NJPN E-Bulletin 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022



There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself. There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology

Pope Francis - Laudato Si'

**Dear Friends**,

All of a sudden we are two weeks further on into the year, and I am wondering where the time is going. The war in Ukraine is still ongoing, meanwhile violent atrocities are being committed around the world. We really need to find hope in things, and hold onto it. This leads me onto a plug for the fantastic Conference, <u>'Hope is a Verb</u> with Its Sleeves Rolled Up' that we have planned at the Hayes Conference Centre during the 22nd to 24th July. More details will follow nearer the time, but if you haven't signed up for it, please check out the link above and think about joining us. You will need to get booked in quickly, though, to avoid disappointment.

Our Action of the Week is based around Laudato Si' Week, which runs from today. Lots of things to get involved in, plus our lead articles are also based on the climate and environment.

Please share this with any of your friends/relatives that you feel would be interested; and if they really like it, please get them to add their name to the mailing list. They can unsubscribe at any time.

The next edition will be out, all being well, on Sunday 5th June. If you can send any articles through by Friday 3rd June that would be very much appreciated.

Have a good fortnight, Sharon (Editor)

**E-Bulletin Contents: -**

# \*\*\*ACTION OF THE WEEK\*\*\*

# **News and Comment**

- 1. Climate/Environment (including Actions and Event)
- 2. Global Food Crisis (includes an Action)
- 3. Poverty Issues
- 4. Palestine/Holy Land

- 5. Refugees/Migrants
- 6. Ukraine
- 7. Synod News
- 8. NJPN Blog

# **Newsletters**

- 9. Green Christian News
- 10. Spark Summer 2022
- 11. Christian CND
- 12. Joint Public Issues May 2022
- 13. Joy in Enough
- 14. Churches' Refugee Network
- 15. Journey to 2030 May 2022

Events (\*\*\*this week marked by \*\*\*)

16. \*\*\*22nd - 29th May\*\*\* - Laudato Si' Week

17. \*\*\*25th May\*\*\* - Westminster Justice and Peace - Racial Justice: Where are we now?

18. \*\*\*27th May\*\*\* - and every Friday - Prayers for Peace

- 19. 30th May Youth Climate Action Network
- 20. 31st May The Global Church and the Fossil Fuelled Five
- 21. 4th June Finding Jesus in the Eucharist, the Poor and in Creation
- 22. 11th June From the Ground Up: unearthing hope and seeking justice
- 23. 12th June Tax Justice Sunday

24. 13th June - Southern Dioceses Environment Network

25. 14th June - Overcoming barriers to reducing energy use in Faith buildings.

- 26. 18th June Pax Christi AGM
- 27. 18th June Operation Noah Annual Supporters Event
- 28. 25th June JPIC Spring Assembly
- 29. 29th June Housing Justice Comedy Night
- 30. 8th 10th July 2022 Reinventing Radical (Student Christian Movement)
- 31. 22nd 24th July NJPN Annual Conference
- 32. 2nd 4th September We Move: Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit
- 33. 3rd September Mass for the Season of Creation
- 34. 17th September JPIC Golden Jubilee Celebration
- 35. NJPN Open Networking Day
- 36. 7th 8th October Green Christian Conference
- 37. 12th November NJPN open Networking Day

# Actions

- 38. Zambia's Debt Crisis: Stop Black Rock
- **39. Day of Action Against Corporate Courts**

#### 40. Vacancies - various

# The Last Word

41. Dignity, Agency, Power - Online Book Launch

See below for: - Note on Data Protection About these E-Bulletins Donate to NJPN

#### \*\*\*ACTION OF THE WEEK\*\*\*

# LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2022

# 22nd - 29th May 2022

#### Laudato Si' Week began initially as a way to celebrate the anniversary of Pope Francis' world-changing encyclical letter, Laudato Si': on care for our common home.

Since then, the annual celebration has become a way for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we've made in bringing Laudato Si' to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home.

This year, with the theme of "Listening and Journeying Together" Catholics on six continents will work on "bringing the human family together to protect our common home" (LS 13), which is the guiding Laudato Si' quote for the weeklong celebration.

Catholics across the globe will unite their communities in action and learn more about how Laudato Si' offers a blueprint on how to tackle the climate crisis. Globally, Catholics will come together as one family in prayer and action.

You can watch the video 'What is Laudato Si' Week' here.

The full event timetable is listed <u>here</u> - there really is something for everyone. Please join in and make a difference.

All global events, excluding the movie sneak peek on May 27, will be broadcast on Laudato Si' Movement <u>Facebook</u> and <u>YouTube</u> channels.



