

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin August 2020

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Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation,

encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth. He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

This World Day of Prayer begins the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

Pope Francis invites the faithful to celebrate the [Season of Creation](#), an annual, month-long celebration of prayer and action for the environment that is observed by Christians around the world. The full text [here](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2019/documents/papa-francesco_20190901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html). http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2019/documents/papa-francesco_20190901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html

The key messages from Pope Francis include the following:

- We are called to protect creation—and we are missing the mark. "Something good in the eyes of God has become *something exploitable* in human hands."
- The Season of Creation is a time for prayer in nature. "This is the *time to re-acquaint ourselves with praying* immersed in nature, where our gratitude to the creator God arises spontaneously."
- The Season of Creation is a time to grow in sustainability. "This is the *time to reflect on our lifestyles* . . . Let's change and adopt simpler and more respectful lifestyles!"
- The Season of Creation is a time to urge governments to enact better climate policies. "This is the *time to take prophetic actions*" and governments have the task of "demonstrating political will to drastically hasten their measures to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible . . . in line with the Paris Agreement goals."

There are many resources available to help us celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and Creation Time and to respond individually and in parishes or groups. We have a responsibility to care for creation and to encourage others.

Links to some of the many resources available on page 12 also available on F&J website

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*Plus more information ,
resources , events and
opportunities to respond*

Rebuilding for a just and stable future

I am very perturbed by the assumption that a swift return to 'normal' economics and growth is desirable. The economics of the last 30yrs has clearly not fully yielded the common good. On the contrary it has enabled financial crashes, to which the chosen responses have added further harm. Whilst undoubtedly advancing life quality and choices for some, economic policy has brought about diminishment and exclusion for others. Indeed the belief that wealth creation procures the security and dignity of all has been demonstrated untrue. I cannot understand why anyone would wish to further embed the injustices of such inequality and insecurity into the future.

Good economics - the craft of ordering the affairs of the country, work, trade, money, investment, priorities, etc – enables everyone to thrive. To my mind thriving, the common good, entails much more than having money. It encompasses being confident that destitution is not just around the corner, that health, education and social care is valued and abundantly available, that physical and temporal space for creativity is open to all, that there is meaningful work that builds and supports society. Such economics is enriching; it is about being wholly and fully human with all the dignity of being a person. And is for everyone, irrespective of status. I hope you could agree. Hence my concern about aspiring to resume the old economics, which have not achieved the common good. It fills me with anxiety.

Nor has our past system adequately addressed the much larger ecological crisis. In fact, I am surprised by how the Covid-19 pandemic is seemingly regarded as a one-off crisis, to be battled and subdued so that the old normal can be resumed. Yet scientists and thoughtful commentators make the link between an increasing likelihood of more new infectious diseases with the events and attitudes that are deepening the ecological crisis. They tell us that relentless deforestation and the sale of wild live animals means the next pandemic might be quite soon, maybe more virulent and more lethal. We simply cannot continue denuding and denaturing the planet, using ever more intensive husbandry, and moving around the world at speed without expecting consequences. The inconvenient truth is that it is impossible to "stay safe" or "keep well" in a dying world. This knowledge is not new. Pope Francis elegantly proclaimed the inter-connection five years ago in his widely quoted letter to every person, *Laudato Si'*, about care of our common home. Many say the same.

It becomes clear we have to simultaneously address the socio-economic crisis, the climate crisis, and the degradation of entire ecosystems as one whole if we are to stand any chance of navigating current as well as approaching storms.

So I, and many others, are desperate for a change in gear. The response to Covid-19 shows that governments can change direction and respond to a crisis quickly; they can invest in people and care, prioritising them above wealth creation. It has confirmed the crucial role of regulation in ways that promote the common good. Contrast the speed of action and redirected investments in the last 3 months with decades not really grasping the huge scale and urgency of the climate and environmental crisis. We know the science; we just have difficulty following it.

I see signs of hope. Change is coming about through the determination of individuals and communities leading the way. And from government actions across the world, including the UK. But in recognising the deep connection between the Corona Virus crisis and the socio-economic-ecological crisis my ask from you is for fresh political leadership. We need an urgent shift in gear and direction so that from the embers of covid-19 we shape an economy that fully values all people and the environment.

We need to ask our politicians to:

- ensure that the policies and investments for recovery do not fuel climate change and inequality,
- to decarbonise the economy in ways that enhance the lives of ordinary people, workers and communities.
- protect and invest in people and public services to serve the common good, taking control of trade and money markets.

And do it this year.

Write to your MP at the House of Parliament, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA or email at:

<https://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp/>

Ask them to encourage discussion and support for a new economy that redresses exploitation of people and our ecosystem. The signs of restlessness for an equitable and sustainable future are plain to see. There isn't a moment to lose.

