

Dear Friends,

This weekend in the church we mark Racial Justice Sunday. I hesitate to use the word celebrate, given the scenes we have witnessed over the past year that brought racism to the forefront of our consciousness. However, out of every cloud there is a silver lining; through various tragedies, more people than ever before are aware of racist issues and have come to know the #BlackLivesMatter movement. We know that there is still a long way to go, but by dialogue and information, we hope that the future will be looking more positive. Racial Justice is our lead issue this weekend, but there is also a big mixture of Actions to take part in, plus many Events - including the opening of bookings for our own Annual Conference, with the theme '*Action for Life on Earth 2021.*' We forge ahead towards our Conference with a sense of positivity that this year it will happen and we will meet again!

Please also remember that we have a Networking Day coming up on the 27th February, which will take place via Zoom. More details from [Eventbrite](#).

The next bulletin will be out in two weeks' time, and don't forget, if you have something you particularly want shared, send it to:- ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk.

Stay safe,
Sharon (Editor)

*****Stop Press***** Geoff tells me that the NJPN Newsletter should be arriving very soon on your doorstep if you are a member of the NJPN. Alternatively, it should be available to read on our website in the next few days.

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***** ACTION OF THE WEEK *****

Israel: denying Covid-19 vaccine to Palestinians is 'institutionalised discrimination'

The above headline, from [Amnesty International](#), is just one of many we found stating that Israel may well have rolled out the Covid-19 vaccine to many of its citizens; but this did not include the five million Palestinians living under occupation.

Another article, explaining the situation is available from the [BBC here](#).

The last word on this subject is from the experts: The Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA), established in 2009, following the Lancet Series on health and health care in the occupied Palestinian territory, is an informal network of Palestinian, regional, and international colleagues researching the health of Palestinians. Ten annual scientific conferences have been held, with 748 research presentations involving more than 1000 coauthors. Their piece on why it is important that the Palestinians receive the vaccine, and what Israel should be doing under the Geneva Convention can be [read here](#).

We are asking people to contact their MP to ask the Foreign Secretary to remind the Israeli Government of their responsibilities as an Occupying Power's duties under the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure medical supplies, including to combat the spread of pandemics.

Thank You.

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Racial Justice Day



This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

There are lots of interesting resources on the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales website, but in particular, two videos to be watched. One is a Catholic Parish Discussion on Racial Justice, between Fr. Richard Nesbitt, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima, White City, and two of his parishioners, Nebiat Michael and Frances Umeh, which is available to [watch here](#).

The other is a reflection produced by a group of young adults across England and Wales who belong to the Zimbabwean Catholic Community. You can find it [here](#).

For more information on Racial Justice issues, go to the [Catholic Association for Racial Justice \(CARJ\) website](#).

Columban Racism Competition: Entries Still Welcome.

Ellen Teague writes...

A steady stream of entries have been coming into the Columban schools competition 2021. But with a month to go before the competition closes on 20 February there is still time to submit writing and image entries. This year the theme is 'Let's Create A World Without Racism' and it is open to students aged 14-18 years old. All details on the website: www.columbancompetition.com

The theme is very relevant in the lead up to Racial Justice Sunday on 31 January 2021.

Reflecting on a year that saw a global pandemic disproportionately impact on ethnic minority groups and a series of mass protests in the US in response to high profile killings such as that of George Floyd, our Lead Bishop for Racial Justice says: "It's not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act." Bishop Paul McAleenan echoes the words of Pope Francis pointing out that instances of racism continue to shame us and show that "our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think."

He adds: "Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings – as individuals and as a Church. Every single one of our parishes, schools and organisations has a responsibility to actively practise anti-

racism in all aspects of our mission. “We need to address the lack of visible diversity at every level, so that people can see themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the Church’s life.”

