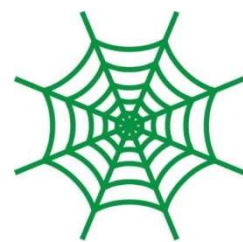




## JUSTICE AND PEACE Summer 2021

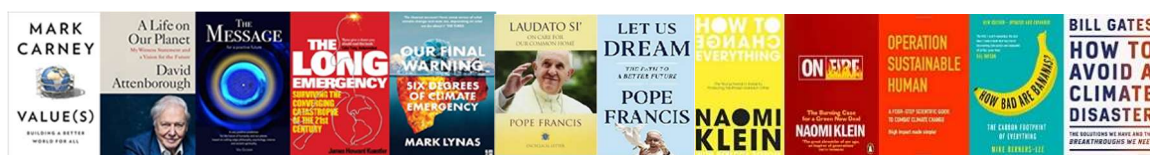
*'Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.'* Chief Seattle

Editorial: In the last few months this has become more and more obvious ...we are all affected in some way by the Covid pandemic, all seeing the suffering resulting from climate change, all witnessing the outrages of war and watching the flows of migrants and refugees. It can seem almost too much and we retreat into our shell when faced with the enormity of it all. But all things do connect. We individually cannot take up all the issues in the work for justice and peace. But we each seem to be given special concerns on which we feel we should focus, just a few issues which we can cope with. We can discover more about these leading to prayer, reading and campaigning. Fortunately these will be different for each of us. So together in our various groups and networks, we can try to weave a web in which the strands of justice and peace are strong and supportive.



*"A community is not a place where 'desert fathers' are testing themselves - more and more, harder and harder, each on his own. A community is what Saint Paul told us - our differences granted respect by one another, but those differences are not allowed to turn us into loners. You must know when to find your own, quiet moment of solitude. But you must know when to open the door to go with others, and you must know how to open the door. There's no point in opening the door with bitterness and resentment in your heart."*

From Dorothy Day, *The Reckless Way of Love: Notes on Following Jesus* ( see page for film about Dorothy Day)



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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the dioceses of Liverpool and Shrewsbury

<https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

[www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](https://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk)



**'THE WORLD IN CRISIS: HEAR THE CRY OF THE POOR'**

**Saturday 10 July 2021 1000am-1215pm Virtual delivery: Registration required**

The challenge in a post pandemic world is what the Gospel is asking Christians to do to address the inequalities in societies across the globe. Our two speakers offer insight and hope for a way forward so that on hearing the cry of the poor, we can take action. Dr Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ, is Director, Religious Life Institute, Cambridge, and Fr Dominic Curran, is Parish Priest, St Oscar Romero, Seaforth and Waterloo.

Prior registration is necessary, after which details for joining the Assembly will be emailed. Please register at:

<https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>



**National Justice and Peace Annual Conference 2021**

**'LIFE ON EARTH – MOMENT OF TRUTH'**

**23-25 July 2021**

**Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick**

We will take inspiration from Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace for the changes and choices now confronting us.

Conference chair: Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD

Facilitators include: Lorna Gold, Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy, Mark Rotherham, Bishop John Arnold, Colette Joyce

Further details: Administrator, Geoff Thompson: [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

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

Just Fair enquiries, Ann Kelly: [membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**REPORT ON NJPN Networking Day and AGM on Saturday May 8th on zoom .**

The day started with a reading of Kevin McCormick's *If this Time* . If you are not familiar with this or would like to hear it again you can hear Kevin read it himself on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFRIV-9nFAI>

Paul Southgate, the NJPN Chair, reported:

This month I began in earnest to work in the allotment. I remember that there is no such thing as permanently perfect soil. All things change. You can only aim at having a vigorous, living, breathing soil by feeding it and nourishing it. It's like Justice and Peace, for as Pope Francis says in Fratelli Tutti - "Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realised each day". Justice and Peace have to be realised each day, because all things change. He continued with reports of the events in the past year since the postponed 2020 AGM in November - all on zoom. and highlighted the work of the Environment Group in particular.

He thanked all our friends and partners who have also generously funded and supported us to do our work: Mill Hill Missionaries, Columbans, Passionists, Sister of St Joseph of Peace, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Assumption Sisters, Salford Diocese, and also those dioceses who will be funding young people to join the annual Conference. Thanks, all of you, for standing by us.

He finished with words from the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Elie Wiesel:

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. The opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."

Thank you all, and to those who have gone before us, for your total lack of indifference!

You can read Paul's full report and more about the AGM on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42163>

**MEETING NOTICE BOARD**

The next NJPN networking day will be on September 11 – again on zoom and maybe on November 13 we will be able to meet in person.

Peace issues: Ann Farr drew attention to the effects of war and weaponry on the environment. Most Dioceses now have an ethical policy against the arms trade. The importance of involving young people in peace issues was noted.

The meeting agreed to write to Cardinal Nichols about the shocking attack by Israeli Police on Palestinians at prayer in the Al Aqsa Mosque that had happened on Friday evening before the meeting. Read <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42187>

The Pax Christi 'Pilgrimage for Peace' Fundraiser is now taking place. Ann Farr and Joan Sharples are knitting4peace. The Beanie Hats and Scarves will go to Care4Calais to be given to destitute refugees. You can support online at

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/> .

Joan has written a Pax Christi Update following their AGM on May 22<sup>nd</sup> see page 5

The short film 'The Present' was mentioned. Set in the occupied West Bank near Bethlehem, it sensitively describes the relationship between a Palestinian father and his young daughter. It is on Netflix. You can read more about it and view a trailer on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41973>  
For more read *Is there hope for Palestine?* on page 6  
Also NW NJPN mid May extra edition <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>



**GOOD NEWS: The CAFOD Walk for Water appeal this Lent raised over £900,000.**

**Ask the government to act urgently to tackle the climate crisis.** To avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must limit global temperature rise to 1.5C. Going above 1.5C warming could multiply hunger, migration and conflict. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' as soon as possible is the best way to do this. Net zero will mean Britain no longer contributes to climate change.

The UK government has announced that it will commit in law a 'by-2050 net zero emissions target'. We now need ambitious and urgent policies to make this announcement a reality. Things are urgent – Have you signed the petition to the Prime Minister? If not please take action and sign today.