Dr Paul Kelly

A new app to tackle modern slavery in rural areas

The Farm Work Welfare App (FWWA) is ready for the next few critical months for the recruitment of seasonal workers, and when demand for workers outweighs supply, criminal labour exploitation often flourishes.

Summer 2020 has seen the usual supply of workers significantly hampered by restrictions on movement due to the coronavirus pandemic and also because of the impending impact of Brexit. To add fuel to the fire, industry shut-downs which have come into effect to help fight COVID-19 have led to a surge in the number of vulnerable people looking for work in rural areas and has pushed exploiters to move away from some of the industries they usually operate in. Combine these factors and it's easy to see why criminal gangs are becoming increasingly active within the agricultural sector.

You may be wondering – how can a farmer or grower employ modern day slaves without realising it? The reality is that many farmers rely on third party recruitment agencies, or labour providers, to find seasonal workers and not all these third parties are legitimate and fair businesses. Across the UK, exploiters pose as legal labour providers, offering employers and farmers a ready supply of labour, while in fact they are forcing workers into jobs for little or no money. These highly organised, ruthless criminal gangs exploit the high demand for short term labour, often targeting migrant workers who may not be fluent in English or familiar with UK workers' rights, making them more vulnerable to being coerced and controlled.

It is for this reason that we have developed the FWWA app. It is quite similar to our Safe Car Wash app but instead of focusing on the car wash industry, it provides farmers and pickers with the information they need to avoid criminal organisations and navigate the challenges of seasonal employment. It contains lots of practical information and signposting on existing protections such as the GLAA Licensing Scheme[1], document verification and the rights of workers such as freedom of movement and right to work.

For pickers, it aims to help them understand their rights and what to do if they are being exploited. It also has a report function to encourage members of the public who live or work in rural areas to be alert to the signs of exploitation that may be in plain sight. Any information gathered will be processed by the Modern Slavery Helpline and help identify hot spots, enable criminal investigations and most importantly, victim support.

Bishop Alastair Redfern, former Bishop of Derby and Chairman of The Clewer Initiative, explains:

“Unfortunately, the normal pressures faced by the farming, horticulture and food production industries have been exacerbated by restrictions on movement due to the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit. It's a perfect storm and that's why we are so keen to raise awareness of this innovative new app.”

The app can be downloaded from Apple and Android app stores and is available in Albanian, Bulgarian, English, Lithuanian, Romanian, Polish, Chinese (Mandarin) and Vietnamese.

Our ambition is that it will help everyone in the sector know what 'good' looks like and will become a key source of information on the recruitment of seasonal workers, particularly post-Brexit.

App available now from Google Play and iOS App Store.

The Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority Licensing scheme regulates businesses who provide workers to the fresh produce supply chain. The scheme ensures that businesses who supply workers (labour providers, gangmasters or agencies) and businesses who need workers (labour users, farmers, packhouses, factories) meet the employment standards that are required by law. See Notes to Editors

Download

Modern Slavery in Rural Areas: Spot the Signs Poster and

Modern Slavery in Rural Areas Toolkit









designed for people living and working in rural areas. More

[Download Rural Toolkit \(704kb\)](#)

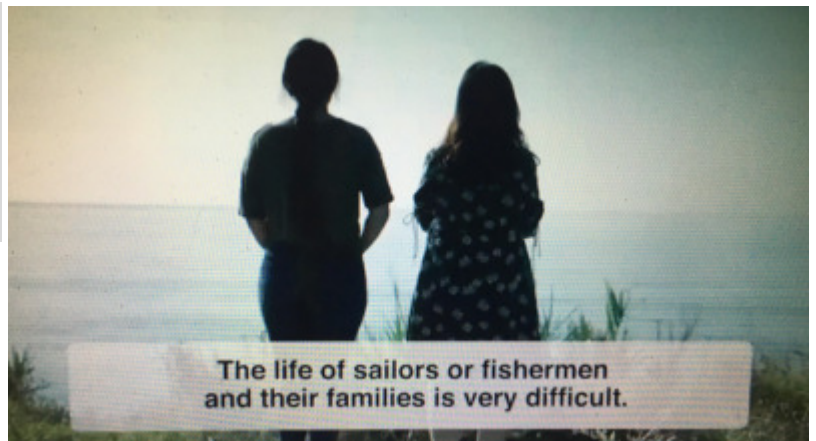
<https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/rural>

MODERN SLAVERY IN RURAL AREAS: A GUIDE TO SPOTTING THE SIGNS

If you think you have spotted the signs of modern slavery call the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121 700, or for labour exploitation concerns call the Gangmasters' and Labour Abuse Authority on 0800 432 0804. In an emergency situation always call 999.