Entries for the British Columban competition have already been received from schools the length and breadth of the country – from St Thomas More in Nuneaton to St Gregory’s Oxford to Worth School in West Sussex. So far, the Columbans have received roughly the same number of articles and images. Winners will be announced on 15 March 2021 and there are cash prizes. Two separate competitions will be judged, one for students in Ireland and one in Britain and high-profile judges from the world of journalism have been secured.

There has been recent inspiration from the young black poet who electrified the inauguration of President Biden with her poem ‘The Hill We Climb’. 22-year-old Catholic Amanda Gorman called for a country “committed to all cultures, colours, characters”. This chimes with a core aspect of Columban mission, which is crossing boundaries of language, race, culture and religion.

Amanda Gorman 'The Hill We Climb'

Speaking of Amanda Gorman, those of you who watched the Inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden couldn't have failed to be moved at this young black American lady reading her poem and the message contained within it. It is available to watch on [YouTube](#) (although you might want to skip the ads!).

The poem finishes with the lines:-

*When day comes we step out of the shade,
afire and unafraid,
the new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

2. Refugees and Migrants

The Situation at Napier Barracks

Care4Calais, on the 13th January, highlighted the plight of refugees being held at Napier Barracks in Kent in poor conditions; overcrowding, not enough toilet/shower facilities, and too much noise, so many of the refugees are not getting much sleep. Some of the refugees have been

protesting by sleeping outside, but had been told that to do so would affect their claim for asylum. The full article is available [here](#).

Since then, the situation has gone from bad to worse, and on Friday a fire broke out, with one building being virtually destroyed, and five arrests being made. It would appear that things reached a peak when there was an outbreak of Covid-19 in the Barracks and the Refugees were told they were not going to be moved. [BBC News](#) has the official story. However, Care4Calais have a different slant on the same story. [Read it here](#).

'Finding the Hidden Treasure'

Our friends from Seeking Sanctuary have written a very good piece about the difference in referring to those fleeing for a better life as being 'victims,' when what we should be doing is seeing them as a person of value; that many of them want to contribute to our society, but are not allowed to work. Go to their [website here](#).

'This Year We Hope'

Will Neal is Detention Outreach Officer at JRS and accompanies those held at Heathrow Immigration Removal Centres, Harmondsworth and Colnbrook. Will reflects and shares hopes from their JRS friends who've experienced immigration detention through the blog section of the [JRS website](#).

Migrants rescued off Lesbos

[Vatican News](#) has reported that the Greek Coastguard rescued 24 people and recovered the body of one man from the water on Tuesday. They were also searching as there were possibly other people missing. Just people fleeing conflict and poverty, looking for a better life....

3. Latest NJPN Columns in The Universe

22nd January – Dr. Andrew Rollinson, an independent energy engineer and a member of the NJPN Environment Group

'Herald of Happier Days'

It happened in what appeared to be the most godforsaken of places. Eight lanes of traffic, and during rush hours too [for it had ceased to be the singular 'hour' long ago]. A modern autogeddon, separated only by a small patch of white painted cross-hatch markings (about 10ft by 4ft) on the

tarmacadam between two sets of dual carriageways. Traffic thundered past.

Here my wife's car broke down. It was early morning and she was on her way to work. I was woken by her telephone call asking me whether she should stay in the car, whereupon I cycled to meet her. Together we pushed the vehicle into the cross-hatched area, scrambled to the roadside, then waited for the breakdown truck and the police to arrive.

The police never came and the RAC were 30 minutes. During this time we experienced two memorable events.

First, the Good Samaritan: Only one person stopped to ask if we needed any help: a 'white van man', a stranger who halted his journey and came to speak with us. We thanked him for his kindness but said that we were fine because assistance was on its way. Of the others, we did see my aunt drive past and mouth the words "are you okay?" But she drove on without stopping. Then, when my wife arrived at work, she was met by many of her friends who each reported that they'd passed her by the roadside with our abandoned car. "Why didn't any of them stop and offer to help?" my wife joked when she returned home later.