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

#### **Thursday 10 June join an interfaith event livestreamed from Truro Cathedral at 7:00pm**

On June 11th the G7 summit will see heads of government of seven of the world's richest countries - including President Joe Biden - travel to Cornwall and discuss how the world can rebuild after the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has a crucial role to play, with the UK holding the presidency of the G7. We want to send a message to him and the other G7 leaders that people of faith in the UK and around the world expect them to put in place plans for a global and green recovery from the crisis which leaves no one behind. The pandemic means we can't all travel to Cornwall to send this message to the leaders at the summit. But that doesn't stop us coming together online in an act of witness. So, instead of travelling to Cornwall, we can join together on our laptops, tablets or phones this event from Truro Cathedral.

Register to join <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/G7-interfaith-event-Truro>

**The Climate Sunday initiative** is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021). The Season of Creation (1 September– 4 October) may also be a suitable time. Encourage your priest to celebrate a special Mass – resources from

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Climate-Sunday-Mass>



**18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September** A National Week of thousands of events celebrating how communities and groups are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too. Everyone is invited. Can you help plan an event or join others locally- <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

#### **THE AFTERNOON SESSION 'Closing the Gap? Post-Lockdown ramifications for pupils in schools'.**

Professor Anthony Towey and Matthew Dell, both of St Mary's University, provided early indicators of the post-lockdown pupil experience as well as considering the implications for educational attainment. Dell encouraged everyone to read 'Let us Dream - the path to a better future' by Pope Francis and Austen Ivereigh. He felt that post-covid we need to, "rethink the system, being more open to variety and seeing education as a vehicle for social justice." Towey urged volunteering as school governors, influencing policy and helping to put social justice at the heart of education; also as volunteers for school enrichment, offering mentoring or help with music and reading.

It was interesting to read the comments in the chat. We are all aware how many children have struggled, particularly when not receiving adequate help at home. But someone commented that for her nieces lockdown had been a very positive experience – working quietly in your own time at your own speed not interrupted by children around, no bullying in the play ground. Maybe for the quieter more introvert children it had been a positive time.

#### **HOME SCHOOLING REVEALS THE ABSURDITY OF ENGLAND'S NATIONAL CURRICULUM**

*Anne O'Connor writes:* I was especially interested in the lockdown experience which formed the afternoon session at the NJPN Zoom meeting on 9 May. Home schooling for us was a revelation. Never before have teachers and teaching methods been so visible to parents, grandparents and carers.

(continued on next page)

We home schooled two of our grandchildren (5 and 9) during the second lockdown. The standard of teaching within the same school varied enormously as did the quality of outsourced online lessons, some of which were presented by so-called 'teachers' who garbled the set texts, killing the meaning and any sense of adventure or fun. By far the worst on offer was the English teaching. Our younger daughter often joined us in her lunch breaks. She and I are both English graduates but we were both perplexed by the ridiculous terminology our 9-year-old granddaughter has to master and also the rigidity of the curriculum which would put anyone off reading for pleasure

The teaching methods completely stifled creativity. After watching the poor girl laboriously work her way through two Philip Pullman novels – good stories that should have been enjoyable – I felt heartened by the next KS2 book, Tuesday by David Wiesner, an intriguing tale with no words, just a set of rather puzzling illustrations. It was left to the reader to decide what was happening and how it might end. Here was something to let her imagination soar! It was not to be: both teachers had made up a back story for the two characters, even giving them names, which the children had to copy into their exercise books. This they did over three lessons, gradually adding more of the dreaded noun phrases (adjectives to you and me) because, as the teacher encouraged the children to chant, she liked to see two noun phrases, or better still three, for each noun. Whatever happened to less is more?

My hope is that the greater visibility of teaching content and method may lead to a reassessment of the National Curriculum and teaching standards. The following article highlights these concerns.

<https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/homeschooling-parents-lockdown-national-curriculum-uk-eliane-glaser>



### JUNE 14 – 20 Theme this year 'We cannot walk alone'

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-of-refugee-week-2021-we-cannot-walk-alone/>

There is a moment in Martin Luther King's historic 'I have a dream' speech when he turns his attention to the White people who, realising their destiny and that of their Black fellow citizens was intertwined, joined the movement for equal rights. "They have come to realise that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom," he said. "We cannot walk alone." Martin Luther King may have been speaking during the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, but his words resonate across space and time. Here in the UK and across the world today, we know that it is only by coming together that we will move forward. That when we choose to walk side by side, to share networks and resources, or make space for others to lead, we create deeper and longer-lasting change than is possible alone.

The theme of Refugee Week 2021, 'We Cannot Walk Alone', is an invitation to extend your hand to someone new. Someone who is outside your current circle, has had an experience you haven't, or is fighting for a cause you aren't yet involved in. You could do one or more of the 8 SIMPLE ACTS: sing a song, watch a film, have a chat, read a book, say it loud, play a game, walk together, join a movement see with suggestions for each act. <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/>



**WEDNESDAY 16th JUNE 2021 7pm – 8pm** Would you like to understand more about the challenges facing refugees and asylum-seekers? Want to support refugees and asylum seekers in building new lives for themselves and their families in Manchester? Join us for an on-line discussion during Refugee Week: What are Manchester churches, mosques and other faith communities doing to support asylum-seekers and refugees locally? How can you get involved? Join an on-line discussion with representatives from Muslim, Anglican, Quaker, Jewish and Orthodox Christian faiths in Manchester To register, contact [caroline.glendinning@york.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.glendinning@york.ac.uk) /07739 797027

**CROSSINGS: COMMUNITY AND REFUGE** - A powerful display highlighting the perilous journeys made by refugees, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Featuring the Lampedusa cross, alongside Syrian born artist Issam Kourbaj's installation Dark Water, Burning World. Starting in Coventry Cathedral the exhibition is touring England and will be .....

