



44th Annual Justice & Peace Conference

22nd-24th July 2022
The Hayes Derbyshire

‘Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up’

Dear Friends,

We are now a month into the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. The first of the Ukrainian refugees have started to arrive in this country. Many parishes locally have started to talk about where we can help, and indeed my own parish this weekend has a newsletter article asking anyone who has put their name down to host to get in touch with the parish office. Despite the news reporting heavy Russian losses, there doesn't seem to be any sign of Putin withdrawing his forces. We can only pray that, sooner rather than

later, sense will prevail.

We are focusing on Ukraine with our Action of the Week, but we also have plenty of other articles on the climate, refugees in general, and other justice and peace issues around the world.

Talking of justice and peace, the Annual NJPN Conference takes place between the 22nd and 24th July, at The Hayes in Derbyshire. If last year's Conference was anything to go by, it promises to be a great weekend away. If nothing else, it gives you the chance to meet up with like-minded people, learn new things, and gives you an opportunity to get involved. You can fill in the [Booking Form online](#), or it can be posted. Don't forget, though, that you get a discount if you book before the 20th May.

Please feel free to circulate this around your family and friends, and encourage them to subscribe for their own copy. I will be taking a break for Easter, so the next edition will be out around the 24th April all being well.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter,
Sharon (Editor)

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



[#CancelUkrainesDebt](#)

Jubilee Debt Campaign writes: - As bombing and shelling ripped through Ukraine's towns and cities in the first week of the invasion, the Ukrainian government still made a scheduled interest payment to its private lenders on time. The lenders—mostly international finance institutions, banks, and hedge funds—are all queuing up to collect their debts, with no sign of respite.

The people of Ukraine are fighting for their survival while dealing with huge humanitarian needs, mass displacement, and the horrific siege conditions in Mariupol. And yet they are seeing urgently needed resources flow out of the country to foreign creditors.

More details are available through the link above, but the upshot of it is that if Ukraine continues to make its debt payments, Western banks and hedge funds could make profits of 300%.

Please add your signature to the petition to the World Leaders (hit the Take Action Now button)

Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Ukraine

Mariupol: the torment of a city that is no more

[Vatican News](#) has a testimony from Father Pavlo, a Pauline Priest, who has managed to escape from Mariupol and it tells of his journey out of there. You can feel the fear as you read it.

Russia to reduce military activities after heavy losses

Also in [Vatican News](#) and in [The Guardian](#) it has been reported that Russia has said it will significantly scale back its military operations in Northern Ukraine. After the peace talks in Turkey this week, The Guardian quoted the following: - *Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the talks had been “positive but they do not drown out the explosions of Russian shells”, adding that Ukraine had no intention of reducing its military efforts. Joe Biden said: “I don’t read anything into it until I see what their actions are.” The US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said he had not seen anything indicating that talks were progressing in a “constructive way” and suggested Russian indications of a pullback could be an attempt by Moscow to “deceive people and deflect attention”. “What Russia says, and what Russia does, and we’re focused on the latter.”*

The headline sounds positive, but in reality it would seem that it is all just rhetoric, sadly.

London Stands with Ukraine

Jo Siedlecka of [Independent Catholic News](#) has written about the march and rally that took place in London last weekend, with people showing their support for Ukraine. From ICN: - *Mayor Sadiq Khan reminded everyone that the march was the way Londoners were responding to Ukraine's President Zelensky's call to fill the streets and town squares to show support for Ukraine.*

A message from President Zelensky was played, plus Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko spoke through his iPhone from a bomb shelter, saying *"Please keep together with our country, keep together with Ukraine."*

Mr Khan announced more than £1.1m in funding to support migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum in London.

Papal visit to Ukraine is 'on the table'

ACI Africa this morning reported that yesterday, 2nd April, Pope Francis en route to Malta was asked whether he was considering visiting Kyiv. He responded by saying *"Yes, it's on the table."*

The full report is available [here](#).