 <p>GROUPS OF TENTS</p> <p>Victims of modern slavery may be housed in tents in fields or in makeshift shelters at all times of the year. Homeless or vulnerably housed people are at high risk of modern slavery.</p>	 <p>CARAVANS ON SITES</p> <p>Victims of modern slavery may be housed in caravans close to their place of work or on wastelands. The caravans are likely to host several people, be dirty, and in disrepair.</p>	 <p>GROUPS OF PEOPLE WAITING</p> <p>Victims may be picked up and dropped off at their workplace by their trafficker. They will wait by the side of the road and often be picked up by a minibus or in a van.</p>	 <p>HAND CAR WASHES</p> <p>Hand car washes are a risk area for modern slavery. Look for cash-only payments, an overbearing manager and fearful workers wearing no protective clothing.</p>
 <p>DOMESTIC SERVITUDE</p> <p>Victims of domestic servitude will work cleaning the home and looking after children. They will not be able to leave the house unsupervised and their ID will be confiscated by their exploiter.</p>	 <p>POP-UP BROTHELS</p> <p>Temporary brothels may take over holiday cottages in rural areas, particularly during off-season. Look for lots of men coming in and out of the property at odd hours.</p>	 <p>LABOUR EXPLOITATION</p> <p>Labour exploitation has been found in farms producing meat, eggs, flowers, and vegetables. Migrant labourers who do not speak English are at risk of being exploited.</p>	 <p>COUNTY LINES</p> <p>Young people from cities are groomed to sell drugs in county towns. Look for teenagers travelling alone by train during school hours.</p>

The Holy Father's prayer intention for August 2020 is: *'The Maritime World - We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.'*



Pope's prayer video for August:

Those who work at sea

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVOF65oGIMQ

In recent years, several international reports have exposed the harsh working conditions which exist in the maritime industry. The book *Fishers and Plunderers - Theft, Slavery and Violence at Sea* (2015) revealed that fishermen and sailors have the most dangerous profession in the world, and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. In the worst cases, they are subjected to human trafficking and live in conditions similar to slavery. The European Maritime Safety Agency declared in a report that, between 2011 and 2020, there were 745 work-related fatalities among maritime workers and nearly 9,000 persons injured, among other tragic statistics of this sector.

In this video, the concern of the Pope for the challenges that are faced by maritime workers and their families each day range from "abandonment in distant ports" and "forced labour" to "industrial fishing and contamination." Through impact images provided by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), the video shows the challenges sea workers and their families face every day. The Holy Father also emphasizes, in the midst of this alarming situation, that "without the people of the sea, many parts of the world would starve." Indeed, more than three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their sustenance, not to mention the fact that the fishing industry employs, directly or indirectly, more than 200 million people. This video was made in collaboration with the Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris, which will be 100 years old in October. This organization promotes pastoral care for the people of the sea and sustains the efforts of the faithful who are called to bear witness with their Christian life in that environment.

Fr Bruno Ciceri, International Director of the Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris, within the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said: "Since the declaration of the pandemic by the World Health Organization, it's evident that the life of sailors, fishermen, and their families has been affected significantly. As the situation continues evolving, our chaplains and volunteers are striving to work to support the needs of the people of the sea, and to ensure that they are not mistreated for their service to others while the pandemic lasts."

Fr Frédéric Fornos SJ, International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, said, "We know that people who belong to the maritime world are very vulnerable. This year, their vulnerability comes not only from the adversities specific to their line of work, but also from the difficulties created by the pandemic: being far from their families and not being able to disembark, the fear of contagion and job insecurity during times to come. This is how Pope Francis spoke of it in June, in a video message of gratitude and consolation: 'I would like to say something to all of you. Know that you are not alone and that you are not forgotten. Your work at sea often keeps you apart from others, but you are close to me in my thoughts and prayers.' The Pope invites us throughout the month of August to pray - this means, to carry in our hearts and value all the people who work and live on the sea - for all their sacrifices and for their great contribution of food and other kinds of basic needs for the great human family."

Accompanying the Apostleship of the Sea as it celebrates its 100 years of history, this Pope Video helps us to pray and live the mission that the Pope entrusts to us this month of drawing close to "all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families."

Watch the video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVOF65oGIMQ

Apostleship of the Sea/Stella Maris: www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) www.popesprayer.va

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40171>

US bishop describes Trump as 'anti-life'

In unusually direct terms for an American church leader, Franciscan Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, President of Pax Christi USA, publicly criticised President Donald Trump during a webinar on 31 July, *Lucy Grindon writes in the National Catholic Reporter*.

"For this president to call himself pro-life, and for anybody to back him because of claims of being pro-life, is almost wilful ignorance. He is so much anti-life because he is only concerned about himself, and he gives us every, every, every indication of that," Stowe said.

Though the US Conference of Catholic Bishops often criticises Trump administration policies, especially those concerning immigration and environmental protection, Stowe's comment was one of the sharper criticisms a Catholic bishop has made of Trump himself.