**From Saturday 29 May 2021 to Sunday 5 September 2021 at the People's History Museum, Left Bank Spinningfields**

Manchester M3 3ER 10.00am - 4.00pm  
to visit with a suggested donation of £5

Please note the museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays The museum is free  
Contact the Museum 0161 838 9190



**The Lampedusa cross** was made by the Italian island's carpenter Francesco Tuccio, from fragments of a boat that was wrecked off the coast of Lampedusa on 11 October 2013. The boat was carrying Eritrean and Somali refugees attempting the crossing from Libya to Europe. Tragically over 300 people drowned. The island's inhabitants helped to save 155 others, risking their own lives in the process. Tuccio, moved by refugees' experiences, but frustrated that he could not make a difference to their situation, made a cross for each of the survivors as a symbol of salvation and hope.

(continued on next page)



**Dark Water, Burning World** by artist Issam Kourbaj examines the plight of Syrian refugees and the journeys they undertake. The installation includes twelve little boats made from repurposed bicycle mudguards, jam-packed with upright, extinguished matchsticks, evoking huddled groups of people making the dangerous sea crossing to Europe. These escaped people now carry visible and invisible scars, scorched into them by the separation from their homeland. The once beautiful and abundant sea has become a terrifying expanse on which the lives or deaths of thousands are decided. Find out more and register to visit <https://phm.org.uk/installations/a-british-museum-spotlight-loan-crossings-community-and-refuge/>

## PAX CHRISTI UPDATE

*Joan Sharples writes:* During the past few weeks, I've spent an hour each week in the zoom company of a great group of people from North Wales working our way through Making Active Nonviolence, a five-week course developed by the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. The weekly discussions were inspiring and I'm considering running the course on zoom for people in the Cheshire/Shropshire area in September/October. Numbers will be limited to allow opportunity for good discussion. Do let me know if you are interested.



[joansharples@phonecoop.coop](mailto:joansharples@phonecoop.coop)



The Pilgrimage for Peace recently provided an imaginative way to spread the peace message and to raise much needed donations for Pax Christi. Matt Jeziorski cycled from Warrington to Barrowford to mark the witness of First World War conscientious Objectors, Tom and Peter Allen. Others made cycle trips in other parts of the country. Bruce Kent delivered messages urging support for the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty to various Embassies. Bellerive FCJ Catholic College in Liverpool had a 'Month of Peace', culminating in a visit from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. Others took part in a Dance-a-thon, a pilgrimage to Catholic Cathedrals, and knitted scarves and hats for refugees in Calais. Over £13,000 has been raised so far and, of course, donations are still welcome.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/Pax-Christi-Pilgrimage-for-Peace?>

Two Peace Awards were made at Pax Christi's AGM on 22 May. One to an old friend of justice-and-peace people in the North-West. Ellen Teague - part of the Columban justice and peace team for over thirty years with a particular interest in environmental issues - has been a frequent speaker and workshop leader in these parts, sharing generously of her expertise. The other was given to John Williams for peace education work in Westminster Diocese.



As Pax Christi's new Vice Chair, I'm keen to promote its work and to find out how it can support you. Do get in touch.

🐦 If your parish didn't mark Peace Sunday and Pope Francis' Peace Message, it's not too late.

🐦 Have you contacts with a primary school? Have a look at Pax Christi's Education resources.

🐦 Follow Pax Christi on your social media.

🐦 Sign up for the Making Active Nonviolence



**Congratulations - CAAT has been nominated for the 2021 Nobel peace prize** together with their partner Mwatna for Human Rights, a grass roots organisation working in Yemen. They were nominated for their work to stop UK government's sales of arms to Saudi Arabia, particularly the ongoing court case to challenge UK government's decision to resume arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in the war in the Yemen. You can

find out more about the nomination on <https://caat.org.uk/faq-answers-to-your-questions-about-caats-nobel-peace-prize-nomination/>

It was 6 years this March since Saudi -led forces launched their first attacks on Yemen which have killed thousands of people and resulted in the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. UK and International rules on arms sales should prohibit arms sales if there is a clear risk of the weapons being used in violations of International Humanitarian Law. Yet the government has continued to allow the supply of weapons for use in Yemen despite repeated targeting of civilians. CAAT continues to challenge the government in the courts. **Please give your support to CAAT's work by adding your name to the letter to Boris Johnson**

<https://caat.org.uk/open-letter-end-uk-arms-sales-for-use-in-the-war-on-yemen/>

**You can still join the panel sessions of CAAT 'IT STARTS HERE' DIGITAL CONFERENCE** held in March. [bit.ly/CAATonYouTubeCan](https://bit.ly/CAATonYouTubeCan).

The opening panel marked 10 years of the Arab uprisings of 2011. Other panels included: taking a look at Scotland and its relationship to the arms trade; exploring how we demilitarise education; thinking of how we Rethink Security and reflecting on the role of art and creativity in our resistance.

**DISRUPTING ONLINE ARMS' FAIRS 17 June 2021 2 – 5.0 pm** Online event with CAAT's Local Outreach Co-ordinator, Kirsten Bayes. In an age of digital activism, Arms Companies and Weapons Expo organisers are taking their events online exclusively or in-part. We know what disruption on the ground looks like offline... but how do we redefine 'disruption' and adjust our tactics to be as effective, or even more-so, in a landscape dependent on digital tools and online interventions and how can we make these changes work in our favour? Join us as we explore and test!

Book here : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/disrupting-online-arms-fairs-with-kirsten-bayes-tickets-154865415627>

## IS THERE HOPE FOR PALESTINE?

*Bethany Hughes writes\** : The recent violence in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories has had a huge impact on civilians, particularly in Gaza, where the damage and destruction will likely take years to repair. According to UN figures, 243 Palestinians were killed and 12 Israelis over the 11 days of intense fighting. As well as significant destruction to civilian homes in Gaza, 53 schools, 6 hospitals, 11 key healthcare centres, Gaza's central COVID-19 testing laboratory, half of its power lines and a water desalination plant supplying 250,000 Palestinians with clean drinking water, all suffered damage. An estimated 77,000 civilians have been displaced within Gaza, with many taking shelter in UN administered schools; according to the World Food Programme, the recent fighting has pushed an additional 160,000 in Gaza into food insecurity.

