divisions over Brexit (which now seem so irrelevant and long ago) have been forgotten, replaced with a renewed community spirit to work together, support the NHS and help the most vulnerable in our communities.

The virus has exposed the inequalities and injustices in our economic system – many of the key workers in this crisis (e.g. in health, social care, retail, transport) are on low wages with poor conditions of employment. Successive Governments have failed to address the problems with social care and to adequately fund our health services faced with an aging population.

In LS Pope Francis highlights that it is always the poor and vulnerable who suffer most from environmental and economic crises. The Covid-19 crisis is no exception – developing countries with poorly resourced health services and weak economies could be overwhelmed; we also see the highest concentrations of infections in highly populated cities with poor housing and inadequate sanitation. The refugee camps around the Middle East are likely to be overwhelmed with devastating consequences.

Future Possibilities

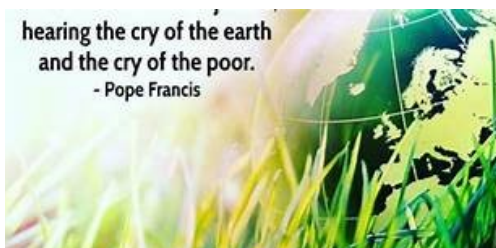
We cannot know at this stage how long this crisis will last and what the long term impact on humanity and our common home will be. However, it is evident that this is a severe shock to our economic, health and social systems which leaves us facing one of two choices: either to embrace a new way of sustainable living incorporating social and environmental justice or a reversion to the way we were and disaster leaving us and future generations to face the consequences of climate and ecological breakdown.

There will be a massive economic stimulus to kick start the recovery once we start to come out of this crisis. We need to seize this opportunity to call for this stimulus package to deliver real change in our society –social and economic justice with sustainable development based around renewable energy, real jobs and the restoration of nature [4, 5].

May 24th this year will mark the 5th Anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si'- this really is the time to respond to "The Cry of the Poor and the Earth" and to recognize how much we are dependent on each other and the whole of creation [6].

Chris Myers

Hexham & Newcastle J&P Network



References (click to open as a hyperlink)

- [1] [Flourishing wildlife](#)
- [2] [Report from India on the reductions in air pollution](#)
- [3] [Forecast reduction in CO2 emissions](#)
- [4] [A green recovery is needed](#)
- [5] [UN developmental chief calls for green shift](#)
- [6] [Laudato Si week of action May16-24](#)

Supporting and developing our membership

NJPN
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk



The Passionists

NJPN has received funding from the Passionists to do some work in supporting our members and developing our membership base, and I am just getting to work as Membership Support Co-ordinator. I am pleased to be doing this as I see it as essential to help us to address the challenges facing those of us in the Catholic Church in England and Wales who are concerned for justice, peace and care for Creation.

What are those challenges? I feel that there is no lack of concern for the issues that we engage with, but much of the activity is happening beyond the Church structures in which we have traditionally operated; we need to be able to reach out and connect with those groups, especially younger people – who might also be looking for a meaningful way of connecting with the Church. The fact that there is this disconnect is not unique to J&P and reflects what is happening in the Church generally, with decline in Church attendance and an ageing profile. What impact the experience of COVID-19 might have on that decline is uncertain, but it is certainly increasing awareness of the destruction of the environment, of inequality and of the need for co-operation rather than conflict at all levels. How well placed will we be to welcome those who will now want to work for change?

It is also the case that there has been a lessening in support for Justice & Peace in the institutional Church in England and Wales, especially at diocesan level. Few dioceses have J&P workers, not all have Commissions. The development of Caritas in the dioceses has sometimes been at the expense of J&P or has subsumed it under its control. NJPN grew out of the National Liaison Committee of diocesan J&P commissions, which continued to be the core membership. These recent developments raise questions about what sort of membership of or contact with NJPN is possible in some dioceses, while we need to find ways to connect with and support individual members and local groups who no longer have a diocesan structure to relate to.

Membership of NJPN has been an evolving process. As said above, it was originally only for diocesan commissions, with some agencies having non-voting membership and some supportive religious orders. Membership was then further opened up to agencies (including ones that are not specifically Catholic) and to religious orders. When NJPN became a registered charity in 2006, individuals could become 'Friends' and donate to NJPN. In 2008 membership was extended to individuals, including Joint or Family membership. Some local groups have also become members, and we would like to

develop this more. These membership subscriptions now account for over a third of NJPN's income.

There is also something rather 'messy' about the nature of NJPN as an open, organic, grassroots network which aspires to bring together people involved in a wide range of issues and a varied range of groups and individuals. Many get involved in the opportunities for networking that we provide, may work with us on projects and may consider themselves members, but have not formally signed up as such. On the other hand, projects that are about justice, peace, the environment, are being developed by people in the Church but not connecting to NJPN. Now, NJPN is not in the business of empire building, but it is the only national body in the Catholic Church in England & Wales which can represent all of those in the Church working for justice, peace and the care of creation. Furthermore, because this work is a way for all Christians to work together to witness to the Gospel, our membership includes ecumenical organisations and individuals from other Christian traditions; and we would like to develop further our relationship with equivalent organisations in other Churches. To be able to do all this, and to be able to continue to offer opportunities for networking and mutual support, we do need more groups and individuals who want to identify with us and will commit time, expertise, resources – and even money – to supporting NJPN.

So, what I hope to do as I set to work is:

- Get records up-to-date and renew contact with groups that are already identified as members.
- Establish an efficient system for keeping records up-to-date, welcoming and maintaining contact with members.
- Consult with supportive agencies, religious, local groups and those working with young people, to explore how NJPN might engage better with these groups.
- Identify groups that could be invited to become members.
- Speak to diocesan contacts to get a picture of the current state of support for J&P and the capacity of existing J&P commissions and networks to promote J&P in their dioceses.

It is hoped that the information and contacts gathered from this process will provide the basis for a project to look at ways forward to develop and support work for justice and peace at the grassroots.

Ann Kelly

April 2020



The **ROSEMARY READ BURSARY FUND** helped families & young people to attend the Conference in 2019.



Please make a donation to help again next year-see details below-specifying that it is for the Bursary Fund.



If you have items for the renewed NJPN ebulletin please send them direct to Sharon ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Just as returning to normal isn't an option with Covid-19, it can't be an option with climate change, either.



DONATE TO NJPN: Online via our website. By cheque payable to NJPN. BACS to NJPN Sort Code:16-31-15 Account No: 10089516, put your name and Donation in the reference field. To make a regular donation by Standing Order, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form on the website.

The National Justice & Peace Network welcomes all who share a vision of a world in which people live in peace and harmony, where our common humanity is respected and all are able to contribute freely to the common good. NJPN seeks to encourage work for justice and peace by promoting communication and shared action between members, supporters and partners.

This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.

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