NJPN E-Bulletin 16th January 2022



"Dialogue between generations, education and work: tools for building lasting peace"

Dear Friends,

Late again, I'm afraid. Life just tends to get in the way at times, and I can only apologise.

Today is Peace Sunday, and I have included a little about it, but this is also covered in greater detail by Anne O'Connor in her NW E-Bulletin. She has also covered the deaths of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Sr. Pamela Hussey - may they rest in peace.

From what I have heard, two things have dominated the news in the past week or so - 'Borisgate' - through which the Government seem to think that we are in a 'do as we say, and not as we do' world; also the whole situation with Prince Andrew. Meanwhile, people are being persecuted for their faith, rainforests are being destroyed, children are going without food - but apparently, that is not big news, sadly. All we can do is pray, and strive for a better world going forward.

Please keep articles coming in if you want them shared. If you could either keep the information short, or send items in as a png file, that

would be helpful. Alternatively, if an article can be put onto a website, I can always link into it.

Wishing you a good start to 2022,

God bless

Sharon (Editor)

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ACTION OF THE WEEK



Finding Faith in Tax Justice

Takes place tomorrow, Monday 17th January 2022

7.30pm - 9pm

Church Action for Tax Justice invites you to an online presentation and workshop on why tax, and tax justice, matters for people of faith. Recalling the mobilisation of the church community in the run up to the Millennium, we want to explore how a reformed and renewed tax system in the UK can contribute to the Common Good and build a

more sustainable life for all.

Hosted by Justice and Peace Commission and Caritas in the Diocese of Nottingham, this webinar is open to the wider J&P Network and all who are interested.

You can sign up here!
Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Peace Sunday

Prayer

O God of peace, who are peace itself and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen

All information on Peace Sunday, including Pope Francis' message, one from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, and a podcast from Fr. Rob Esdaile, are available from the Pax Christi website.

Also, Ellen Teague writes in The Tablet that <u>'Catholics are urged to mark</u> Peace Sunday.'

2. Climate/Environment News (includes an Action)

Happy 7th Birthday, Laudato Si' Movement

The Laudato Si' Movement turned seven years old yesterday, the 15th January! Tomas Insua, their Executive Director, has written a thoughtful reflection on their new name, and what it means.

Also, LSM have come up with <u>52 ways to care for creation</u>. I wonder how many of them we already do....

Building a Climate Justice Movement in 2022

Global Justice Now writes: - What we need now is for more and more people to organise for climate justice. Global Justice Now played an important role in getting people on the streets in November, both directly and through the work we did with allies as part of the COP26 Coalition. Now there are tentative plans for the COP26 Coalition to continue working together under a new name in 2022 and beyond – not just at the national level but at the level of the local hubs that were built as well. This could be a great opportunity to build a broad, diverse and sustained climate justice movement all around the UK.

Global Justice Now have produced a booklet, <u>The Case for Climate</u> <u>Justice</u>. It is great for educating people about what we mean by climate justice, reading as the basis for a group discussion, or distributing on stalls, at demos, or even in sympathetic venues.

Throughout the coming year, <u>Global Justice Now</u> will be continuing their campaign against the threat of 'corporate courts', as well as helping to amplify the demand for climate reparations for the global south. If you are interested in their work, and want to be involved, please visit their website and sign up for details.

Action: Enrol in the Laudato Si' Action Platform

Not to be confused with the Laudato Si' Movement website, the Action Platform is a collaboration between the Vatican and global Catholic organisations. It offers Planning Guides which your institution, community, or family can use to discern and implement your response to Laudato Si', along with guidance on actions that help build a better future through the Laudato Si' Goals.

Click here to start the process...

Climate Change Cost the World Billions in 2021

Independent Catholic News writes: - A new report by Christian Aid: 'Counting the cost 2021: a year of climate breakdown' identifies 15 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year.