The spark of the recent flare-up in violence was the anticipated forced evictions of several Palestinian families from the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Whilst there is a complex legal history behind the ownership of property in Sheikh Jarrah, the ultimate point to note is that numerous UN Resolutions, and the International Court of Justice have condemned Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem as an illegal annexation, therefore international law regarding occupation should apply there rather than Israel's domestic law. All Palestinians under occupation are entitled to the benefits prescribed in international law regardless of any changes to laws Israel applies to the territory. According to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which Israel ratified in 1951, "the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." It also prohibits the "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory", unless there is a legitimate security reason for doing so, in which case, displacement should be temporary. Indeed, such actions constitute war crimes according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. On the other hand, Israel's domestic law which has been enforced on East Jerusalem includes the right for Israelis to reclaim properties in East Jerusalem which they had owned before the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, while Palestinians who lost their homes in what is now Israel cannot exercise the same right.

Ultimately, the conflict over Sheikh Jarrah is only a symptom of the wider underlying problem of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the blockade on Gaza which has so far lasted 14 years. Periods of increased violence and fighting such as the recent crisis, are inevitable if no lasting solution is found and the occupation ended.

### **The claim of self-defence**

A key argument which has been used by Israel to justify its air strikes on Gaza is that Israel has the right to defend itself against Hamas. However, it is important to note that Hamas would not exist if it wasn't for Israel's discriminatory policies and practices against Palestinians, and the underlying cause of continued tensions today is the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the blockade on Gaza.

Of course, Israel has a right to defend itself, but this right is a universal one which applies to all, including Palestinians. However, due to the power imbalance in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel's methods of 'defence' are disproportionate and inevitably have significant implications for civilians. Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system which intercepted the vast majority of the rockets fired by Hamas into Israel is self-defence; we should however question whether days of air strikes on Gaza, impacting the civilian population is also defence. Israel can claim to be targeting Hamas, but when Hamas is the de-facto government of Gaza (whether legitimately or not), Hamas affiliated buildings include schools, hospitals, and other public bodies which aid the civilian population. Targeting militants does not justify destroying such establishments, especially during a pandemic when healthcare infrastructure is more essential than ever.

### **Is criticising Israel Antisemitic?**

A key issue when discussing the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories is whether criticising Israel is Antisemitic. In the wake of the recent fighting, there have been a number of reports documenting an increased number of Antisemitic attacks globally. Antisemitism should in no way be condoned, but it is important to note that the Antisemitic

minority does not represent all who fight for Palestinian liberation, and it is important to deal with Antisemitism in a way which does not divert attention and resources away from the Palestinian cause. No government represents the views of all the people it governs. Therefore, criticising the Israeli government does not equate to criticising all Israeli citizens or all Jews. Equally, criticising Hamas does not mean one cannot fight for the Palestinian cause, since Hamas does not represent all Palestinians. It is possible to fight for Palestinians as deserving of human rights equal to every other human on the earth and to criticise the Israeli authorities who deny Palestinians their rights without being Antisemitic.

*(continued on next page)*

The most widely accepted definition of Antisemitism is that of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA): “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”. An alternative definition, the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism responds to the IHRA’s definition since it is unclear in its distinction between Antisemitism and critique of Israel. It highlights that the following actions and attitudes do not constitute Antisemitism, since the same forms of criticism could be applied to many other states in the same way:

- Criticising Zionism as a form of nationalism – any other nationalist movement which has a detrimental impact on a civilian population could be criticised in the same way
  - Evidence-based criticism of systemic racial discrimination enforced in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories – racial discrimination in any form is wrong, whether against Palestinians, Jews, or any other groups of people
  - Using non-violent forms of protest such as boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel – these are the same methods which were successfully used against the apartheid regime in South Africa in the years leading up to the early 1990s
- Therefore, criticising Israel, not because it is a Jewish state, but because it engages in severe human rights abuses and violations of international law, is not Antisemitic. It is the same criticism which could be afforded to other nations who engage in such behaviour, such as the treatment of Uighurs in China, and the Rohingyas in Myanmar.

Please see below the full mentioned definitions of Antisemitism:

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>  
<https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>

### Is Israel an apartheid state?

A further area of contention is whether Israel is an apartheid state. The 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid defines apartheid as “inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them”; a similar definition was adopted by the Rome Statute of the ICC. Israeli policies and practices, such as the building of the separation wall in the West Bank, and the application of different legal systems for Palestinians in the West Bank compared to Israeli settlers, do indeed suggest apartheid, and if not certainly discrimination. Indeed, reports issued this year by Israeli human rights organisation B’Tselem, and international organisation Human Rights Watch both accused Israel of the crime of apartheid – see the links below:

[https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101\\_this\\_is\\_apartheid](https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid)  
<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

### So, how can you help?

*Anna Hughes writes\*:*

There are a number of ways you can show solidarity with the Palestinian people.

**Buy Palestinian produce** – olive oil soap, olive wood gifts, olive oil, dates, zaatar (a delicious mix of herbs which is used to dip bread into, and also goes well on fish, meat or roasted vegetables). Zaytoun and Traidcraft stock Palestinian produce online: <https://zaytoun.uk/products/>  
<https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/food?brand=48>



The Leek Palestine Link Group usually run a stall in Leek market on the 3rd Saturday of every month selling Palestinian produce, as do some Oxfam charity shops.

**Plant an olive tree in Palestine** – Zaytoun and other organisations can arrange for olive trees to be planted on your behalf to help young Palestinians start out in farming, or to replace trees destroyed by Israeli settlers or military personnel.  
<https://zaytoun.uk/plant-a-tree/>

**Go to Palestine (in safer times)** – in the spring, the plant olive trees to replace ones destroyed by the Israeli authorities and settlers; in the autumn to help the farmers harvest the olives. The presence of international visitors reduces the chance of Palestinians being attacked whilst picking their olives. If you’d like ideas of organisations which run such trips, drop us an email at [aga\\_hughes@lineone.net](mailto:aga_hughes@lineone.net)

**Give money** to charities such as Medical Aid for Palestinians (<https://www.map.org.uk/>); Pro Terra Sancta (<https://www.proterrasancta.org.uk/>); the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign (<https://www.palestinecampaign.org/>)

**Join the Leek Palestine Link Group** which organises film showings and shared tables of Palestinian food, runs a stall at Leek market when Covid allows and raises money for Medical Aid for Palestinians. Contact us if you would like details.  
[aga\\_hughes@lineone.net](mailto:aga_hughes@lineone.net)

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**Join the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign** at <https://www.palestinecampaign.org/> and take part in their campaigning activities. The Manchester branch produces a monthly action briefing with details of petitions to sign, online meetings, demonstrations (when allowed).