Secondly, the rare royal visitor: By the roadside the land fell away into a ditch, its grassy sides covered with oily dirt, fast food cartons, drinking cups, polythene wrapping and many other articles of rubbish, while at its base a pallid expanse of clay-coloured water slowly seeped into a concrete culvert. Out of this culvert came a dazzling flash of iridescent blue. A kingfisher. Its royal blue and tangerine body darted by right before me, flew gracefully and silently above the water's surface, then was gone.

According to the RSPB, few people ever see a kingfisher. There are only believed to be about 6000 pairs in the UK. Another name for the kingfisher is 'halcyon', from the Greek. It is said to herald the onset of happier days and to calm life's often choppy waters.

29th January – Geoff Thompson, Administrator of the National Justice and Peace Network

'A Weekend to put Earth First'

The next annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) will be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire **23-25 July 2021**. Yes, it's a bit of a leap of faith in the context of the pandemic, but the planning group feels that the issues of the conference should not be postponed for another year.

'2021: Life on Earth - moment of truth' is the theme.

As climate change, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the November COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, and in the context of recovery from the pandemic, are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity.

At NJPN's Justice and Peace Conference in July, we will take inspiration from the encyclicals *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti* and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace to look at changes and choices now confronting us.

Why not join us to: be inspired for transformative ecological conversion for yourself and for our communities, nation and World; update our shared Christian witness in light of the climate and ecological emergency and Covid-19; reimagine the justice and peace movement and our Church to meet the challenges ahead.

The conference will be chaired by CAFOD's Director Christine Allen. Marty Haugen, the liturgical composer and pastoral musician, will lead our Liturgy. Speakers include Lorna Gold from FaithInvest, the Spiritan Priest Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and the integral thinker Mark Rotherham.

Workshops and activities include: COP26 and Divestment, Conflict and the Environment, Name that Weed (outdoor); Biodiversity Loss; Extractive Industries; Eco-anxiety, Waste recycling practical session, Liturgy planning, Presence at COP26 (real or virtual).

There will be age-appropriate parallel programmes for young children and teens, as well as provision of a creche. Our JUST FAIR consists of more than 20 stalls from different agencies display goods and resources, as well as information and ideas about practical action throughout the weekend.

Booking forms are available on our website: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference. For further information or to book a Just Fair stall contact admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk. All are welcome.

Though planned as an in-person event at Swanwick, if continued Covid-19 restrictions prevent the conference going ahead face to face, NJPN will present the programme, or similar, as a bookable only online conference.

Our thanks go to our friends at The Universe for supporting us. If you would like to take out a subscription to their newspaper, please follow this [link](#).

4. Climate/Environment Matters (some Actions are included)

News from Green Christian - Update on *Plenty!* We need your help.

The revision of *Plenty!*, the small group discussion resource currently being developed as part of the Joy in Enough programme is now nearing completion. With the aid of a generous grant from the Sisters of the Holy Cross, as well as Paristamen CIO and the Saltley Trust, we have been working with Katherine Hogg, a materials developer, to rethink the approach and some of the materials originally developed for *Plenty!*. You can hear Katherine talking about her work [here](#).

To read about how Green Christian need your help with the *Plenty!* programme, and for more details generally, please click [here](#).

Say Yes to Green Trade

Traidcraft Exchange are talking about an actual plan that will make a difference – one that meaningfully reduces carbon emissions and protects our planet and the people living here.

The leaders of New Zealand, Norway, Costa Rica, and 3 other countries have teamed up to create a new green trade agreement that:

- 1) stops fossil fuel subsidies
- 2) re-shapes trade in favour of greener industries
- 3) makes it easier and cheaper to sell eco-friendly goods and services

It is called ACCTS, the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability. To read more about it and to add your name to their appeal for the UK to join the green trade agreement, [click here](#).

Climate Emergency Toolkit

The Climate Emergency Toolkit was launched on Wednesday 28 January. Declaring a climate emergency could be a powerful way to restart your church's engagement with creation care in 2021.

