NJPN E-Bulletin 30th January 2022



Dear Friends,

I hope you have had a good fortnight. In our parish we are rapidly running out of time to collect and collate answers to the Synod questions. If you haven't yet done so, please make sure you submit your answers to your Diocese as soon as possible. We are all very good at moaning about the Church - it is a bit like voting, though, you need to be prepared to participate in order to have a right to complain. Please, where possible, also encourage your young people to have their say. After all, they are the future of the Church.

Our Action of the Week is reflecting on Pope Francis' call for peace in the Ukraine/Russia situation.

We will also be remembering those who have died as a result of genocide, and covering Holocaust Memorial Day.

Finally, just to let you know that we are now taking bookings for the NJPN Conference - 'Hope is a Verb with its sleeves rolled up.' More

information and details on how to book are in the Events Section below. If it is anything like last year's conference, it is well worth coming to, not only for the speakers and workshops, but the networking with like-minded people.

Thank you to everyone who reads and/or passes these e-bulletins on, and to all that send in articles/events to be included. Please keep them coming. All being well, the next one will be out the weekend of the 13th February.

God bless Sharon (Editor)

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ACTION OF THE WEEK

"I make a heartfelt appeal to all people of good will to raise prayers to Almighty God that all political actions and initiatives may be at the service of human brotherhood rather than partisan interests."

Pope Francis

The above statement was made by Pope Francis as he expressed his concerns over the increasing tensions that threaten to overturn chances for peace in Ukraine and security on the European continent in general, given the wider repercussions of any conflict.

The Pope added those who pursue their own objectives to the detriment of others, show despise for their own vocation as human beings, as we have all been created brothers and sisters. The Pope has expressed his concern regarding the tensions over Ukraine frequent times in the past, encouraging everyone to pray for peace and that dialogue and negotiation may prevail in resolving the situation.

He then proposed Wednesday 26th January as a day of prayer for peace.

Obviously, that day has passed, but we can still follow his lead and do what we can to reflect and pray about the situation.

More information and actions taken are available from the

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales website, plus there are words from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who joined his brother bishops from the London area alongside the Papal Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti for a short service of prayer at the Ukrainian Cathedral to pray for peace in Ukraine.

Cardinal Nichols says:- "My prayer this evening was especially for the people of the Ukraine, who feel now that great armies are massing at their borders. But my prayer was also for those who are involved in negotiations – both directly with Russia and in the negotiations that are taking place between allies in Europe and across the Western world.

We pray for each other no matter which side of these conflicts we're on, because conflict is always a failure, and it's a failure that is deeply destructive, as this country knows. Tragically, conflict erupts in many places even now as we speak. So the duty to pray for peace is one of the first flowerings of a love of God and an ability to see the world through the eyes of God."

The blessing Cardinal Nichols gave at the end of the service of prayer:-

May God, our Merciful Father, look with kindness on our broken world in which there is so much conflict.

May God, our Merciful Father, give wisdom to those who are trying to sustain, protect and build peace through negotiation and diplomacy, and may God bless us all in the name of the Father, the Son and and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Also on the 26th January, Pax Christi International sent a letter to Pope Francis about the escalation of tensions in the Ukraine. They write ' The situation now facing Ukraine recalls the Cuban Missile Crisis of sixty years ago. This situation brought the world to the precipice of nuclear war, and saw the intervention of Saint Pope John XXIII. He used emissaries to privately communicate to both sides and made a public appeal for "moral responsibility" on both sides. We humbly pray and hope that Pope Francis may similarly help open way for dialogue and the building of trust as the world faces yet another senseless violent conflict.' You can read the full text of their letter here.

Please join in by remembering the Ukrainian people, and the situation there, in your prayers. Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January 2022 'Memory, Dignity and Justice'

Vatican News writes: - International Holocaust Remembrance Day is marked annually to recall the millions of people who were killed or lived through the Holocaust.

The date commemorates the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz in south-west Poland, which was liberated by Russian troops on 27 January 1945.