The webinar, on the topic of the church's future after 2020, was hosted by the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs, or ICMICA-Pax Romana, a global lay community of Catholic intellectuals...

Read the entire article in National Catholic Reporter [here](#)



Bishop John Stowe

link: www.ncronline.org/news/people/bishop-john-stowe-rebukes-trump-anti-life

Watch the webinar here:

www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=342834313781813&ref=watch_permalink



Nagasaki vigil outside Westminster Cathedral

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the bishops conferences of England, Wales and Scotland issued a joint statement. Bishops of Scotland, England & Wales re-commit to abolition of nuclear weapons. Read full statement at: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40168>

Peace campaigners stood in the Piazza outside Westminster

Cathedral on Sunday for the annual vigil commemorating those who died when the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki killing about 80,000 people. A vigil was also held outside the Cathedral on Thursday 6 August, marking the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima which left 146,000 dead. Pat Gaffney, former general secretary of Pax Christi, told ICN: "It was good to be with members of Pax Christi and Westminster J&P for the annual Nagasaki vigil outside Westminster Cathedral. To witness to the horror and suffering inflicted on that city was especially important this year, the 75 anniversary.

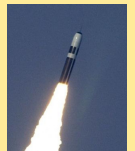
"Our messages were clearly presented in a safely distanced way to those waiting to attend the two Masses in the Cathedral. Our call and prayer were for the abolition of nuclear weapons with the practical ask to our own Government to become a signatory to the Treaty on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons."

Find out more about Pax Christi here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

Jo Siedlecka August 2020

Nuclear weapons: a beginner's guide to the threats

As the world marks the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks, Dr Philip Webber, from Scientists for Global Responsibility, (SGR) summarises the key scientific and technological information on the current threat from nuclear weapons. [Read the briefing: https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/nuclear-weapons-beginner-s-guide-threats](https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/nuclear-weapons-beginner-s-guide-threats)



US launches Minuteman III missile test less than 48 hours before 75th anniversary of Hiroshima bombings

By [Sandy Jones](#) | August 4, 2020 sjones@napf.org

The U.S. Air Force launched an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile on August 4, from Vandenberg Air Force Base. The missile traveled over 4,200 miles to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. While Air Force Global Strike Command asserts that missile tests are scheduled years in advance, it is difficult to ignore the timing of this test – less than 48 hours before the 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The week the majority of the world is solemnly remembering the 75th anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and vowing that such a thing will never happen again.

This weapon that is being tested is designed for far greater damage."



NBCW publishes practical booklet on domestic abuse



In order to raise awareness within the Catholic community of domestic abuse and the impact upon victims and their children, the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) has released a booklet that offers pastoral care and guidance.

Commending the booklet, the Bishops' Conference Liaison to the NBCW, Abbot Hugh Allan, O.Praem, believes its publication is particularly timely:

"At a time when the crisis around the pandemic has seen an increase in cases of domestic abuse, this timely booklet from the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) is an excellent resource for all of us.

"The masterpiece of creation is a human being. This great dignity is the birth right of everyone. The welfare and safety of all God's children is something every Christian has a responsibility to act upon. No one should ever live in fear of violence, or of any kind of abuse."

The booklet contains notes on Church teaching on violence in relationships - including extracts from the 2016 Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* - and provides useful links and resources to help both those suffering in various situations of domestic abuse and also survivors who need time, space and help to recover.

Preventing and combating domestic abuse is a shared responsibility and the booklet contains a section offering simple, practical guidance to Catholics in England and Wales who want to play their part.

Download the booklet here: www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/08/NBCW-Domestic-Abuse-A4-Booklet.pdf

Domestic Abuse

Churches Together in Cumbria

Acknowledges that domestic violence is an affront to the Christian Gospel and urges every local congregation to break the silence about domestic violence.

We work in partnership with **LET GO** on an awareness programme for the churches of Cumbria.

21 very successful training days have been held for clergy and pastoral carers.

Churches Together in Cumbria has 14 Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Champions across the county.

Please make contact with one of the Champions in your area if you would like any support around this issue.

Resources and contact details at: https://www.churchestogethercumbria.org.uk/Groups/318566/Domestic_Abuse.aspx



Recent CAFOD online events include



[CAFOD Live with Deputy Head of Africa James Marchant](#). Join our Deputy Head of Africa, James Marchant to hear about our work across Africa and how they are implementing lessons from previous Ebola outbreaks.

[Carbon capture and climate change – the scale of the challenge](#). What does a net zero world look like? And what does capturing, utilising and storing CO2 have to do with it? Join us to hear Dr Doug Barnes, the Head of Chemistry at C-Capture.

Recordings of these as well as earlier meetings available at www.cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks and click 'Watch recordings'. There will also be information about future talks.