The Climate Emergency Toolkit brings together loads of brilliant resources from lots of organisations, including Tearfund, Green Christian and several others - organising them into a clear, manageable journey for every church. For more information and to download it, go to the [Climate Emergency Toolkit webpage](#).

England's 'national rainforests' to be protected by new rules

[Wild Justice](#), the wildlife action group writes:

If you were one of our many supporters who signed our e-action (with Hen Harrier Action and RSPB) last August you will have been pleased with the measures brought in before Christmas to license moorland management in Scotland and today (29th January) brings long-overdue movement from DEFRA in England. Today's announcement isn't perfect, we need to read it carefully, but it is bringing in significant change and reform to moorland burning practices over a very wide area of upland England from Yorkshire to Lancashire and from Derbyshire to Northumberland. If you participated in our e-action you helped bring that about. Thank you.

You can read the announcement [here](#).

5. Biden Restores Aid to Palestinians

Just six days after taking office, the Biden administration took a sharp turn in U.S. policy in the Middle East, announcing it will resume contact with Palestinian leaders and restore U.S. contributions to the U.N. agency which provides aid to Palestinians. This was announced in a speech before the UN Security Council by Richard Mills, acting US Ambassador to the United Nations. More details are available from NPR [here](#).

6. The Path to a Nuclear-Free World



Encouraging is the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. But this milestone occurs amid grim obstacles such as the harmful effects of nuclear weapons testing on Pacific island nations, and the refusal of some nations to sign the treaty.

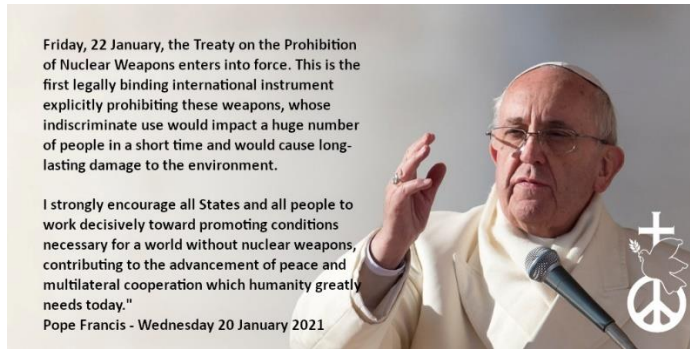
Our own Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, reflected that, although not all Christians are pacifists, they can still arrive at a point of agreement regarding a world free from nuclear weapons.

“I think from a Christian point of view issues of war, and the possession of weapons of war, is a contested area,” he said. “But weapons of mass destruction can never be used in a proportionate way, and therefore can never be used. It follows that they should never be possessed.”

Listen to a webcast from the [World Council of Churches](#) where speakers spoke candidly about encouraging signs and discouraging obstacles along the path to a nuclear weapons-free world.

Also from the World Council of Churches, there is news that the All Africa Conference of Churches have welcomed the treaty banning nuclear weapons, and have stated that the treaty recognises “the disproportionate impact of nuclear weapons on women and indigenous peoples.” [More details are available here.](#)

There is a powerful Interfaith Statement on the Treaty on [YouTube](#).



Friday, 22 January, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force. This is the first legally binding international instrument explicitly prohibiting these weapons, whose indiscriminate use would impact a huge number of people in a short time and would cause long-lasting damage to the environment.

I strongly encourage all States and all people to work decisively toward promoting conditions necessary for a world without nuclear weapons, contributing to the advancement of peace and multilateral cooperation which humanity greatly needs today."

Pope Francis - Wednesday 20 January 2021

For more information on the Treaty and to get involved, go to the [Christian CND website](#).

7. UK Bishops urge Indian Government to release Fr. Swamy

We have previously reported on the plight of Fr. Stan, in prison in India. Now, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has urged the government of India to release Fr Stan Swamy, the 83-year-old Indian Jesuit priest and social activist who has been imprisoned for over 100 days on unfounded charges of sedition and terrorism.