Ten of those events cost \$1.5 billion or more. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be even higher. Among them is Hurricane Ida which struck the US in August costing \$65 billion and killing 95 people. July floods in Europe cost \$43 billion and killed 240 while floods in China's Henan province caused \$17.5 billion of destruction, killed 320 and displaced over a million.

According to ICN, the report focuses on the financial cost, yet 'some of the most devastating extreme weather events in 2021 hit poorer nations, which have contributed little to causing climate change.

Yet in addition to the financial cost, these extreme weather events have caused severe human suffering from food insecurity, drought and extreme weather events causing mass displacements and loss of life. South Sudan has experienced terrible floods which has seen more than 850,000 people forced to flee their homes, many of whom were already internally displaced, while East Africa continues to be ravaged with drought, highlighting the injustice of the climate crisis.'

You can read the full article here.

3. Palestine/Holy Land (includes an Action)

Archbishops Warn of Concerted Effort to Drive Christians from the Holy Land

This article is old news now, but worth including even just for the opening paragraph: - This Christmas, let's not romanticise the Holy Land. Instead let's hear the cry of Palestinian Christians who are facing a historic tragedy unfolding in real time. Christians have been a continuous presence in the Holy Land for 2,000 years. Today, they face attempts by fringe, radical groups to drive them away.

It was an appeal by Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev'd Justin Welby, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Most Revd Hosam Naoum, made through The Sunday Times. You can read it through ICN here.

Action: Stand with Palestinians Facing Forced Displacement

Palestine Solidarity Campaign writes: In the last few days, Palestinians in the Naqab have been resisting Israel's attempts to dispossess them from their land. Thousands of Palestinians have come out to protest demolitions and land grabs, facing brutal crackdowns and mass arrests by Israeli armed forces.

Israel's ethnic cleansing project in al-Naqab is being implemented with the support of the Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF), which plans to plant forests over the ruins of Palestinian villages.

Last week, the Israeli Attorney General gave the green light to the forced dispossession of the Sumarin family - who have faced a decades-long struggle to remain in their home in Silwan, occupied Jerusalem. The expulsion would leave the family of 15 including 8 children, homeless.

<u>Take action</u> to support the Sumarin family - write to your MP, asking they demand the Foreign Office puts pressure on Israel to stop the expulsion.

4. Refugees/Migrants (includes an Event and an Action)

Update on the Nationality and Borders Bill

Sophie, from JRS, gives us an update on the Bill, and how we can impact it. Click here to read her words through the JRS website, and get involved.

Families Together is a coalition of over 90 organisations who support the expansion of the UK's

refugee family reunion rules, including a number who work directly with refugees in the UK to

support their applications for family reunion. They have produced various Briefings highlighting their concerns over various proposals in the Bill, restricting family reunion rights for refugees. Please see their <u>Twitter</u> thread for a link to those Briefings.

#Stop Refugees Freezing

This weekend will have seen a day of action across cities in Europe, organised by Amnesty International and various justice and peace groups, appealing for NGOs and humanitarian organisations to be allowed to reach and deliver life-saving aid to those trapped between the borders of Poland and Belarus, where there is quite simply a humanitarian crisis.

More details on this are available from ICN.

Response to Migration Crisis a 'Scandal of Humanity'

In Pope Francis' General Audience on the 29th December, he spoke about the courage of St. Joseph in getting Jesus out of Jerusalem when Herod was out to massacre all baby boys under the age of two. He asks us to show the same courage today in dealing with the migrant crisis.

"Let us spare a thought for the many people who fall victim to war and wish to flee their homelands but are unable. Let us think about those migrants who set out on that path toward freedom and end up on the street or in the sea. Let us consider Jesus in the arms of Joseph and Mary, fleeing; and may we see in him each of today's migrants." Pope Francis

The full article is available through Vatican News.

Event: Webinar for People with Lived Experience of Asylum Accommodation

Asylum Matters and Freedom From Torture are hosting a <u>webinar on Monday 31st January, 2-5pm</u>, for people with lived experience of asylum accommodation who want to take action to stop the development of 'accommodation centres' to house people in the asylum system.