The day also remembers the millions of people who were affected by terrible crimes committed during conflicts in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Through <u>Vatican News</u>, there is an interview with Archbishop Kevin McDonald, the Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark in London, and Chair of the Committee for Catholic-Jewish relations for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

The Holy See is also warning against Holocaust denial and revisionism trends, <u>allowing the threat of anti-Semitism to lurk in Europe and elsewhere.'</u>

Finally, again through Vatican News, Pope Francis is quoted as saying 'This unspeakable cruelty must never be repeated.' The Pope has urged families to remind younger generations about the millions of people, especially Jews, killed at the hands of the Nazi regime. You can read more of what he said here.

2. Climate/Environment News (includes Actions and an Event)

The Climate and Ecological Bill - Information and Action



Green Christian writes: - The Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill – is a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science. The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the emergency and acknowledges the full extent of the UK's emissions and ecological footprint as well as its responsibility to ensure that it prevents and reverses damaging impacts, globally, so that the least developed nations still have the chance to develop sustainably.

You can read more about the Bill through <u>Green Christian</u>. They are also asking us to encourage our churches to back the Bill. Click <u>here</u> for more details.

Or, if you wish to engage with your MP on the Bill, they give you the <u>tools to</u> do so.

Action - Save Bees from Deadly Pesticide

Again, for the second year running, the Government has okayed the use of neonicotinoids for 'emergency use.' These pose a lethal threat to bee populations, and have been banned in Europe since 2013. I am curious as to what 'emergency use' means...

Please add your name to the **Greenpeace petition**.

Event: Online Meeting on Biodiversity

St John Vianney's Live Simply Group Invite you to an online meeting on BIODIVERSITY With Fr Sean McDonagh, Columban father on Thursday 17th February from 7.30pm - 9pm.

They write: - The upcoming UN Conference on Biodiversity in Kuming, China (COP 15) this April 2022 offers opportunities to make links between issues raised in the climate change talks in Glasgow in September 2021 and with Pope Francis' Encyclical entitled Laudato Si—On Care for our

Common Home.

"It is important that we get an accurate understanding of how serious the destruction of biodiversity is for planet Earth. As a species we need to educate ourselves about the impact of our wasteful, industrial societies and, most of all we need to urgently devise strategies and lifestyles which will allow us to live in a more sustainable way with the rest of creation. All of us will need to be involved in shaping this sustainable lifestyle. It is but essential if we are to leave a beautiful, vibrant and fruitful planet to future generations. "Fr Sean

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudOivpj4iG9LJBnbEj7fY8R2 5oKnq5Bcs

New species in 2021 - but what are we losing?

Andy Lester from A Rocha writes through ICN:- It has been an exciting last 12 months for new species around the globe, with 550 new fish, mammals, plants, reptiles and insects discovered and new to science.

He then goes onto describe some of the new species, which is great - until you also read that the best estimate of extinction rates according to the UN is 150 - 235 species approximately EVERY DAY...although according to the WWF it could be nearer 2000.

COP15 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (as mentioned above) takes place in April in China and it aims to set new goals re stopping the destruction of habitat and species.

You can read the rest of the very interesting article <u>here.</u>

World Leaders: Here are your New Year's Resolutions on Protecting People and Planet

Environmental Justice Foundation write: - Immediate action, centred around the principles of environmental justice, is essential for protecting our most basic human rights and the natural world which underpins them. Decisive action this year can build a safer, more sustainable planet for us all, but another 12 months of delay and failure will have indescribable impacts.

They then go onto list what the world leaders should be focusing on this year. Read and sign up for their newsletters <u>here.</u>

Climate Emergency Toolkit

The Toolkit, brought out last year, will be updated and relaunched in late February. Watch this space!

In the meantime, this is a great time of year to talk with your church leaders and make sure that climate action is part of your plans for 2022. It's also a good opportunity to spread the word about the Climate Emergency Toolkit to your friends and family. There are now more than 75 churches who have declared a climate emergency, and they would love to see that number grow. Click on the link here to declare your interest and for more details.