Update from Depaul Ukraine

Depaul have run homeless shelters in Ukraine since 2007, and is currently working in Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa and the Ivano-Frankivsk regions of the country. Residents of the shelters in Kharkiv and Odesa are volunteering to help with the aid effort there. In Odesa the volunteers are providing over 250 hot meals per day. You can read the full report from Matthew Carter, Group CEO of Depaul International through this [link](#).

Ukraine: Let's prevent trafficking

Anti-Slavery are concerned for the safety and wellbeing of those fleeing Ukraine, many of whom will be vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. They have shared resources with allies and businesses, and they can be found through their [website](#), including details on how to spot the signs of modern slavery.

Putin's War: Fuelled, Funded and Facilitated by Fossil Fuels

Environmental Justice Foundation writes: - *Millions of Ukrainians have now fled their homes as a result of Vladimir Putin's invasion. At the same time, around the globe, the intensifying impacts of the climate crisis are driving millions of people from their homes. There is one common thread to both of these events: they are driven by the addiction of wealthy countries to fossil fuels.*

According to their [Report](#), the EU is dependent on Russia for one in every four barrels of oil, and almost one in two for gas.

Again, like the last e-bulletin, this article crosses between the Ukraine and Climate/Environment Sections.

2. Climate/Environment (includes **Actions** and **Events**)

Action - Stop Funding Mozambique Gas

Friends of the Earth are asking for our help in petitioning Secretary of State for International Trade, Anne-Marie Trevelyan, asking the Government to withdraw their funding of the Mozambique mega gas project.

They write: - *The latest news is that a High Court judge has ruled that the UK government was unlawful when deciding to fund a gas mega project in Mozambique! Though the ruling isn't definitive, we are calling on the government to urgently end its funding for this climate-wrecking project. You can add your name [here](#).*

Over 200 church leaders urge Government to cut use of fossil fuels

Tamsin Morris through [ICN reports](#): - *Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and more than 50 Anglican and Catholic Bishops have signed letter to the UK government calling for a windfall tax on fossil fuel companies to tackle the cost of living crisis and energy efficiency measures to reduce heating bills.*

The letter says "We call on you to use the Spring Statement to provide financial and fiscal support for renewable energy and energy efficiency, especially solar and wind energy and the retrofitting of homes and other buildings across the UK. These measures would reduce heating bills, decrease carbon emissions and increase our energy security."

Action - We don't have time for fossil fuels

In the same vein as above, Greenpeace are calling upon the Government to boost renewables, and have a fun image of how Rishi Sunak and Boris Johnson will look in 2050, when new North Sea oil and gas licences would deliver energy to households. You can share their images to get the message out there [here](#).

Safe water: a matter of life or death for world's children

Vatican News reports on World Water Day, 22nd March, on the *plight of two billion people living without access to safe water. The World Day is focusing increasingly on the global water crisis affecting most people due to climate change, pollution and the need for better management of this essential life-giving and sustaining resource.*

Their article [here](#) features an interview with UNICEF's Regional Director for West-Central Africa, Marie Pierre Poirier, attending the World Water Forum taking place in Dakar, Senegal.

Also, UNICEF have a blog entitled '[Water and the global climate crisis: 10 things you should know.](#)'

In Cameroon, local Caritas puts Pope's environmental message to work

Ngala Killian Chimtom through Crux reports: - *As Africa is disproportionately affected by climate change, local Caritas agencies do what they can to implement the plan of action outlined in Laudato Si', Pope Francis's 2015 ecological encyclical.*

The Caritas chapter in the Diocese of Buea, in the South West region of Cameroon, is training farmers on how to make and use organic liquid fertilizers and women on the use of improved firesides, both of which have the potential to protect and preserve the environment, and reduce climate change.

You can read how their small actions can have a big environmental impact [here](#).