As Asylum Matters' <u>recent report</u> has documented, these will probably not be suitable places for people seeking asylum to start to rebuild their lives, and the idea of this webinar is to work in partnership with people who have experience of the UK's asylum system, in particular people who have stayed in 'institutional' accommodation, such as hotels or military barracks like those at Napier.

Is this you, or do you know of anyone that has this experience? If so, please register for the webinar on the link above.

Action: Together with Refugees Campaign Pack

Together with Refugees have a 'Show Your Heart' campaign running, more details of which are in the <u>Campaign Pack</u>.

For more information on their work, go to their website.

5. Afghanistan

UN Launches Largest Single Country Aid Appeal Ever

Vatican News reports that on the 11th January. the UN and its partners launched a joint appeal for over \$5billion for the people of Afghanistan in 2022. They said that 'With Afghanistan's basic services collapsing in what is fast becoming the world's worst humanitarian crisis, the UN asked donors to help deliver critical food aid to more than half of the people within the country and another 5.7 million needy people and local communities in five neighbouring countries.

They have made it clear that the money will not be used for supporting the Taliban, but would directly benefit nurses and those in the field. You can read the full story here.

6. The Difference between the Jan 6 Rioters, and Black Lives Matter

Gloria Purvis, through America Magazine, has written a good article highlighting why the January 6th storm on the Capitol Building in Washington was different from the Black Lives Matter protests...and the fact that a lot of American Catholics refuse to see it.

You can read it here.

7. Well-Deserved Honours

John Battle (former MP) - John has been given a Knighthood for Political and Public Service. ICN reports the following: - *He was the first director of Church Action on Poverty. Has been pro chancellor of Leeds Trinity University since 2017, serves on the Board of Citizens UK and co-chairs Leeds Citizens and is chair of the Diocese of Leeds Justice and Peace Commission.*

Anne Peacey, Vice Chair of National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) said: "John has been a patron, reliable supporter, and great friend to NJPN over many years. His commitment to social justice encourages us all to action."

"John's contribution to NJPN annual conferences has always been very special as he has the gift of presenting his deep knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching in a direct and accessible way, affirming our efforts, and challenging us to follow his example as we work and pray for a world where people may live in peace and harmony with each other and all of creation.

"NJPN is delighted that John's commitment to working for the good of all people has been recognised and we offer our congratulations, best wishes and an enormous thank you for everything he does."

Rev. Steve Bunting MBE - the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon writes: - *A vicar who transformed his church into a thriving community hub has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours.*

Rev Steve Bunting MBE raised £1.4m to redevelop St Thomas' Church, in Swansea's Eastside, into a home for all its ministries including the local food bank, Baby Basics - a volunteer-led project aiming to support new mothers and families, as well as a place of worship fit for the future. The

church is now home to a not-for-profit café and conference/wedding reception venue called the Spire where all proceeds go straight back into the community.

More details are available here.

Congratulations to you both, and to everyone who has also been mentioned in the New Year's Honours. I am sure that, in most cases, it is jolly well deserved.

Newsletters

8. NJPN NW E-Bulletin January 2022

Another excellent edition from Anne, focusing on Peace Day, and with tributes to both Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Sr. Pamela Hussey. You can read it through the NJPN website here.

9. Traidcraft January 2022

Details of their products, as well as some interesting news and a prayer. You can download it here.

10. Church Action on Poverty Annual Review

Interesting stories on their work and how they spend their money. Available <u>here.</u>

11. Living Fair December 2021

Showcasing their goods, as well as having some articles about their work Click here to read.

12. Salesians Justice and Peace December 2021

The NSPCC is their charitable organisation of the month. You can read it <u>here.</u>

13. Together for Water (World Council of Churches) - Nov/Dec 21

This edition focuses on sanitation. Click <u>here</u> to read.

14. London Mining Network December 2021

Some good articles, including <u>'Can the mining industry save the planet?</u>
<u>Probably not.'</u>

15. Biofuelwatch December 2021

Giving a round-up of 2021, you can read it here.