Action re the Energy Crisis

I was panic stricken this week, when my energy provider (who I have had good prices from for quite some years) went bust. I was on a good fixed rate tariff for the next two years, but that has all gone by the wayside now, and I will be taken over by British Gas. On the same day, I heard an interview on our local radio station with a chap who had just come to the end of his fixed rate with his energy company, and his monthly payments had gone up from £120 per month to £185. He didn't know where he was going to find the extra money. There is also the threat of more prices rises from April.

<u>Friends of the Earth</u> have an interesting piece on fuel poverty on their website. They give the definition, and highlight the fact that living in fuel poverty can cause poor health.

Also, Greenpeace are asking us to email Rishi Sunak, asking him to protect people from the rise in energy costs. Please add your name here.

3. Palestine/Holy Land (includes an Action)

Call for prayer for Nassar Family and the Tent of Nations

Some weeks ago we covered the Tent of Nations (a Palestinian Christian farm), and the fact that on the 13th December an Israeli Military Court was going to decide the fate of the farm - which is now surrounded by Israeli settlements.

Well. this week, masked men came to the farm and attacked Daoud and

Daher Nassar with sticks and iron bars. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) have written an article for <u>ICN</u> covering the story, and asking for prayers for the Nassar Family, who have always sought peace with their neighbours - Palestinians and Israelis alike.

Planting trees and working for peace in Palestine

This is a great story - 130 Jewish volunteers planted 400 olive trees this week in Palestinian villages, despite an attack taking place by masked men.

Rabbi Nava Hefetz, Educational Director of Rabbis for Human Rights, says:

- "The settler violence has become a real mark of Cain on the forehead of Israeli society. Their violence is directed first of all at Palestinians and to anyone who refuses to accept their version of messianic Jewish superiority that they seek to impose."

You can read the full story through World Council of Churches.

Action: Land Theft Not Charity

Palestine Solidarity Campaign writes: Palestinians are calling for solidarity with their resistance to Israel's attempts to dispossess, dehumanise, and expel them. They've told us that meaningful solidarity means holding organisations sustaining Israeli apartheid accountable - organisations like the Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF).

Right now, the KKL-JNF is razing Palestinian land and demolishing homes and property in the Naqab, to plant forests over the area. In Jerusalem, the KKL-JNF is using the rigged Israeli legal system to expel Palestinian residents.

While this destruction unfolds, the UK branch of the JNF continues fundraising and benefiting from **official charitable** status. But the JNF UK has recently come under scrutiny by the Charity Commission due to public outrage over racist comments made by members of its board.

The PSC have written an open letter to the chair of the Charity Commission, calling on them to investigate the JNF's anti-Palestinian racism, and revoke its charitable status. You can read and sign the letter <u>here</u>.

4. Synod News

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

If you are at all confused about the Synodal process that is going on at present, and will finish in October 2023, the <u>Catholic Bishops of England and Wales</u> have lots of information and answers to questions. We are in the Diocesan stage now, in which each individual faithful can participate in the diocesan consultation. This phase will end locally with a pre-synodal assembly: the culminating moment of diocesan discernment. Our parish will be sending all responses through to the Diocese on the 1st February, and presumably most Dioceses around the country are doing the same.

Whether you agree with it or not, or are disappointed in the fact that all answers will go via a Diocesan Committee, who will be reviewing them before collating ideas and sending them to Rome, please participate. Even if you are not active in your local Church, you have every right to have your say.

Birmingham Diocesan Justice and Peace - Online Forum on the Synod

This week the Birmingham J & P Commission had an online forum to discuss the Synod; how Justice and Peace Groups could get involved, and how J &P could be incorporated into parish and group discussions. The recording of the forum is available to listen to here.

5. Dropping of Economic Crime Bill

Church Action for Tax Justice have reported this week that the Economic Crime Bill, which has been languishing for years, and the Prime Minister had put his support behind at the Summit for Democracy held in December 2021, has been dropped from the schedule of the next Parliamentary session. Given that corruption is at the forefront of many people's minds, at present, this was guite a shock.