**Boycott Israeli goods and companies** – This can exert pressure on Israel to comply with international law, and to call upon its government and its people to promote justice and peace for all, thereby affirming its own rights as well as those of the Palestinian people. Here are some examples of key goods and companies who are complicit in the Israeli occupation, directly or indirectly:

- **Fruit and vegetables** – one of Israel's biggest exports and many agricultural exporters are complicit in Israel's violations of international law as they operate on stolen Palestinian land. Key produce includes citrus fruits, kiwi fruit and avocados.

- **Caterpillar** – Caterpillar bulldozers are regularly used in the demolition of Palestinian homes and farms in the West Bank and Gaza. Whilst you are unlikely to buy a bulldozer, you may have bought Caterpillar shoes or boots.

- **HP – Hewlett Packard** helps run the ID system that Israel uses to restrict the free movement of Palestinians. It also provides services and technology to the Israeli army and police. Our most likely HP products are laptops or printers.



- **Puma** – Puma sponsors the Israel Football Association, which includes teams in Israel's illegal settlements



on occupied Palestinian land. We can avoid buying Puma products (mostly footwear and clothing) and also encourage UK football teams to not accept Puma as a sponsor. In 2020, Liverpool FC responded to this campaign by rejecting a Puma sponsorship bid, and several other football clubs have done similar.

- **Sodastream** home drinks machines are one of Israel's best-known exports

- **Ahava cosmetics** are another of Israel's best-known companies. Try Faith in Nature products instead – <https://www.faithinnature.co.uk/> - natural, vegan, cruelty free and ethical, made in Lancashire using locally sourced ingredients where possible.



- **The Strauss Group** – an Israeli food company that provides financial support to the Israeli Defence Forces – the group's brands and partnerships include Sabra hummus, Danone and Doritos

- **Airbnb and TripAdvisor** include in their listings activities, attractions and Israeli-owned properties in illegal settlements in the West Bank. This boosts the settlement economy and contributes to the expansion of the settlements. Promoting settlements as a tourist destination helps to normalise them despite their illegality under international law. It is often possible to use these sites to search for properties or activities, but then to book directly with the owner.

- **PayPal** denies its service to Palestinians – though not Israeli settlers – in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The company cites regulatory concerns as the reason for its discriminatory policy, although it works in areas equally and less stable than Palestine, including Somalia and Yemen. If possible, pay by Credit or Debit card instead.

- **Banks** – look into the ethics and investment policies of your bank. Banks such as HSBC and Barclays hold shares and investments in companies such as BAE Systems, Raytheon, Caterpillar, Elbit Systems, which supply Israel with equipment and weaponry which is used against Palestinians.

It is of course very difficult to boycott every company involved in Israel and the occupation, but the more awareness is raised about the actions of these companies, the easier it becomes to avoid them. Perhaps even more importantly than any of the actions mentioned above is to talk about the plight of Palestinians and their everyday reality under Israeli occupation. Many people do not know about what is happening in Palestine, so discussing the situation openly creates an environment in which more pressure can be asserted on our own government to sanction Israel, recognise Palestine as a sovereign state, and stop UK arms sales to Israel

\*Bethany and Anna are members of St Alban's J & P Group Macclesfield .

#### ST ALBAN'S J & P GROUP MACCLESFIELD

*Marian Thompson writes:* Zoom is at present the 'normal' for meetings and get-to-togethers. St Alban's J & P group in Macclesfield have made very good use of this to continue with their monthly meetings. They have developed the format of welcoming a speaker of interest for the first part followed by questions and general discussion. Bernadette Bailey, their Chair, openly admits they have a much bigger audience than when they used to meet in their parish centre. I have enjoyed joining them and seeing friends from around our Diocese as well as those who have moved further afield.

*(continued on next page)*



In March Fr Eamon Mulcahy, a Holy Ghost Father from The Holy Spirit parish Ancoats, spoke on **Reclaiming our true humanity after Covid: preparing all our futures.** He reminded us of Pope Francis standing alone in St Peter's Square in the rain in the early days of the pandemic to address and bless the world— an image if seen never forgotten. Fr Eamon suggested that in his latest encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' Pope Francis has offered us a road map out of the pandemic. We need to see ourselves more and more as one human family inhabiting our common home. Everyone is equal and valued. The goods of all belong to everyone so no one state or group has the right to monopolise. We are all responsible for everyone and need to relate to everyone. But in reality things seem to be pulling away from this truth and we see fragmentation and polarisation.

Fr Eamon inspired me to look in more detail at the encyclical in particular Chapter 2 on the Good Samaritan- a parable we think we know well. He reminded us that the Samaritan gives time, tenderness and money to someone he does not know whom he finds wounded on the road. Moved by compassion he allowed himself to be interrupted. This is the way forward to look around at our brothers and sisters – to see and stop. But we cannot do this as individuals by ourselves. The Samaritan needed the innkeeper to help him complete his task.

NB Fr Eamon Mulchay is one of the speakers at this year's NJPN Conference at Swanwick see page 2

In April the speaker Gordon Richardson had a more practical and local perspective. His talk on **'The Local Road to Sustainability'** introduced us to various local initiatives that were working in differing ways towards sustainability. These involved gardening and food production including growing crops in raised beds for local people to pick and planting fruit trees. Also there is a garden share group, informal litter pickers and a shop selling ethically sourced goods where you take in your own containers to fill. Such projects are of course not just in Macclesfield but developing in similar form throughout the country. Transition towns were mentioned – there are two locally at Wilmslow and Bollington and also Terracycle a country wide organisation that helps dispose of those difficult to dispose items such as crisp packets, cosmetic bottles and plastic tablet packets.

Gordon then suggested things we could do now:

Don't drive for short distances – walk, cycle or use the bus and train where possible

Minimise food waste to save on the use of land and fertiliser – Did you know that 1 % of the world's energy supplies is used making nitrogen fertiliser?

Take a shopping list when you go to the supermarket!

Save on home energy use- check for draughts round windows and doors..turn the thermostat down.