Red flags of greenwashing

I was sent this article this week in a newsletter from a company called [Homethings](#) who sell environmentally friendly products. We are not in any way endorsing their products, but the piece is interesting, pithy, and makes you re-evaluate the sort of products that you are buying.

Here we go again with greenwashing. Wouldn't it be fun to pretend for a day that the term actually referred to the Hulk's bath time rather than the more accurate meaning of making vague environmental claims to appear more sustainable. It's a phrase which, unfortunately, is getting an increasing amount of attention due to the rising number of companies deciding to slap slogans like "good for the planet" on things without any attempt to put in the work to back it up.

As consumers, we're savvier than ever at separating the B Corps from the BS, but brands are also getting more creative at ways to avoid putting their money where their mouth is. So, how can we avoid getting caught in these traps? The first step is to better understand the actual definition of a lot of these terms (if you've not yet checked out our [jargon buster](#), it makes for a thrilling morning activity whilst eating your porridge). Rather than point the finger at other brands, we've listed a few below that we've dipped our toes into – and help unpack what they actually mean.

NATURAL

You'd think that natural does what it says on the tin but "natural" is an unregulated term, meaning that any product with a couple of naturally-derived ingredients can easily claim this title. The problem with the term "natural" though (asides from the fact that there is no industry-wide standard for what it means to actually qualify as "natural") is that natural doesn't always mean safer.

Our instinct association with the word natural creates an image of wildflowers blooming in a meadow to the left of a sparkling waterfall with Enya playing in the background (or just a Herbal Essences ad) and so we're forgiven to assume that anything labelled natural must only contain pure, clean and fresh ingredients. In reality, many "natural" ingredients can actually be pretty damaging to our health – for example, radioactive radium is 100% natural.

Natural ingredients aren't necessarily better for the environment either. Synthetic chemicals (ones made in the lab) are chemically identical to their natural counterparts but can actually have a much lower carbon footprint; eg. to create 5ml of "natural" rose oil you'll need 10kg of rose petals – and when you think of all the water, fertiliser, and pesticides that could go into producing that, it's pretty bonkers. You can read more about our view on the term natural [here](#).

NON-TOXIC

As a team we were torn on the best reference to use here, from the Swiss physician's Paracelsus 'The Dose Makes The Poison' or the song 'Too Much Of A Good Thing' by Alan Jackson. Whichever one resonates with you, the point we are trying to make is that large amounts of any chemical can be bad for you (we've all heard about the impact of potassium if you eat too many bananas) and that dosage is therefore the main factor that affects toxicity. So although "non-toxic" can be a good guide on whether something is relatively safe, it isn't a bulletproof term.

The best way to check how (potentially) harmful an ingredient actually is, is to check with a third party that knows it's stuff and who's done the research, like the EWG. Punch in the ingredient name and it'll give you the toxicity rating. Call us predictable, but we've written a [blog](#) on this too.

RECYCLABLE + COMPOSTABLE

We love circular things (mainly the circular economy but hula hoops are

great too) and both recycling and composting are great ways to remove the single-use nature of products and packaging. But just because something is, in theory, recyclable or compostable sadly doesn't always mean that it's as simple as chucking it into the correctly coloured bin and forgetting all about it.

A lot of "compostable" packaging is not actually home-compostable – like most compostable coffee cups – and has to make its way to an industrial composting facility before it's actually able to break down. Sure, this is a better solution compared to single-use packaging, but commercial composting facilities are few and far between and cannot always be picked up at kerbside collection. It's the same story for many types of "recyclable" plastics that may never be able to make it to the appropriate recycling plant. It's one of the reasons why we believe in promoting the circular-economy thinking of refill not landfill and encourage everyone to reuse again and again and again.

WHAT IS THE UK DOING ABOUT IT?

So, back to "greenwashing". Changes are being made to stop greenwashing across the UK, including new regulations from the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) which has recently clamped down on misleading environmental claims in ads. They've been pretty tight on this so far and have made waves by calling out well-known names like Shell, Innocent Drinks, Hyundai, Ryanair and Oatly for making false or potentially misleading claims. Ouch.