You can read their thoughts through ICN.

6. Remembering Thich Nhat Hanh

Buddhist Monk and Peace Activist Thich Nhat Hanh passed away at the age of 95, on the 22nd January.

Independent Catholic News have written an Obituary on him, and quote the New York Times as saying that he 'influenced the American peace movement.' Also quoted is Dr Martin Luther King Jr., who nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize, saying "I do not personally know of anyone more worthy than this gentle monk from Vietnam. His ideas for peace, if

applied, would build a monument to ecumenism, to world brotherhood, to humanity."

May he rest in peace.

7. Inequality Kills

In a report published on the 17th January, Oxfam have said: - The wealth of the world's 10 richest men has doubled since the pandemic began. The incomes of 99% of humanity are worse off because of COVID-19. Widening economic, gender, and racial inequalities—as well as the inequality that exists between countries—are tearing our world apart.

This is not by chance, but choice: "economic violence" is perpetrated when structural policy choices are made for the richest and most powerful people. This causes direct harm to us all, and to the poorest people, women and girls, and racialized groups most. Inequality contributes to the death of at least one person every four seconds.

But we can radically redesign our economies to be centered on equality. We can claw back extreme wealth through progressive taxation; invest in powerful, proven inequality-busting public measures; and boldly shift power in the economy and society. If we are courageous, and listen to the movements demanding change, we can create an economy in which nobody lives in poverty, nor with unimaginable billionaire wealth—in which inequality no longer kills.

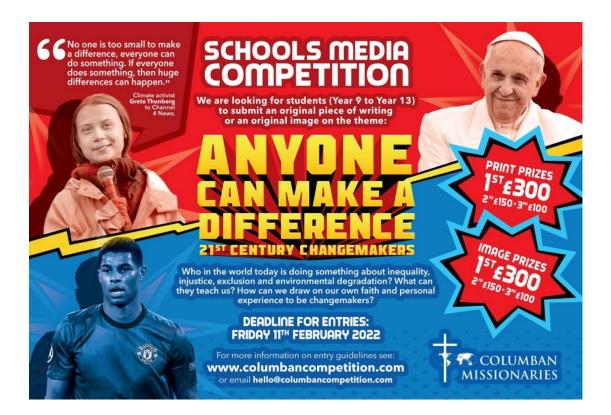
Their full report and the unparalleled action needed to combat this inequality in the wake of Covid-19 is available to read here.

8. Scotland's Christian Peace Groups Campaign at Faslane

Frances Gallagher through ICN writes: - One year on from the day the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was ratified on 22 January 2021 at the UN in New York, Justice and Peace Scotland joined our fellow anti-nuclear campaigners from Scottish CND, Pax Christi Scotland, Glasgow Catholic Worker and the Faslane Peace Camp to hold a vigil at the 'home of Trident' at Faslane on the Clyde.

To read details of the day, and the actions that they are calling for, go to ICN.

9. Columban Schools Media Competition



This is the final reminder for the Columban Schools Media Competition which closes on the 11th February 2022. If you haven't done so already, please share it to any students you know aged 13 to 18 inclusive. More details are available through the Columban website.

10. Congratulations!

Recently we mentioned a couple of people given awards in the New Year's Honours List, Well, we have another unsung hero in our midst.

Congratulations to Catherine Tuitt who received her MBE at Windsor Castle recently for charity and community service spanning 34 years.

Amongst other things, Catherine established a London Community Credit Union, was an expert reviewer for the inter Governmental Panel of Climate Change, and was also an inaugural Board Member for London's first Community Land Trust. There is a little article about Catherine through the East London Advertiser.

11. NJPN Blog through ICN

There are some great blogs to catch up on through Independent Catholic News: -

<u>17th January</u> - Fr. Rob Esdaile, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton - 'Young and old in dialogue for peace.'

Fr. Rob's reflection is based on the World Peace Day Message of Pope Francis.

24th January - Paul Southgate, Chair of the NJPN - 'How I became ecumenical.'

Paul talks about his own family's religious history, and how the NJPN Conference is being planned by an ecumenical team.