Waiting for the Prime Minister to reply on child migrants

Seven Catholic leaders signed the Faith Leaders' letter to the Prime Minister on World Refugee Day, June 20th, asking him to ensure that unaccompanied child migrants seeking to reach the UK could be given safe and legal routes and a welcome, along the lines of the pre-war Kindertransport initiative. These measures would help to avoid the human rights abuses that young people currently suffer in the Greek camps and on the UK-French borders.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead Bishop for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Bishop Nicholas Hudson, of Westminster Justice and Peace, Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop for International Affairs, and Bishop William Nolan, of Scottish Justice and Peace, as well as Fr Dominic Robinson sj current Chair of Westminster Justice and Peace, Fr Joe Ryan, retired Chair, and Canon Pat Browne, chaplain to Parliament, have all signed this important message to the Prime Minister.

More than 2 weeks on, the Prime Minister still has not replied, but Safe Passage, who organised the Letter, is calling for the provision for family reunification for the thousands of children, stranded across Europe, to be included in the Immigration Bill currently going through Parliament. Alas the relevant amendment, on family reunification, was defeated by the Commons at this stage. It has still to go to the Lords and then back to the Commons.

The Bill has several omissions which will adversely affect migrants and refugees, including no end to indefinite detention. Bishops Paul McAleenan and William Nolan had already protested about this in an earlier statement. Nor is there any provision for Family Reunification for unaccompanied migrant children. Beth Gardiner Smith, CEO of Safe Passage, said,

"We are inspired and grateful that so many faith leaders stand shoulder to shoulder with child refugees. Last winter, the government gave repeated assurances in Parliament that it was committed to helping child refugees join their relatives in the UK but it has now published a Brexit negotiating position that would replace concrete family reunion rights with a watered-down, discretionary system. There is a clear moral case for the UK to take leadership of this issue and provide safe and legal routes for child refugees."

Three Catholic members of the Safe Passage Campaigns team, Judyann Masters of Holy Apostles, Pimlico, Barbara Kentish, of Westminster Justice and Peace, and Judith Williams, of St Mary's, Poole, Dorset, are seeking further partners to lobby for more Catholic support for this issue. If you have the time, contact the following for further information:

Barbarakentish@talktalk.net ; or judyannmasters@gmail.com ; or Judith Williams via Safe Passage organiser, Mia.barlow@safepassage.org

Pope Francis keeps the spotlight on the plight of migrants and refugees.

On July 8, 2013, Francis made his first journey outside the Vatican as pope to visit the remote island of Lampedusa, near Sicily, to draw attention to the plight of migrants and refugees. There he threw a wreath of flowers into the sea in their memory and wept for the thousands who had died on the Mediterranean during perilous sea-crossings as they sought refuge in Europe. Then, in a powerful homily at Mass on the Lampedusa sports ground, he denounced "the globalization of indifference" in the face of the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II.

Seven years to the day later, Francis recalled that visit as he celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Santa Marta guesthouse where he lives in the Vatican. During his homily, Pope Francis reminded believers that "the encounter with the other is also an encounter with Christ. He himself told us. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned, seeking an encounter with us and requesting our assistance. And if we still had any doubt, here are his unequivocal words: 'I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me'" (Mt 25:40).

[America Magazine](#) reports the full story.

The 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on **27 September 2020**. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen "**Forced like Jesus Christ to flee**". The message will focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people (IDPs), who currently number over 41 million worldwide.

'Post-pandemic Church: Paralysed or Energised? Recovered or Re-imagined?'

NJPN Conference: 'a celebration of what it is to be J&P people'

Ellen Teague

The National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) conference by zoom on 18 July, looked at social issues during the pandemic and the imperatives of Catholic Social Teaching to imagine a more just and sustainable future. Its title was: *'Post-pandemic Church: Paralysed or Energised? Recovered or Re-imagined?'* NJPN Chair, Anne Peacey, described the conference as: "a real celebration of what it is to be J&P people." The day replaced the postponed NJPN annual gathering in mid-July, 'Action for life on Earth', which is re-scheduled for July 2021.

The gathering of nearly 300 participants, was lay-led but also supported by men and women religious and by Catholic and ecumenical members of the Network, including CAFOD, Pax Christi, CSAN, the Romero Trust, National Board of Catholic Women, CARJ and Christians Aware. It was life-affirming to see so many people from various elements of Church social outreach waving at each other through their screens.

"We will be different when we emerge from this pandemic, but, though we are in a new place and a new time, the Church we have is probably the Church that will emerge from it," according to one speaker. Fr Joseph O' Hanlon, a priest of Nottingham diocese and a biblical scholar and writer, said online gatherings, where groups have shared their faith in creative ways, "are not patches on the real Church" but should be encouraged to keep going. In the discussion, Passionist Fr Nicholas Postlethwaite asked, "why not simply encourage the development of ongoing virtual meetings - not linked necessarily to liturgy - but within which people can be encouraged to have conversations together - and let's then see where that takes us." He called for more opportunity for "honest, authentic conversation" about the Church in the world.