One of our core values at Homethings is transparency. We believe in calling things out when we see them and presenting the facts honestly – we think that makes sense. With big organisations taking matters into their own hands and with knowledge constantly evolving around "greenwashing", we hope that the future looks a lot cleaner when it comes to environmental statements and doing the work to support them.

Event: Become a Laudato Si' Animator

Join the Laudato Si' Movement in acting to care for our common home. The course includes weekly readings, videos, four online dialogues (which you can follow live or whenever you want), and practical ideas to lead your community based on prayer, sustainability, and prophetic advocacy. You can learn the story of Mildaiza, an animator from Brazil through [YouTube](#).

The first webinar is on 20th April. [More details available here.](#)

Action - The Big Plastic Count

Another Action from Greenpeace. This time they are launching the UK's biggest ever investigation into household plastic. For one week in May, they need you to join thousands of others across the UK to count your pots, packets, wrappers, the lot. They want to uncover the truth about how much plastic we throw away and what happens to it, and prove bold action is needed to solve the plastic problem. [Sign up here.](#)

Faiths working with UN to protect biodiversity

ICN reported on the meeting held in Geneva in March of delegates from over 200 nations, working on measures to safeguard Nature by 2050, specifically Biodiversity. This was as a pre-conference to COP15 in China, the next Biodiversity Conference. You can read the report from the Columban Missionaries [here.](#)

Westminster hunger strike for climate

Barbara Wilson, for [ICN](#), writes about her friend Angus, who started a hunger strike outside Parliament on the 14th March. Barbara writes: - *He is asking Greg Hands, the Minister with responsibility for Climate Change, to arrange a briefing for all MPs by the Chief Scientist, setting out the reality we are all facing and inviting them to respond more urgently.*

To quote Angus' request: "I ask you to do your part to avert climate disaster - in particular to help wake up both decision-makers and the public to the gravity of the situation we face, so we can find solutions together in the time that remains. In 2020 the Prime Minister received a secret briefing (known now only through Freedom of Information requests) from Chief Scientific Advisor Sir Patrick Vallance on the risks of and solutions to climate breakdown. It was this that convinced him to change his previous attitude and speak so strongly at the opening of COP26 about the urgent peril the world faces - words which, while valuable, have sadly not yet been matched by actions. I am asking you now to make available such a briefing to decision makers - the Cabinet and Parliament - and the public, by allowing such a briefing to be televised. I ask that the briefing be led by Sir Patrick."

Angus is an uncle of six and it is out of fear for the life of his nephews and niece and their peers face that he is undertaking this hunger strike.

Please try and visit Angus outside Parliament, or write or tweet your support.

3. Refugees (includes an Event)

Nuncio visits asylum seekers at Napier Barracks

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales reports on the visit that the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, made to Napier Barracks in Kent this week.

The Nuncio said: - *"Pope Francis asked me to take care of the migrants and to have meetings with them... The Pope wants to go and see the suffering flesh of the Lord. The poor are the suffering flesh of the Lord – and [refugees] are the poor. Now this new generation of people, with hope, do come and they feel that they are ready to build a better future wherever it is possible. We admire the Lord in the creatures that are wounded by life, by their stories, the wars in their countries, their desire to find a better world. This is hope and unfortunately, sometimes in the West, we are not so much a fountain of hope. They have nothing and so they are hopeful and this is a teaching for all of us."*

The full article can be read [here](#).

JRS Malta: Pope's visit a chance to renew hospitality for migrants

A Counsellor with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Malta has been interviewed by [Vatican News](#), and she has reflected on the fact that the Pope's visit to Malta is a good opportunity to reflect on the reality of migration, while renewing hope on the island.