And if you feel 'I do all these already' talk to other people about what you do. Gordon had an illustration to emphasise the power of dialogue or what he called 'eco gossip'.

Finally write to your MP about delay yet again in considering the Environment Bill 2020 which was intended to put the environment at the centre of policy making and make sure that we have a cleaner, greener and more resilient country for the next generation.

Thank you St Alban's for an interesting evening with the chance to compare and contrast what is happening in Macclesfield and in the Stockport area.

**A Pastoral Letter on the environment, prepared by the Bishops of England and Wales, for use in churches on 23 May 2021, Pentecost Sunday.      +++**

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of "God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth." God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God's revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

God's revelation of himself in Creation 'God's Spirit is always and everywhere "the Lord, the Giver of Life", and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God's children.' In this liberty, as God's children, we call on the Spirit to 'renew the face of the Earth', and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God's creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

Interconnected and interdependent As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

*(continued on next page)*

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God's gift to us.

**Unsustainable consumption** For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

**Restoring our common home** But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

**G7 and COP26** This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, "the Lord, the Giver of Life", whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and 'renew the face of the earth'.

#### **Laudato Si' Animators\* response to Bishops' Pentecostal Pastoral Letter**

Independent Catholic News May 23rd, 2021

In order to ensure the proper care of our common home, we must become a "we" that is ever wider and more co-responsible, in the profound conviction that whatever good is done in our world is done for present and future generations. #LaudatoSiWeek The Pope's tweet on 18 May, reminds us that we all have a part to play in the recovery of our world. This emboldens us to present our response to the Pentecost Pastoral Letter on the Environment by the Bishops of England and Wales.

We very much welcome their Letter. It brings the urgency of the environmental crisis to the mass of Catholics at grass roots level. It urges us all to action, pointing out that there are a great many resources available, and suggesting areas in which we can make the right choices, for instance in diet, energy, travel and waste. This promoting of environmental action from our bishops is much appreciated by Catholic activists.

We would have liked to have seen reference to the Vatican's Laudato Si Action Platform, which is being officially unveiled on 25 May. Like Vatican II, the Action Platform is somewhat 'revolutionary' by Catholic Church standards, and needs explanation and encouragement. It is a bold initiative whose success is very much dependent on the backing of our bishops.

We would also have liked to have seen mention of and praise and encouragement for the work already being done by Catholics to reverse environmental damage. This support would be some thanks for what can often be thankless activities and would encourage others to take up the cause.

We are surprised that no specific mention is made of the Laudato Si' Encyclical, which is the umbrella under which Catholics have most recently become mobilised for environmental action. The Encyclical has been acclaimed by people of goodwill worldwide, yet many Catholic parishes in the UK know very little about it, because they haven't been made aware of its importance.

Laudato Si' obliges us to confront our treatment of the millions of species that we share the planet with. Indeed, the Vatican, because of Laudato Si', now urges us to consider how we have treated other creatures when we examine our consciences. It is disappointing that the Letter makes no mention of our fellow creatures and the respect and love we owe them as part of our Christian duties.

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Because the Liturgy is of paramount importance in the life of the Church, it would have been heartening to have some commitment from the bishops to considering how the Liturgy could better reflect our greater awareness of our Christian duty to the natural environment.

And because it is our fervent hope that the Laudato Si' Encyclical reaches every Catholic home - the success of the Encyclical depends on this - we would have liked the Letter to have urged parish priests and parishioners to set up parish green teams and to develop parish Environmental Policies. It is proving difficult in many parishes to get the approval and support of the clergy for environmental action. We welcome the appointment of Environmental Leads in many Dioceses and hope the bishops will soon have an Environmental Lead in every Diocese, which will be a great help towards getting parish priests to back local action. We look forward to the Leads working with existing networks such as the National Justice and Peace Network, Cafod and our own Laudato Si' Animators.

We would like to end by repeating our appreciation of the bishops' Letter, which shows a concern for the environmental crisis and a commitment to playing a role in repairing the damage. Our response to the Letter is offered with humility, and we trust will be humbly received.

*\*Laudato Si' animators UK have all been trained by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, based at the Vatican. The group worked with Journey to 2030, CAFOD and Justice and Peace networks to present 'Global Healing', an online Lent course with the Bishops' Conference films and speakers which reached around 900 people. The handouts and recordings have been very well received and 30 people went on to undertake the Animators' training this year. Diocesan networks have been formed, working with existing networks.*

## RECENT REPORTS:



### **"Business as usual: how major weapons exporters arm the world's conflicts" March 3rd**

The harmful impact of arms transfers on conflict has been well-documented by campaigners, humanitarian NGOs, and the United Nations. Further, researchers have found evidence that arms transfers to a state increase the likelihood of conflict breaking out; and, once begun, render conflicts longer and more deadly. Recognizing these detrimental impacts, in recent decades, policymakers committed to a range of measures designed to control arms exports. These controls were especially focused on limiting sales when conflicts involve patterns of human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. In subsequent years, there have been heated debates about whether sales should proceed in a number of particular instances, but there is no comprehensive assessment of the overall impact of policies designed to limit arms sales to countries involved in conflicts.

This research provides the first global analysis of how conflict in, or involving, a recipient state, impacts exporters' willingness supply arms. It analyses the top eleven global arms suppliers over the ten-year period 2009-2018: the United States, Russia, Germany, France, China, the United Kingdom, Spain, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, and Ukraine. These countries assert widely varying formal policies regarding arms exports, but the empirical record is, for the most part, remarkably similar. In general, the report finds that there is very little evidence that war or armed conflict leads to restraint in arms transfers by major exporters, regardless of whether their stated policies suggest they should. All major arms exporters supplied substantial volumes of arms to at least some of the wars of the current century.

This research was funded by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. It is the first of a series of planned reports from the Carnegie-funded project Defense Industries, Foreign Policy, and Armed Conflict, organised by the World Peace Foundation. Subsequent research for this project will involve in-depth case studies of the export policies and practices, and the key drivers behind them, of the USA, the UK, and France.