In an open letter published on India's Republic Day, 26 January, the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and Fr Damian Howard SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits in Britain, urge Indian authorities to release Fr. Stan Swamy, SJ on bail, on humanitarian grounds.

They make this plea, "so that he can receive the medical attention he needs and challenge the manifestly unjust charges brought against him." Fr Swamy suffers from Parkinson's disease, and requires assistance with eating and dressing.

Further details on the case is available through [Vatican News](#).

8. An Update on The Lucas Plan

The surviving members of the Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Committee have produced their own website dedicated to the Lucas Plan, which they've been working on for the last couple of years.

For those of you who are unaware, The Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Committee's Alternative Corporate Plan (known widely as the Lucas Plan) was launched in 1976.

Former Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards' Committee

members Brian Salisbury, John Routley and Phil Asquith write:-

The Plan was unique in that trade unionists, for the first time, proposed a radical alternative to job losses in the arms industry by expanding the workforce to manufacture alternative products which were socially useful, whilst using human centred design and production methods to maximise skills and abilities.

The Plan, which proposed a wide range of products designed primarily by the workforce – including wind turbines, hybrid cars, energy efficient housing, as well as much needed medical equipment - attracted widespread national and international recognition as a positive alternative to unemployment and recession; it also identified how technology could be used to answer society's unmet needs. Nominated in 1982 for the Nobel Peace Prize, interest in the now 45-year-old Plan endures as the social and environmental problems it tackled are still with us, only so much more urgent.

Today, as the economy develops post pandemic, radical changes will be necessary if the UK is to meet the targets required to tackle climate change. Organised labour will lose out unless it takes the initiative. We developed our Plan in

1976 as an alternative to the tendency of trade unions to all too often be on the receiving end, reacting defensively to profit-driven corporate decision-making. We believe that workers' plans, as an alternative to market driven company plans, are needed if

we are to transition production post-pandemic towards a Green New Deal, rather than simply have long term, too often un-met, targets set by central government. Workers developing alternative plans for their workplaces, is a significant concrete means of really

levelling up society, through a participatory democracy where the balance of power shifts towards them.

To this end, we remaining members of the Lucas Aerospace Combine considered that now is the time, for the first time, to put together our own unique website to detail our Combine's history and key information related to the Lucas Plan campaign. This wealth of information is being provided to inform and assist other trade unionists, activists and organisations who may wish to draw upon the Plan and our experience campaigning for it.

The website can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

9. A Better Form of Capitalism is Possible

On the 30th December, the editorial board of the Financial Times published the above-mentioned piece. It is really thought-provoking and I was hoping to share it with you here. Unfortunately, though, when I tried to do so it came up with a note to say that I would be breaching copyright. Instead, I will just share the [link here](#), and you can read the article for yourselves.

NEWSLETTERS

10. Minority Concern Pakistan Magazine

The objective of the magazine is to spread awareness and raise the issues of millions of religious minorities (including Christians, Hindus and other religious communities of Pakistan) searching for meaningful solutions to their social, cultural, religious, economic and political issues. Moreover, MCP seeks to strengthen the democratic values and practices in Pakistan, which would ensure the equal rights to every Pakistani irrespective of one's religious, class, gender or ethnicity. Their latest newsletter has not yet been published on their website, but the [link is here](#), and you can subscribe to it.

11. Church Action on Poverty Winter 2021

Read about the good work that they are doing, plus hear how the first Challenge Poverty Week in England and Wales went. [Find it here.](#)

12. COP26 Coalition

They have brought out a really good newsletter, but unfortunately it isn't on their website, so we cannot link it into the e-bulletin. The best thing you can do is subscribe directly [here](#).