Ms Zingariello said that since Malta is part of the European Union, a common approach is required. "We need to come up with solutions by working together," she concluded, "to become countries that are more hospitable, that defend the rights of people no matter where they are from."

Event - Join JRS to pray the Way of the Cross

Taking place on Tuesday 12th April between 7pm and 8pm, via Zoom. [Click here to Register.](#)

4. Palestine/Israel

Settlers occupy Petra Hotel

World Council of Churches write: - *Following the occupation of the historic Petra Hotel in East Jerusalem by members of a settler group, Patriarch Theophilos III and the heads of churches in Jerusalem are urging the Jerusalem police to act fairly and in accordance with their responsibilities. The premises concerned are owned by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and in a statement updated on 27 March, Patriarch Theophilos said that the “act of trespassing” was done illegally.*

“There are some reports that police have intentionally defended the radical group or turned a blind eye to the illegal activities of Ateret Cohanim at the Little Petra Hotel.” The Petra Hotel has been the subject of an 18-year legal battle between the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and Ateret Cohanim, a settler group that pushes for increased Jewish presence in East Jerusalem neighbourhoods.

You can read more of this story [here](#).

Harsh treatment of children at checkpoints

Community Peacemaker Teams Palestine has produced a report from August 2021 to January 2022 documenting the restriction of movement and lack of safe access to education for Palestinian children.

Full details are available to read through their [website](#).

5. Synod News

Hear from a Youth Leader in South Africa

Dominique Yon, a Catholic Youth Leader in Cape Town has said:

- *"Synodality has given us an opportunity to continue to promote and implement Christus Vivit from the last synod to ensure that our young people know that they are the now and present of the Church and not just the future."*

Personally speaking, I love that last sentence. We are always calling them the future of the church, but unless they are participating now, they will not be our future. We need to do all we can to make sure our young people are valued and included in what is going on.

The full article is available to read through [ACI Africa](#).

6. Pope expresses "sorrow, shame" for Catholic role in Abuse against Indigenous People

On the 1st April at the Vatican, Pope Francis met with representatives of Métis, Inuit, and First Nations groups. He expressed his sorrow at the historic evil committed against the Canadian Indigenous People. He said *"listening to your voices, I was able to enter into and be deeply grieved by the stories of the suffering, hardship, discrimination and various forms of abuse that some of you experienced, particularly in the residential schools."*

"It is chilling to think of determined efforts to instill a sense of inferiority, to rob people of their cultural identity, to sever their roots, and to consider all the personal and social effects that this continues to entail: unresolved traumas that have become intergenerational traumas"

The full story is available through [ACI Africa](#).

7. Legislation that will fundamentally change access to abortion

On Wednesday, MPs voted to support an amendment to the the Health and Care Bill allowing women to use abortion pills at home by 215 votes to 188.

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, has prepared a Statement, which is available through the [Catholic Bishops website](#).

If you are interested in how your MP voted, you can see that [here](#).

8. News from the Prison Advice and Care Trust

'It took years to try and understand that Christ died on the cross to forgive my sins... I was sitting in a room with seven other men and I began to cry. I said, 'How can I possibly live with myself, with what I have done? Then began the journey of building myself up.'

These words were spoken by a former prisoner who is now a Pact ambassador. They were also read aloud by Bishop Richard Moth last Friday in the chapel at HMP Send, a women's prison in Surrey. Bishop Moth is the Liaison Bishop for Prisons. He was making the Stations of the Cross with the women using the new text produced by Pact, the Catholic prisons charity. The reflective part of the text expresses the thoughts and feelings of prisoners, people with convictions and their families.

Pact invite parishes to use this [Stations of the Cross](#) liturgy in solidarity with those who are in prison and their families. There are an estimated 90,000 children in England & Wales who are sitting in a school classroom today while their mum or dad is in prison. Some of those mums and dads have prayed the same Stations of the Cross text in the chapel of their prison. Some have yet to turn back to their faith, or to discover it for the first time, and some may never do so. All are made in the image of God and their human dignity is entrusted to the whole Christian community.