28th January - Henrietta Cullinan - 'Voices from Afghanistan' Henrietta writes about Afghan Peace Projects, and the work that they have done in Kabul for the past 13 years, and there are messages about the situation now under the Taliban.

Grateful thanks to our friends at <u>Independent Catholic News</u> for allowing us to publish on their website. Please sign up and support them if you can.

Newsletters

12. Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility January 2022

Working to bring money and finance issues into Christian living and teaching. Read it <u>here.</u>

13. Church Action on Poverty Winter 2022

The Winter edition of Spark is available to read <u>here</u>. News as they enter the 40th year of Church Action on Poverty.

14. Columban JPIC - Time to Act January 2022

Time to Act for Justice, Peace and Ecology - the Columbans monthly campaign bulletin online, with three campaign suggestions for the month. Read it through the <u>Columbans website</u>.

15. Living Fair January 2022

Advertising new goods, sale items, and giving some information about their work. Download it <u>here.</u>

16. Trade Matters January 2022

The magazine of Traidcraft Exchange, it has lots of good articles, including one about the proposed Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. Read it here.

17. Joint Public Issues Team January 2022

Lots of news including details of their Conference, and the Nationality and Borders Bill. Available through their <u>website</u>.

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

18. 14th -27th February - Church Action on Poverty Sunday Sign up to take part

19. 21st February - 6th March Fairtrade Fortnight

20. 24th February - 6pm - 8.30pm PACT - Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture

Professor Anna Rowlands - Reimagining Human Dignity in Dark Times

21. 26th February - 10.45am for a prompt 11am start - NJPN Networking Day

The planned follow up day on Mental Health has been postponed due to unavailability of the speakers. We are in the process of looking if we can use this day to produce a Justice and Peace Response to the Synod. If any organisation has anything they want to advertise during the Networking Session, please email it to Geoff by the **22nd February** to enable him to collate it onto the PowerPoint. His email address is admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Please register in advance for this meeting on the following link: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcumrpzwrHdN0ZBadT25ZQ PeDnifN_nNS

22. 28th February - 7.30pm - 8.45pm - Westminster Justice and Peace Commission

<u>Leaving Something on the Table - How Money Doesn't Make the World Go</u> Round

23. 8th - 10th July - Student Christian Movement

Reinventing Radical: Courageous Discipleship for a Changing World

24. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference

Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up.

Bookings now open. Don't forget it is cheaper if you book before the 20th May!

25. Christian CND Workshops - Christian CND are currently offering free workshops for churches, small groups and youth groups around nuclear disarmament and peace activism.

The workshops are tailored to the demographic of the participants and include discussion around what the Bible says about peace, how we as Christians can engage with issues of peace and nuclear disarmament, and what it means to be a peacemaker in our everyday lives.

These workshops are also offered both in person in the church building and online over Zoom. Find out more by accessing their website here.

Actions

26. Demand Debt Justice for Zambia

Global Justice Now writes: - Big banks are making up to 250% profit from Zambia's debt crisis. We need to demand debt cancellation now.

These banks have refused calls from the IMF, World Bank and UN to suspend repayments and have continued profiting throughout the pandemic.

Collectively, they receive more in repayments each year than the Zambian government spends on healthcare or climate adaptation.

For more information and to sign the petition, go to the Global Justice Now <u>website</u>.

As an aside to this, much of Africa is suffering financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The leadership of the Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network – Africa (JENA) observed that in order to sufficiently recover from the harsh impacts of the COVID-19 shock, Sub-Saharan Africa needs "massive financial resources". You can read more about it through <u>ACI Africa</u>.

27. Walk Against Hunger this Lent

CAFOD writes: - There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. This Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders. Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, get sponsored and you'll conquer your 200km target in time for Easter — and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To take part, go to cafod.org.uk/walk.

28. Call on the ICC to Investigate Potential War Crimes in Yemen

Campaign Against Arms Trade writes: - On 11th December 2019 a coalition of European and Yemeni groups led by Mwatana for Human Rights and the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), including Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), submitted a Communication to the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling on the Court to investigate European governments and arms company officials for potentially aiding and abetting war crimes in Yemen.