13. Traidcraft's Living Fair Magazine

Some interesting articles, plus details of their products, and a recipe! [Open it here.](#)

14. Church Action on Tax Justice

Updates, and how to get involved. [Click here.](#)

15. ECCR January 2021

Lots of great articles, including the announcement of a new Director. You can find the [newsletter here.](#)

16. Salesians of Don Bosco January 2021

The usual single sheet containing scripture, catechism and comment, with their Organisation of the Month being Genocide Response. [Available here.](#)

17. Westminster Justice and Peace E-Bulletin

A great e-bulletin, with a few crossover pieces (especially on Racial Justice). A good article from Danica Marcos reflecting on the question 'What is Justice and Peace?'

[Click here.](#)

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

18. 2nd February at 7.30pm

Light in the Darkness: John Bell -

On the Feast of Candlemas, the Iona Community's John Bell will stop by to explore ways of coping with the Covid crisis.

Join on Zoom on Tuesday 2nd February at 7:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2365092814>

19. [2nd February at 5.30pm](#); [10th February at 1pm](#); [24th February at 6pm](#)

Build Back Better Briefing Calls

A key part of building back better from this pandemic is investing to create millions of well-paid, secure and future-proof jobs for anyone who needs one. Green Jobs are a central principle of a Green New Deal.

It doesn't make sense for people to be unemployed when there is so much work that needs to be done. The solution is clear: the government must create millions of green jobs.

Build Back Better are running briefing calls throughout February to explain

their plan and give you everything you need to call for Green Jobs in your community.

To register for a call, click on the time/date that you are interested in at the top of this article.

20. 6th February - 6pm Jerusalem Time

'The People's Patriarch', reflections with Patriarch Michel Sabbah.

Join in with the launch event of the film by [registering here](#).

21. 9th February - 7pm - 8.30pm

An Economy without Human Trafficking with Sr Imelda Poole IBVM

We are delighted that Sr Imelda will join us virtually from Albania. We will also be able to view a short film produced by RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation) and guided by Sr Imelda. There will be an opportunity for small group discussion and Q&A where we are hoping Sr Imelda will be joined by a case worker from Refugee Women Connect.

Please do register and join us to help understand Human Trafficking and what we can do.

[Registration for Zoom Link](#)

This event is open to all people of faith and of none. All are welcome.

Facilitated by Liverpool South Pastoral Area Justice & Peace and

supported by the Archdiocese of Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission

22. 11th February and every Thursday until 25th March, 7.30pm - 9pm

Creating the New Normal - A Series of Discussions by FaithJustice

FaithJustice is a Christian network that aims to bring together young adults of faith with a concern for Justice. It is a new initiative launched by a group of Catholic organisations which is seeking to help young adults in their twenties and thirties discover the intimate connection between a life of faith and the struggle for justice in our world.

The topics of the discussions (in order) are: - The Climate and Ecological Emergency; Militarism; Feminism; Racism; Death; Church; Sexuality.

For more information and to register, go to the [FaithJustice website](#).

23. 21st February 2021 - 6pm

Church Action on Poverty Sunday Online Service

Join people around the UK in prayer, giving and action at this special online

event for Church Action on Poverty Sunday, hosted by Church Action on Poverty North East and Sunderland Minster. [Register to attend.](#)

24. 27th February 2021 11am – 3pm NJPN Networking Meeting

Come and join us for our next Networking Day, starting at 11am, and held via Zoom. Book your free place via [Eventbrite.](#)



NJPN Zoom Networking Day
Inter-Faith issues for Justice and Peace
Saturday 27 February 2021 11.00 am – 3.00 pm

Morning Programme

11.00 – 11.15
11.15 – 11.40

Welcome and opening prayer

"Inter-Faith Relations in the UK Today":

Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE Executive Director for
The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom

11.40 – 11.50
11.50 – 12.05
12.05 – 12.30

Break out Groups

Feedback and questions

Noticeboard

Lunch and Networking Time

12.30 – 1.30

Opportunity to catch up over lunch

Afternoon Programme

1.30 – 1.35
1.35 – 2.00

Welcome and introduction

Jon Dal Din, Deacon of the Southwark Diocese, and the
inter-faith representative of the Focolare Zone of Western
Europe

2.00 – 2.20
2.20 – 2.40
2.40 – 3.00

Break out Groups

Feedback and questions

Reflection and closing liturgy

Opportunity for Informal Networking Time



25. 13th March 2021 - 10.15am - 5pm Building Peace from the Ground Up

A day conference of talks, workshops and worship exploring how to respond to hate, and how to build the church up as a place active for peace.