Participants seemed to agree with Fr O'Hanlon that the Kingdom of God is about love. "And how do we see God's love in the world?" he asked. He suggested it should be understood as "righteousness - the right way to live" and applauded those who tackle structural sin and injustice. He underlined, "amazing biblical language about peace and justice" and which deplores leaders who "trample on the poor." Fr O'Hanlon stressed, "God's love makes the whole of creation the Body of Christ." He hoped the structure of Church will support laity building the Kingdom and transforming the world for the common good.

The opening session on 'Forgotten People' looked at social outreach during the last four months of the pandemic. Paul Bodenham, J&P Fieldworker in Nottingham Diocese, reminded participants that in his Easter Sunday message, Pope Francis urged us to feel the suffering of others as our own.

Kevin Flanagan of St Antony's Centre for Church and Industry in Trafford said: "we chose not to close during lockdown", and "at a time of crisis we had to dig in and dig out." The centre has supported people in work, out of work or looking for work and warned that we are likely to see huge redundancies and unemployment in the future. He regretted that the Catholic bishops no longer have a World of Work Committee, because today's challenges are great and growing. His call to reinstate the committee was supported by many participants in the conference chat room. "Employers are cutting pay and then cutting jobs" he said, and training has been scaled back, including apprenticeships. He urged participants to support the right of workers to join trade unions and called for, "our bishops to release monies for people in the world of work." He hoped a "radical transformational Church" would emerge from the pandemic.

Colette Joyce of Westminster J&P spoke on homelessness. When the nation was asked to stay at home on 23 March, "some people could not stay at home because they didn't have one," she said. Whilst many homeless were placed in hotels, Westminster Catholic groups and churches initiated a huge social project to feed people who had "no recourse to public funds." It became a great ecumenical and interfaith project, as a Sikh group also helped provide food to more than 200 people daily in Trafalgar Square. A clip of the story on BBC2's 'Newsnight' was shown, and it included words of endorsement from Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

"Something has gone wrong in our economic system if we cannot support everyone in our community," reflected Colette, "but we proved that dramatic change is possible." Nick Hanrahan of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) also reported on the destitution of refugees who do not benefit from any government funding, and the Church responses. During lockdown, JRS in London took its day centre onto the road, distributing food and toiletries and offering a prepaid master card with money so that refugees had emergency money. The JRS Refugee Hardship Fund was topped by generous donors.

Continue page 9

Continued from page 8 The virus is of real concern to refugee friends - most of whom are vulnerable black, Asian or ethnic minority - and they face a hostile environment" Nick reported. He agreed that the lack of recourse to funding has been a key issue and has meant that chronic illnesses are left untreated because of fear of charges, and many are forced onto the streets.

Clare Dixon, CAFOD's Head of Latin America, gave an international overview, saying that, "everything experienced in Britain is seen in the global south." However, the Church here too has been providing a "moral voice" in a city like Sao Paulo which has a quarter of all Brazil's Covid cases. She asked: "how can you access food and keep distancing in a shanty town?" and reported that CAFOD and its partners are providing for 11,000 families in Sao Paulo. "Seventy percent of the population in many Latin American countries have no stable jobs and many have died with no treatment," she said, citing the example of Columban Ed O'Connell in Peru who tells of widespread destitution in Lima, with many families unable to access government aid because they have no bank accounts. Many people are out on the streets because they need the informal economy to get income to eat. "They prefer risking the virus to hunger" she commented. Clare also highlighted the plight of indigenous people in the Amazon region. She said President Bolsonaro is often called 'BolsoNERO' because he appears to watch while the country burns. CAFOD supports community-based radio to share stories of hope and information about water, food, justice, equity and inter-community solidarity. It is running a Coronavirus Appeal which participants were urged to support.

In the breakout discussion groups there was reflection on the post-pandemic Church. Among subjects mentioned, was the importance of adult social justice formation, advocacy on structural sin and ecocide, and encouraging a mission-led Church that hears "the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor," as Pope Francis would put it.

Comments directed to the bishops of England and Wales included: "We need the Bishops Conference to champion Catholics committed to Catholic Social Teaching"; "They need to take the voices of concerned Catholics and hold the government to account, for we are on the brink of high unemployment and homelessness." - "We need to be calling on the government for targeted support for the marginalised." - "How do we use Church assets, and are we disinvesting from fossil fuels?" and "Let us hear more about the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative."

After a heavy morning session someone asked, "Does lunch arrive by email attachment?"