As Pope Francis says in Fratelli Tutti, '*... a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good.*' As we say at Pact, everyone can be redeemed whatever they may have done.

Pact are looking for people to be Parish Representatives, helping us to keep those affected by the criminal justice system in the hearts and minds of people in your parish. For more information check out the [Pact website](#) .

9. Seven years of UK complicity in the war in Yemen

[ICN reports](#) that the 26th March marked seven years since the beginning of the Saudi-led coalition's entry into the war in Yemen. They write: - *The Coalition's bombing campaign, which has repeatedly targeted schools, hospitals, residential areas, agricultural and water facilities, and civilian gatherings such as weddings, funerals, and market places, has been the leading cause of civilian casualties in the war, according to the Yemen Data Project. Up to the end of January 2022, at least 8,970 civilians have been killed and 10,226 injured in air strikes on civilian targets. Numerous reports by UN bodies and Yemeni and international NGOs have found that large numbers of these attacks were violations of international humanitarian law, and many may be war crimes. In total, the UNDP estimates that 377,000 people had died in Yemen from direct and indirect causes resulting from the war.*

The bombing campaign would not be possible without arms sales from the UK and US, who between them provide all of the aircraft used for air strikes, along with bombs, missiles, and the crucial support and maintenance needed to keep the aircraft flying. There is lots of other information in the article, and it finishes with Bruce Kent saying: - *"I am so glad that you have drawn attention to the barbarism of the war in Yemen in which Britain, as an arms supplier, is very responsible. The crimes of Putin's Russia in the Ukraine are rightly condemned, while major crimes in*

other places, for which we too are also responsible, are conveniently ignored."

Let he who is without sin cast the first stone *John 8: 8*

10. NJPN Blog through ICN

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

[21st March](#) - Theresa Alessandro, Catholic Community Engagement Manager for Pact -
'Lord, when did we see you'

[22nd March](#) - Aisling Griffin, Pax Christi England and Wales's Schools and Youth Education Officer - 'Water for Life'

Grateful thanks to our friends at [Independent Catholic News](#) for allowing us to publish on their website. Please sign up and support them if you can.

Newsletters

11. CAAT News Winter 2022

Campaign Against Arms Trade have produced the Winter edition of their News Magazine. You can read it and sign up for updates through their [website](#).

12. ECCR

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility produce a good newsletter, but it doesn't appear to have been loaded to their website. If you are interested in their work you might like to sign up for a copy [here](#).

13. Time to Act April 2022

The newsletter for the Columban Missionaries, edited by Ellen Teague. Their Justice and Peace team provide three campaigns this month that focus on us acting for the common good, especially for those in our communities who are poor and were most affected by Covid-19. They explain in this post-emergency time we must enable each other in our country and beyond to go forward with Hope in everything we do. You can read it [here](#).

14. Joy in Enough

Joy in Enough is launching a new email newsletter. It will be sent out every month or two, with updates on the JiE programme, including the Plenty! course, details of forthcoming events and training opportunities. They will also include book reviews and suggested reading, and links to campaigns and articles of interest. You can sign up to it through [Green Christian](#).

15. London Mining Network March 2022

Sadly, the news in their mailout is dominated by killings. You can read their monthly newsletter [here](#).

16. Journey to 2030

A good read from Journey to 2030 concerning the work that they have been doing, and what they are planning. It is not available on their website, though, so you will need to [sign up](#) for your own copy.

17. NW NJPN April 2022

Some very interesting articles, including a great piece about Richard Ratcliffe's tireless quest to get his wife Nazanin freed from prison in Iran. You can read it through the [NJPN website](#).