Download the report at <https://caat.org.uk/resources/business-as-usual-how-major-weapons-exporters-arm-the-worlds-conflicts/>

View webinar of the launch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgITidcJEsk>



### **Being Human in the Asylum System**

**April 2021**

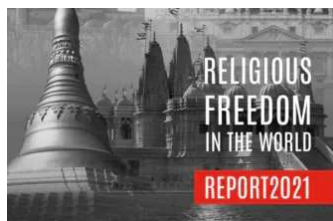
**Jesuit Refugee Service**

This calls for a re-orientation of our whole approach to people seeking sanctuary in the UK. It builds on over three years of JRS UK research conducted with refugees, and comes out of collaboration with Dr Anna Rowlands. A key piece of work on which it draws is For our welfare and not for our harm, authored by Dr Rowlands. Refugees' desire for a system that is for their welfare, and not their harm, was a foundational theme in Dr Rowlands' research, and important to Being Human. It includes a critique of the current asylum system, excoriating the hostile environment, culture of disbelief, and use of detention within it. It relays refugees' accounts of being profoundly traumatised within the asylum system and echoes their call for justice.

Sarah Teather, Director of JRS UK said: "It is possible to make the asylum system work. But we have to be prepared to really listen to people who are asking for sanctuary. That begins with dropping our sense of suspicion and letting go of the false assumption that everyone in need is trying to steal something that is 'ours'.

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“An asylum system that enshrines protection and transparency at its heart and enables those seeking asylum to flourish would foster such values for everyone. We need to stop treating this as a zero-sum game and recognise that everyone benefits from a culture that values human dignity and promotes welcome with genuine openness.” Read the full report <https://www.jrsuk.net/being-human> <https://www.jrsuk.net/being-human>



### Religious Freedom in the World

### Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) April 20th

Persecution of faith groups has drastically increased in more than 95 percent of the world's worst-offending countries. This report highlights how new tech is being used to crush religious freedom. It found that, over the past two years, oppression against vulnerable faith communities has increased in all but one of the 26 countries listed in the survey's worst ('red') category. The report, which covers all 196 countries worldwide, traced the rise of transnational Islamist networks, including an online "cyber-caliphate", which is "expanding globally and is now a tool of online recruitment and radicalisation". The full report can be accessed online at: [www.acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport](http://www.acninternational.org/religiousfreedomreport)

### Vaccine Debts May 19<sup>th</sup>

This briefing paper from Christian Aid warns that Africa's debt crisis is slowing Covid-19 vaccination with vaccine costs adding to the debt burden. The paper calls for a 'solidarity package' to tackle the virus and the climate crisis. It shows how developing countries need 'a comprehensive debt cancellation deal' to help ensure they can rapidly roll out Covid-19 vaccines and build universal health coverage, and how private creditors should be mandated to be part of a comprehensive debt deal agreed by the G20.

Christian Aid calls for vaccine patents to be waived, so that developing countries with generic medicine production capacity can boost production, lower prices, and help to save lives. It argues we need a 'solidarity package' so we all have the means to help tackle the common challenges of Covid-19 and the climate crisis. Download <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/our-work/vaccine-debts>



**SUPPORT #CancelTheDebt.** CAFOD is calling on banks and speculators to cancel debts as it is not right that in the middle of a pandemic countries have to choose between saving lives and repaying debts. While some government lenders have suspended some debt, private lenders have so far not cancelled any of the debt owed to them. We know that BlackRock, HSBC, JP Morgan and UBS own significant amounts of debt, but there is no definitive list of who all the debt is owed to. Take action : <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/77395/action/1>



### ROOT & BRANCH INCLUSIVE SYNOD shining a healing light on fear in the Catholic Church.

**5 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2021**

5-8 September via Zoom only. 10-12 September via Zoom and at St Michael's Church Conference Centre, Stoke Gifford, Bristol.

*Mary Varley writes:* When we began our lay-led Inclusive Synod, last September 2020, zooming with an ecumenical range of speakers from across the world, we were calling it our "Year of Discernment". It seems many other reforming groups across the world are also choosing to use this exact word, discernment. The Holy Spirit is indeed moving within us.

An inclusive Synod that, instead of ending with women, starts with them. Joanna Moorhead called in The Tablet in January 2020 for "a Synod that instead of ending with women starts with them." We heard her call for action.

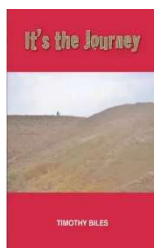
We will start with women, but our remit is to return to the inclusivity modelled by Jesus, honouring and empowering all people. Sr Myra Poole, SND, a lifetime campaigner for women's ordination, will open the inclusive Synod. We are honoured that Mary McAleese will give our keynote speech on Canon Law, the Church and Human Rights legislation.

She will be joined by an impressive range of thinkers and leaders. These include the noted art historian Ally Kateusz; award-winning writer James Carroll; Catholic theologian, priest and author James Alison; campaigner for church reform Miriam Duignan; activist, writer and theologian Virginia Saldanha; and leading lay woman in the Church of England Christina Rees; educationalist, psychologist and feminist theologian Martha Heizer; barrister and broadcaster Helena Kennedy QC, and renowned theologian Ursula King. Other exciting speakers to be announced.

After dialogue with the hierarchy, religious, theologians, activists and yourselves, the inclusive Synod will agree 4 statements and the actions arising from them to take us forward. For more information about our journey towards the Synod or to register your interest visit <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org>



## BOOKS FOR THE SUMMER



'It's the Journey' is a new book written by Timothy Biles, a retired priest of Salisbury Anglican Diocese.

Barbara Butler, the Executive Secretary of Christians Aware who have released the book writes: 'It is a wonderful collection of stories from his travels for many years all over the world. The stories are uplifting, depressing, surprising and true. The book is divided into sections: Culture clashes, Victims and heroes, That's war, God of a hundred faces, Journey's joys. There are coloured photographs throughout and it is attractive, interesting and thought-provoking.

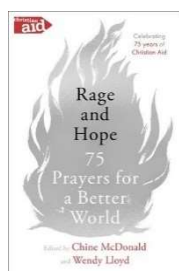
In this book he reflects on his experiences of life in lands dominated by the Muslims of Pakistan, the Hindus of India, the Buddhists of Sri Lanka and the Jews of Israel-Palestine. He finds heroes and victims from all the faiths as wars and turbulence drive people to support each other in the search for safety and a life worth living....Throughout his book Tim introduces readers to remarkable people including Archbishop Elias Chakour, Brother Andrew of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, and Father Bede Griffiths.'