Liturgies were led by Anna and Eleanor Marshall, who assist with liturgies at NJPN conferences, and by Marty Haugen, a liturgical composer and pastoral musician based in the United States. He composed a special chant for the occasion, dedicated to NJPN and inspired by Laudato Si', called, 'For Our Common Home':

*'We come together for our common home,
We are together we are not alone,
For all the blessings we know, let us sing as we go,
And work together for our common home.'*

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40059>



Central London Catholic Churches serving refreshment and supplies to the homeless

'Post-pandemic Church:

Paralysed or Energised? Recovered or Re-imagined?'

Zoom Conference : watch all 8 videos from the conference, on the YouTube playlist at

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

Read talk given by by Fr Joseph O'Hanlon at:

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/dr-joseph-ohanlons-talk-from-this-years-mini-njpn-conference/>





<https://millionminutes.org/future>

Events of 2020, including COVID-19, the ongoing climate crisis, and the Black Lives Matter movement, have exposed deep rooted and systematic inequalities in our society. It is time for healing and transformation, time to build a fairer, more equal and sustainable world, so that we may look ahead with hope.

Pope Francis calls us to 'prepare the future' now, and not passively 'prepare for the future' created by others. Young people are prophets of change, lights of hope in today's world and can help lead us all in creating the future we desire. In youth ministry it is our role to accompany them on this journey and help them envision, and create, tomorrow's world today. We can 'build back better' for communities, families and for God's creation.

What is it?

This resource, made up of 12 units, includes reflections, questions for discussion, prayers and useful links. We hope it will help educators and youth ministers in their work, supporting young people to collectively reflect on what has happened and what lies ahead, keeping the Gospel as our source of hope and inspiration.

Please feel free to use the resource however is best for your young people.

Over the next weeks we will continue to develop it and would welcome additional relevant resources, such as video or PowerPoint presentations.

Download resources at: <https://millionminutes.org/future>



Preston family fun run raises thousands for charity

Elouise Hobbs

After nearly four months of churches being closed, Preston parishioners decided to hold a socially distanced sporting event to bring the community together while also raising much-needed funds for the global coronavirus response.



For the event, over 40 parishioners from across Preston and beyond, either walked, ran, or cycled, five kilometres, in aid of the international development charity CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal.

Each participant chose an individual route and time to complete the challenge - to ensure that social distancing was maintained throughout.

Peter Towers, a parishioner at Saint Anthony's parish in Preston, who helped organise the event, said:

"Throughout the day our Facebook group was buzzing with photos and reports of people's achievements. Individuals and families, school staff, and a church music group took part. As well as raising money, the event has created a CAFOD community focus in difficult times."

The event was a massive success, raising over £4,600 for CAFOD, which is currently scaling up its support to local aid experts in developing countries to combat the impact of the Coronavirus. Peter continued: "So far, 185 people have donated to our challenge, helping us to raise £4,660 on our just giving page alone!

"It is good to know that CAFOD will use the money wisely to help people in hard-to-reach places."

This event is part of CAFOD's Summer of Hope. The campaign aims to inspire the nation to remain hopeful this summer through recreating cancelled events, virtually - while also supporting communities in developing countries through fundraising. CAFOD's representative in Preston, Patrick Gardner, said: "I would like to say a massive thank you and congratulations to the Preston runners and walkers for their amazing efforts! The money they raised will go towards supporting some of the world's poorest communities who need our help to fight this deadly virus."

Find out how you can organise your own event at: <https://cafod.org.uk/SummerofHope>

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40141>



As we all try to work out how we can respond to climate change individually and as communities, it is worth looking at the approach of the town of Kendal and its Citizen's Jury



All inputs are available on the website: <https://www.kendalclimatejury.org/jury-sessions-%20overview/>

Climate change sessions underway for the Kendal Citizens' jury

The Kendal Citizens' Jury has met online three times to discuss the question 'What should Kendal do about climate change?', since its members' selection by the [Sortition Foundation](#) (the selection was made to fairly reflect the population of Kendal from the 250 replies to 4,000 letters sent out to Kendal residents). Two experts on climate change – Chris Stark, chief executive of the UK Committee on Climate Change, and Mike Berners Lee, carbon footprinting expert and professor and fellow of the Institute for Social Futures at Lancaster University – presented to the Jury in July, and the Jury members will be hearing from six commentators in total over the course of the summer, before framing a set of recommendations to be shared with Kendal Town Council and other organisations in October. Click here to see [Chris Stark's and Mike Berners-Lee's presentations to the Jury](#) and [follow the Jury's progress on its website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Do not let the Covid-19 Vaccine be part of a secret deal

"My reason for joining the trial was simple:

I wanted to contribute in my own way to find a vaccine to defeat a global pandemic."

Luigi was one of the first volunteers to take part in Oxford University's Covid-19 vaccine trials.