Mouthpeace apologies - In the last e-bulletin I attributed the edition of Mouthpeace to Lancaster Faith and Justice, when in fact it was shared by Lancaster, but originated from Marian, who freelances for Shrewsbury Diocese, and subsequently Liverpool. (I hope I got that right this time!!).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

18. Monday 4th April - London Mining Network

**STAND WITH BRAZIL'S
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

EMERGENCY PROTEST

THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IS BRINGING FORWARD NEW LAWS THAT THREATEN THE EXISTENCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE PLANET.

JOIN THE PROTEST OUTSIDE THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY ON 4 APRIL AND DEMAND BOLSONARO [#STOPBRAZILSGENOCIDE](#)

4 APRIL
5:00-6:30PM
BRAZILIAN EMBASSY
SW1Y 5BL

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
Survival

GREENPEACE
BRAZIL MATTERS

DONATE TO THE ARTICULATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF BRAZIL

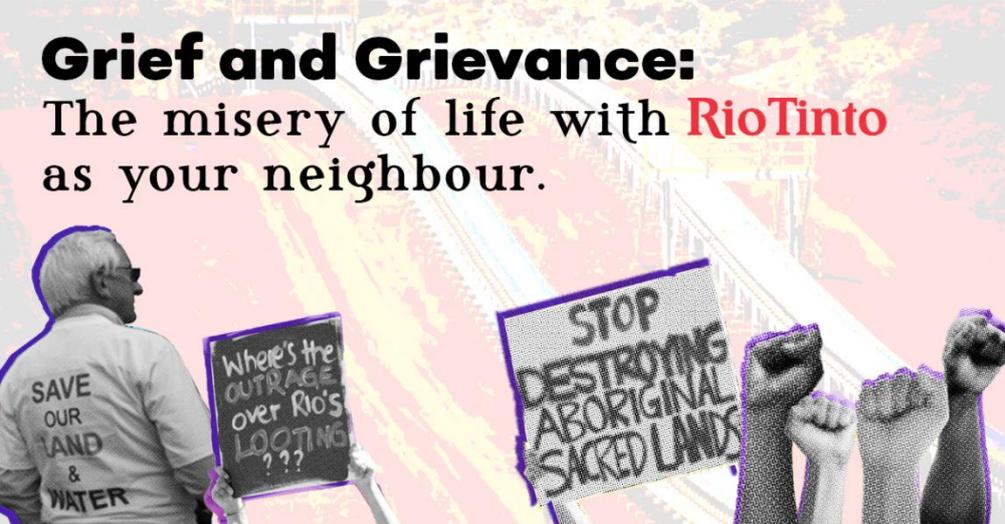



[5pm Brazilian Embassy, London. Stand with the Indigenous People.](#)

19. Tuesday 5th April - 7pm - 8pm - CAFOD
[Culture of Encounter Workshop 1](#)

20. Wednesday 6th April - London Mining Network

Grief and Grievance:
The misery of life with **RioTinto**
as your neighbour.



Online event at 6.30pm concerning the issues Rio Tinto is causing for communities and workers around the world. [Details here.](#)

21. [6th April at 12noon](#) and [7th April at 5pm](#) - Share Action
Changing the world through AGM activism.

22. 11th April 6.30pm to 8pm- ECCR/Church Action for Tax Justice
[Time to Tackle Inequality online event](#)

23. 26th April - Church Action on Poverty
[David Goodbourn Lecture - After Pestilence](#)

24. 30th April - 2nd May - Essex Green Weekend
[Essex Green Weekend](#) is a new and exciting festival to engage communities, faith groups and anyone interested in climate change action. Taking place at Othona Bradwell, on the shores of the Blackwater Estuary between 30th April to 2nd May, the Essex Green Weekend is an amazing opportunity to gain a better understanding of how to: take climate action; celebrate action taken; connect with likeminded people and organisations through networking and a range of activities, workshops and entertainment.