It will be held via zoom and is organised by Church and Peace and the Fellowship of Reconciliation UK.

[Click here for more details and to register.](#)

26. Every Thursday - 7pm - 8.30pm - Lenten Journey 2021 with the Scottish Laity Network

Discipleship for Artisans of our own Destiny ~ Preparing the Future.

To help us imagine the way in which we are being called to prepare a future that gives hope to all the children of our world, and their children's' children, and to Mother Earth we are

invited by the Scottish Laity Network to join with them on a Lenten Journey of discernment. To register please email: slaitynetwork@gmail.com

ACTIONS/APPEALS

27. Stop the New Coal Mine in Cumbria

Despite claiming to be a climate leader ahead of the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow this November, our government is planning to allow a new coal mine to be built in Whitehaven, Cumbria. [Tell Robert Jenrick that he must stop this today!](#)

28. Join the US in Stopping Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia

The US and the UK are the biggest arms suppliers to Saudi Arabia. The bombing of Yemen could not continue without their support. [Please write to your MP](#) to urge the UK government to stop the arms sales, and to work together with the new US Administration to bring an end to this devastating war.

29. Hold Business Accountable

Too many companies act with impunity in the pursuit of profit. But now we have the chance to influence a new EU law that could hold companies to account for human rights abuses.

The European Commission has opened a public consultation on a new law that could require companies to make sure that the products and services we consume are not harming people or the environment around the world. It could put an end to bad practices like forced labour, deforestation, union busting, land grabbing, toxic waste dumping, unchecked CO2 emissions and biodiversity destruction.

Time is running out though to make a difference. The EU wants to hear from everyone, everywhere, not only from EU citizens. The consultation will close on the 8th February, so please take [action here today](#).

30. End Child Poverty

Ask your MP to meet with you (virtually) anytime 8-14th February to talk about what more can be done to end child poverty in the UK. For more details and information [click here](#).

31. Research Project -

How can the Catholic community better support its members throughout the process of aging...

You are invited to participate in research conducted in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network, examining support for ageing in Catholic parish communities in England & Wales. The aim is that this research will produce recommendations that will be presented at the Catholics Bishops conference in spring 2021.

[Click here for more information and to take part.](#)

E-Petitions

32. Reclaim our Common Home

CAFOD say 'as we seek to plan a world after the pandemic, let's tackle the other challenges that plague our common home: the pandemic of hunger, the pandemic of poverty and the pandemic of runaway climate change.' Go to the [CAFOD website](#) to sign their petition to the Prime Minister.

27. THE LAST WORD

Countering Prejudice

Michael Pulham sent this through for Racial Justice Day, for anyone stuck indoors during lockdown and wanting something to do. As we haven't yet had a practical Last Word, I thought this would be a nice change...Thank you, Michael!

Anyone with a practical bent might like to consider constructing something to cause people to reflect on racial prejudice. It's a humorous but thought-provoking device.

The one I made some years ago was called the 'Xenophobia Check'. A person was required to grasp and squeeze stuffed hands of various colours in order to see how far he or she could cause a pointer to turn and indicate how unprejudiced they were. It was used in church services and at an NJPN event.

There must be several ways to make such a device. I stained three white cotton gloves in different colours and left a fourth one white. Inside each was a spring clamp connected to a cord.

People were attracted to it out of curiosity and wanting to have a turn. It created opportunity for useful conversation about 'the other'.

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