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

16. 17th January - 7.30pm - Finding Faith in Tax Justice (via Zoom) Church Action on Tax Justice - Link available under Action of the Week

17. 18th January - 7pm - 8.30pm - Green Christian Deep Waters - A Project of Borrowed Time

18. 18th January - 8pm - Abingdon Peace Group Holocaust of Genocide - when will we ever learn?

19. 21st - 23rd January - 9.30am - 8pm - Faith Justice (ages 18-40)
The Climate Emergency: What Next? ***Event Postponed***

20. 26th January - 7pm - Green Christian - Joy in EnoughThe Corporate world – friend, foe, or simply a reflection of wider society

21. 27th January - 7pm - Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony

22. Columbans Schools Media CompetitionDeadline for entries - 11th February 2022

23. 14th -27th February - Church Action on Poverty Sunday Sign up to take part

24. 21st February - 6th March Fairtrade Fortnight

25. 26th February - NJPN Networking Day - details to follow

26. 8th - 10th July - Student Christian Movement
Reinventing Radical: Courageous Discipleship for a Changing World

27. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference - details to follow

Action

28. Defend the Right To Protest

Global Justice Now writes: - Over the last year we have joined more than 250 organisations in mobilising against home secretary Priti Patel's efforts to shut down protests that are deemed too 'noisy' or 'annoying', and make them punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Already more than 750,000 of us have taken a stand against the measures in the policing bill, which the House of Lords will consider on Monday.

Last month, after MPs had voted, the government added 15 pages of new amendments in the Lords that will give police multiple new ways to crack down on protests. These range from expanded powers to stop and search (already used disproportionately against Black people) to the power to ban protests in specific places deemed too disruptive by the government.

Most outrageously, they would introduce a 'protest banning order' allowing individuals to be prevented from attending or even publicising protests for up to two years, on the basis of mere suspicion. Even sharing information about a protest on the internet could become a crime!

On Monday the House of Lords has an opportunity to call out this brazen assault on our most basic freedom to stand up for what we believe in. Will you <u>sign the petition now</u> to defend the right to protest? We'll deliver it to the Lords on Monday.

29. Stop Businesses Getting Away with Human Rights Abuses

Traidcraft Exchange writes: -

What if it was illegal for mining companies to destroy the livelihoods of local people?

What if clothing companies had to ensure the people making their clothes were not treated as modern day slaves?

What if supermarkets were responsible for making sure the tea, fruit and chocolate they sell was not harvested by children?

We're calling for a new law which could make this a reality.: - A Business, Human Rights and Environment Act.

Join the campaign here.

THE LAST WORD

30. A Daring Adventure: Annie's Story

Many of you will have followed the story of Anne O'Connor's daughter, Annie, who passed away suddenly at the age of 41. Anne has spent much of the last year or so putting a book together about Annie's life.

Ellen Teague has written the foreword to the book, and it is recounted here, through our friends at ICN

Ellen captures beautifully, in her first sentence, how many of us have felt - "I wish I had known Annie."

Annie really did live her life to the full, and her words 'Don't just live the length of life: live the breadth of it as well' sum it up.

If you would like to order a copy of the book, please email:

- adaringadventure@hotmail.com. There is no charge for the book, but donations can be made to <u>Church Army</u>, to support their work.

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NEWS LINKS

Independent Catholic News

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

Catholic Communications Network

Find news stories at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Latest Zenit Headlines here

Vatican News homepage: <u>www.vaticannews.va</u>

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

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)

If you shop online, you can support us at no extra cost to yourself by signing up with <u>easyfundraising.org.uk</u>, where lots of companies will make a donation to us when you shop online with them.

As a small charity NJPN relies on donations from its members and friends, as well as grants for specific work or projects, if you feel you are able to make a contribution you can either: make a bacs payment to our account: Sort code 16-31-15 account 10089516 reference Donation

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