25. 14th May 2022 - End Apartheid/Free Palestine



26. 14th May - 25th June - Friends of the Earth
[Groundswell Events - various dates around the country.](#)

27. 15th - 27th May - The Bethlehem Institute of Peace and Justice
[Summer Intensive Course in Peacemaking and Justice](#)

28. 18th June - Pax Christi AGM (details to follow)

29. 25th June - JPIC **Save the Date**

Saturday 25th June 2022 - Spring Assembly, Dover. Details to follow.

30. 8th - 10th July - Student Christian Movement

[Reinventing Radical: Courageous Discipleship for a Changing World](#)

31. 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!

32. 17th September - JPIC Save the Date

Golden Jubilee Celebration in London- Details to Follow

Actions

33. Zambia needs debt justice

Global Justice Now writes: - *In 2020, Zambia became the first African country during the pandemic to announce that it can't make the debt repayments that big banks are refusing to delay or renegotiate.*

These banks, including BlackRock, HSBC, Standard Chartered, JP Morgan and others, will receive almost 60% of Zambia's debt between 2021 and 2024. If paid back in full, they could be making up to 250% profit.

Instead of fuelling big banks' profits, Zambia could be using these funds to support climate adaptation and boost their public healthcare systems during the ongoing pandemic.

Sign their petition to the UK Chancellor and Foreign Secretary [here](#).

34. Halt use of food for fuel

Biofuelwatch are asking Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport, to halt all mandates and subsidies for biofuels that rely on food crops. At

present, 10% of all grain produced worldwide, as well as around 14% of all vegetable oil are turned into biofuels. Ideally we would like to see a long-term end to using any such crops for biofuels, however, right now, urgent action is needed to address the food price crisis.

[Full details are available here.](#)

35. Letter to Diocese asking them to move from HSBC

Hexham and Newcastle J & P Co-Ordinating Council sent [this letter](#) to their Diocese, and we thought it might be a good idea that, if you know that your Diocese banks with HSBC, your group sends a similar letter. We would be interested to know if you receive any sort of a response.

36. Vacancies

Campaign Against Arms Trade

CAAT are looking for both a [Campaigns and Communications Co-Ordinator](#) and a [Supporter Development Co-Ordinator](#).

Details of both jobs are available through the links above.

Pax Christi

Pax Christi are looking to appoint a [Chief Executive Officer](#). Closing date is the 19th April.

Again, details are available through the link.

UISG

UISG in Rome are looking for an [Advocacy Advisor](#).

THE LAST WORD

37. Poem: Breakfast in the Safety of a War Zone

The radio crackles into life beneath my clumsy early morning thumb,
bringing the latest from a basement under siege.

As the kettle boils a plume of smoke rises in the distance,

followed seconds later by the dull thud of the landing shell.

The loose dry leaves cascade like shrapnel into the pre-warmed pot.

The clatter of machine-guns punctuates my stirring of the brew.

I reach the fridge door just in time
as a jet swoops fast and furious,
retrieving the milk bottle while a kindly grandma explains
the best recipe for a successful cocktail – petrol, rags and cooking oil.

On the stove the surface of the porridge pan erupts
as exploding cluster bombs pock-mark the city streets.

Slavic voices fully convey in words I do not ken
the anguish of the hour
as I spoon sweet honey into my steaming bowl of oats.

I check my e-mails while a doctor checks a wounded fighter's pulse.

A child screams as I pour myself a glass of juice.

Zelensky pops up with another impromptu speech,
while more exhausted exiles clog his nation's roads.

I go to wash, to dress and clean my teeth. I say my prayers.

Another day dawns on the frontline of our hearts.

Rob Esdaile, 2022. Reproduced from A Word In Edgeways – A Few More Verses, published by Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0LP. Copies available for £7 inc. p&p. e: office@olchurch.org.uk; t: 020 8398 6127. All proceeds go to Cafod/DEC Ukraine Appeal.

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Catholic Communications Network

Find news stories at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Latest Zenit Headlines [here](#)

Vatican News homepage: www.vaticannews.va

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About these E-BULLETINS

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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.

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