Two years on, the Office of the Prosecutor is still examining the Communication to decide if the ICC will start a formal investigation. Help demonstrate the strength of public feeling on this case, by calling on the Prosecutor, British lawyer Karim Khan, to secure accountability for the people of Yemen.

Add your name to the letter <u>here.</u>

THE LAST WORDS

29. Never Condemn a Child

I picked this up through ACI Africa, who reported on the words that Pope Francis spoke at his general audience on the 26th January.

He said: "I am thinking at this moment of so many people who are crushed by the weight of life and can no longer hope or pray. May St. Joseph help them to open themselves to dialogue with God in order to find light, strength, and peace."

Speaking off the cuff, he added: "And I am thinking, too, of parents in the face of their children's problems: Children with many illnesses, children who are sick, even with permanent maladies — how much pain is there! — parents who see different sexual orientations in their children; how to deal with this and accompany their children and not hide in an attitude of

condemnation."

"Parents who see their children leaving because of an illness, and also — even sadder, we read about it every day in the newspapers — children who get into mischief and end up in a car accident. Parents who see their children not progressing in school and don't know how... So many parental problems. Let's think about it: how to help them."

"And to these parents I say: don't be scared. Yes, there is pain. A lot. But think of the Lord, think about how Joseph solved the problems and ask Joseph to help you. Never condemn a child."

If you are someone who has had children of your own, or who has been involved with fostering or adopting children - or even if you have been a Teacher or a Social Worker, something in the above few lines will resonate with you. Children of all ages can hurt - some children have been broken by life's circumstances - and life today is tough, particularly for those who may be different in some way.

Recently I have been introduced to Therapeutic Parenting. If you have children, or work with children, and are struggling, there are books about it, plus information through the NATP (National Association of Therapeutic Parenting). It is well worth looking into.

You can read the full script of Pope Francis' General Audience here.

I will finish with the famous Poem by Dorothy Law Nolte: -

Children Learn What They Live

If children live with criticism,

They learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility,

They learn to fight.

If children live with ridicule,

They learn to be shy.

If children live with shame.

They learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement,

They learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance,

They learn to be patient.

If children live with praise,

They learn to appreciate.

If children live with acceptance,

They learn to love.

If children live with approval,

They learn to like themselves.

If children live with honesty,

They learn truthfulness.

If children live with security,

They learn to have faith in themselves and others.

If children live with friendliness.

They learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

(Copyright 1972/1975 by Dorothy Law Nolte)

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NEWS LINKS

Independent Catholic News

Find Justice and Peace stories at: http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/justice-peace-environment-blight to receive these regularly.

Catholic Communications Network

Find news stories at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Latest Zenit Headlines here

Vatican News homepage: www.vaticannews.va

World Council of Churches https://www.oikoumene.org/en/

intpo://www.ontoamono.org/

UK Parliament News

https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/

Follow us on Twitter: @NJandPNetwork

Follow us on Facebook: National Justice and Peace Network

Registered Office: - NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

Telephone Numbers: - 020 7901 4864 and 07365 838535

About these E-BULLETINS

The items above are emails received from around the Network which may be of interest to those involved in working for justice and peace.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of NJPN.

To **unsubscribe** from these mailings, email <u>ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org</u> with "unsubscribe" in the subject box. We also welcome your **feedback** at the same address.

Forwarding these emails: Please feel free to forward these emails on to your contacts – but please remember to tell them to contact YOU if they want to unsubscribe!

Urgent Actions:

We sometimes receive emails that need immediate action and cannot wait for the weekly bulletin. To receive these items email the same address with "urgent actions" in the subject box.

If you appreciate these bulletins, help to keep them coming by donating to NJPN:

Send **cheques** payable to NJPN to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

Make a regular donation by **standing order**: Download standing order/membership forms from http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/

(NJPN is a registered charity no: 1114947 Company no: 5036866)

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