It is available from Christians Aware, 2 Saxby Street, Leicester LE2 0ND £14 + £4 p&p or you can order by emailing the author: [timbiles35@gmail.com](mailto:timbiles35@gmail.com)



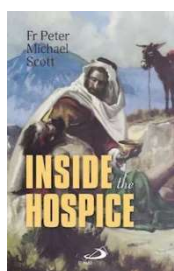
'PLANET PALM – how palm oil ended up in everything and endangered the world' Joceyn Zuckerman

Palm oil is so cheap and so adaptable that it has found its way into many products we regularly use – foodstuffs, cosmetics and household products. This vegetable oil is obtained from the fruit of the oil palm tree originally grown in West Africa but transplanted to S E Asia a century ago. Now Malaysia and Indonesia grow 80 per cent of the world's supply. Here massive land clearances and deforestation to grow vast plantations of the palm have had devastating environmental effects. Zuckerman makes a case that we must wean ourselves off this dependency on palm oil and offers solutions to help.



**Rage and Hope 75 prayers for a better world**

Published in March this is a collection of defiant prayers for justice and a better world to commemorate and celebrate 75 years of Christian Aid. Bringing together voices from different contexts and cultures around the world, this is a collection of prayers of lament for the injustices of the world, and prayers of hope for the world we want to see. You can order it from <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/rage-and-hope>



**INSIDE HOSPICE by Fr Peter Michael Scott.** St Pauls Publishing.

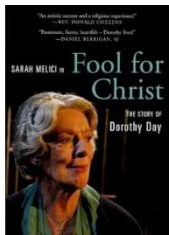
This book began life as a regular column in the Westminster Record, the diocesan newspaper. Based on his extensive experience as a hospital and hospice chaplain and mostly written during his time as chaplain at St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney, each of the 37 chapters invites the reader to contemplate an experience or encounter that Fr Peter has in the hospice with the eyes of faith.

Each story is set within the wider canvas of God's infinite love and mercy, where even the saddest and most difficult situations can be transformed. We are reminded of Christ's suffering through the experiences of the patients, and are given a glimpse of the Resurrection to come through their stories and those of their relatives. As Fr Peter explains: "I believe the book presents a positive and truthful image of good Catholic hospice care at St Joseph's, and helps those who might be frightened of dying."

Fr Peter Michael Scott is a priest of the Diocese of Westminster. He has served three Cardinals as Advisor for Healthcare Chaplains. He is currently Parish Priest of St Mary's, Finchley East in north London. Inside the Hospice is available from St Pauls Bookshop in Morpeth Terrace (next to Westminster Cathedral) or online at: [www.stpauls.org.uk/inside-the-hospice-fr-peter-michael-scott.html](http://www.stpauls.org.uk/inside-the-hospice-fr-peter-michael-scott.html) Proceeds will be donated to St Joseph's Hospice.



## TO WATCH:



In this one-woman drama, Sarah Melici masterfully plays Dorothy as well as eleven other characters, including Forster Batterham, the father of her daughter. As a costume, she wears a simple replica of the prison uniform from Dorothy's last arrest, when she was jailed with the farm workers in Delano, California, supporting Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers union campaign.

After the premier of **Fool For Christ** in Maryhouse, New York in 1998, Sarah toured the country performing the play in colleges, parishes and Catholic Worker houses. When Dan Berrigan saw the play for the first time, he wrote: "Fool for Christ is worthy of the original Dorothy." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDBKRJyuuY0>



### What is a Spirituality of Biodiversity?

A recording of a webinar May 2021

Anna Robertson, Director of Youth and Young Adult Mobilization with Catholic Climate Covenant, for leading us in our exploration of this important issue. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk8s1E55OVY>

## SUMMER DIARY DATES

### JUNE

- 5 World Environment Day <https://www.unep.org/events>
- 5 Global Justice Now AGM on line 11am  
<https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/event/agm-2021/>
- 6 Tax Justice Sunday  
[www.catj.org.uk/tax\\_justice\\_sunday.html](http://www.catj.org.uk/tax_justice_sunday.html)
- 7 "How Africa can keep rising" TED Zoom talk & discussion  
7-9pm. A TED talk 'How Africa can keep rising' given by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in 2016. She is a Nigerian-American, a respected global economist and international development expert who took up her post as Director-General of the World Trade Organisation on 1st March 2021. For this CWDF "Extra" session we have selected this talk as a stimulus for discussion. For the Zoom link email [bernard.payne691@btinternet.com](mailto:bernard.payne691@btinternet.com)
- 9 Operation Noah Annual Supporters' Event 10.30 – 12.30 on zoom . Find out more and book  
<https://operationnoah.org/news-events/operation-noahs-annual-supporters-event-book-now/>
- 10 Interfaith livestreamed event at Truro Cathedral before 11-13 G7 Summit at Carbis Bay, Cornwall See p. 2 To join <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/G7-interfaith-event-Truro> )
- 14-20 Refugee Week 'We cannot walk alone' see page 4
- 16 Online discussion with members of various faiths p.4
- 16 World Refill Day <https://www.refill.org.uk/world-refill-day/>

17 Disrupting online Arm's Fairs 2 – 5.0 pm CAAT online event see page 5 to book

20 Day for Life <http://www.dayforlife.org/home/about/>

26 International Day of Support for Victims of Torture  
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day>

### JULY

- 10 Liverpool J & P Annual Assembly online 10-12.15 details of speakers and booking page 2
- 11 Sea Sunday [www.stellamaris.org.uk](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk)
- 13-14 Climate Emergency Digital Conference  
<https://modernchurch.org.uk/events/climate-emergency-conference>
- 23-25 NJPN Annual Conference at Swanwick see page 2

### AUGUST

6&9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

### ADVANCE NOTICE: SEPTEMBER

- 1 World Day of Prayer for Season of Creation
- 1-4 October Season of Creation  
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>  
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/environment/season-of-creation/>
- 5-12 Root and Branch Inclusive Synod see p.12



Thank you to the following helpful websites:

ICN Independent Catholic News <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

National Justice and Peace Network <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission with monthly newsletter <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/>