But he was shocked to find out that **despite public funding for the research**, Oxford University has signed a **secret agreement with UK pharma giant, AstraZeneca** to manufacture the vaccine. And worries that big pharma monopolies could stop access to this vital vaccine.

Co-sign Luigi's letter to Oxford University and AstraZeneca.

He's demanding they publish their secret deal and ensure big pharma monopolies don't stop affordable Covid-19 vaccines for all.

[▶Read Luigi's full letter](#)

[Click here to add your support.](#)



www.globaljustice.org.uk

The prime minister announced plans to hand over control of UK aid to the Foreign Office. The 'merger' of the Department for International Development into the Foreign Office will destroy aid effectiveness and transparency, hinder public scrutiny of development policy, and see aid being used to boost British businesses rather than tackling global inequalities. For further details and to sign the e-petition, click [here](#).

https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/tell-boris-johnson-stop-hijacking-aid-budget?utm_medium=email&utm_source=mailchimp_2007AID2&utm_campaign=Aid_campaign

In the Xinjiang province in northwest China as many as three million Uyghur people have been held in so-called re-education camps.

There they have been brutalised, many have been tortured, and there are even credible claims of women being subject to forced sterilisations.

We have seen reports that your businesses have used the forced labour of Uyghur people in the Chinese factories that produce your trainers, clothing and technology. Some of these factories even house re-education facilities themselves.

Ask the CEOs of Nike, Adidas, Puma, Fila, BMW, Jaguar and Apple that on behalf of their business they:

- Confirm if your products are produced using forced Uyghur labour
- Commit to not use factories that use forced Uyghur labour
- Review all China based operations to ensure that forced labour and human rights abuses are not occurring

End any commercial relationship with Chinese companies that are involved in the use of forced labour anywhere in their supply chain

<https://donate.hopenothate.org.uk/page/s/sign-now-stop-using-uygher->

**STOP BRANDS FROM USING
UYGHUR FORCED LABOUR.
SIGN THE OPEN LETTER**



Raise awareness
Ask in the shops if they know
about concerns about how they
were made

[https://
www.hopenothate.org.uk/](https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/)





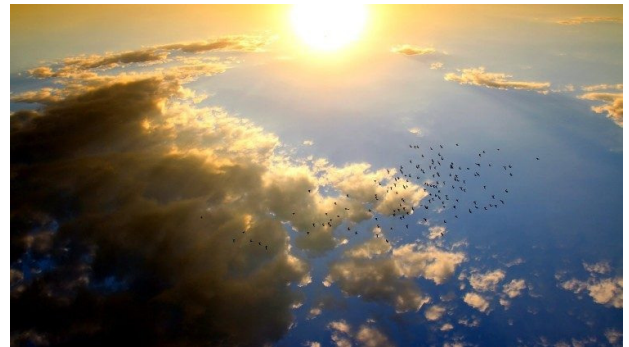
Film: The Real Cost of Nuclear Weapons - Pax Christi International

Life is a gift. Precious. Sacred. The global pandemic reveals a lot about our values and our priorities. Every minute thousands are spent on nuclear weapons, where it takes just pennies to address humanity's most basic needs. We know how to save life. And how to take it. A face mask costs 53 cents. A nuclear missile costs 50 million dollars.....

Watch this two minute film:

The Real Cost of Nuclear Weapons by Pax Christi International: www.youtube.com/watch?

The Vatican released 'Journeying for the care of the common home', document on the 5th anniversary of the papal encyclical Laudato si' that offers a guide to all Christians on our relationship with God's Creation. The full text has not yet been published in English yet but the Vatican has made available an [overview](https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-06/vatican-interdicastery-document-laudato-si-safeguarding-creation.html).
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-06/vatican-interdicastery-document-laudato-si-safeguarding-creation.html>



Events and Opportunities to Raise Awareness

- 6&9th August Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki
www.paxchristi.org.uk ccnd.gn.apc.org
- 9th August International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 15th August Romero Mass zoom from Southwark Cathedral –booklet This link <https://youtu.be/aK5d6gbzoKg> brings up the scheduled livestream for the Mass for Saint Oscar Romero from St George's Cathedral, Southwark. It is set for 12.30pm link https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr5pOWyKDRh4v042c7n_vYA/
 Mass booklet at: <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/Romero%20Mass%2015%20August%202020%202.pdf>
- 23rd August International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/slavetraderemembranceday>
- 30th August International Day of the Disappeared and Stop the Traffik <http://stopthetraffik.org/>
<http://redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Finding-missing-family/International-Day-of-the-Disappeared>
- 1st September Day of Prayer for Creation
- 1st September/ Season of Creation
- 4th October
- 27th September The 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees **“Forced like Jesus Christ to flee”**.

Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission
 Email: lfjcm@gmail.com