# **NEWS AND COMMENT**

# 1. Climate/Environment (includes an Action and Event)

#### How will humans cope with a serious rise in sea-levels this century

A very hard-hitting and honest report from Fr. Sean McDonagh, SSC, through <u>Independent Catholic News.</u>

He calls to mind the commitments (or lack of) made on climate change from COP26, and the fears of scientist as to what will happen over the next decade. He then goes onto quote Antonio Guterres' response to the IPCC Report that came out in April 2022, saying that "the report is a file of shame, cataloguing the empty pledges that put us firmly on track towards an unliveable world." Click on the link above to read it in full.

#### Insect numbers fall by 60 per cent

The Bugs Matter survey, which is led by the Kent Wildlife Trust and charity Buglife, and supported by a number of other wildlife organisations, uses data collected by people at home who monitor the number of insects 'splatted' on their vehicle registration plates.

The latest data collected in this survey shows that flying insect numbers in the UK have fallen by almost 60 percent over the last 17 years.

All of the details, including a link to a global study, are available to read through <u>Wicked Leeks</u>. Interestingly, the one comment about the article online is 'What can we do to help out', to which someone has given some ideas, one of which is featured below!

#### Action - No Mow May!

Obviously, we are already two-thirds of the way through May, but this is a great idea, and I am sure could be used from now into June. <u>Plantlife</u> are asking us to let our grass, and the wildflowers within it, keep growing, giving the pollinators a chance to feast from the nectar. They quote the fact that 'on a single day in summer, one acre of wildflower meadow can contain 3 million flowers and produce 1 kg of nectar sugar for pollinators.'

#### Season of Creation - 1st September - 4th October 2022

During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community

events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share.

If you are involved with a church or religious community, maybe start thinking about organising a <u>Climate Sunday</u> Service, or what your community can do to mark the <u>Season of Creation</u> - maybe now would be a good time to launch the CAFOD <u>LiveSimply</u> Campaign if you haven't done so already. There will be lots of resources available nearer the time.

# Walk2COP27

Obviously, a lot was made of COP26, but equally as important is COP27, taking place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November. There is a <u>Walk2COP27 website</u>, and they are looking for individuals/groups to participate to make it a mass movement. Check it out and join in if you can.

# **Event - Groundswell**

Friends of the Earth are having grassroots campaigning events throughout May and June, with the belief that *we all deserve the right to a healthy environment, and a fairer world for future generations.* All the details of the events and locations are on the <u>Friends of the</u> <u>Earth</u> website.

# Action - #StopJackdaw

Greenpeace want us to tweet Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng demanding the Government introduce a windfall tax on the big oil giants, which can be invested in energy efficiency. Also to stop Jackdaw, a new gas and oil field in the North Sea that Shell is trying to push through. Join in <u>here.</u>

# 2. Global Food Crisis

# Global Food Crisis stoked by Ukraine War (includes an Action)

It seemed appropriate that this section followed on from the Climate/Environment Section, as much of the food problem is down to climate change.

The Guardian writes: - The United Nations has warned that the war in Ukraine has helped to stoke a global food crisis that could last years if it

goes unchecked, as the World Bank announced an additional \$12bn in funding to mitigate its "devastating effects".

UN secretary general António Guterres said shortages of grain and fertiliser caused by the war, warming temperatures and pandemic-driven supply problems threaten to "tip tens of millions of people over the edge into food insecurity", as financial markets saw share prices fall heavily again on fears of inflation and a worldwide recession.

Speaking at a UN meeting in New York on global food security, he said what could follow would be "malnutrition, mass hunger and famine, in a crisis that could last for years", as he and others urged Russia to release Ukrainian grain exports.

You can read the full article here.



# Action - Urge the Foreign Secretary to Fix the Food Problem

CAFOD writes: - The global food system is broken. There's enough food to feed everyone in the world, but millions still live in poverty. Profit comes

before people, and large-scale industrial agriculture dominated by a few big businesses is accelerating the climate crisis. This huge concentration of power held by big business at the cost of local communities and small farmers urgently needs rebalancing.

The good news? Alternatives already exist and communities who work with CAFOD are leading the way, growing food in ways that are good for people and the planet.

<u>Click here</u> to join them in emailing Liz Truss.

# Horn of Africa Hunger Crisis

World Council of Churches and Vatican News are both reporting on the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa caused by the worst drought in forty years, affecting 3.5 million in Kenya, 6-6.5 million in Ethiopia and 6 million in Somalia. Floods and insecurity have pushed 8 million people in South Sudan into acute food insecurity.

WCC report on the mediation that churches are being involved in to help healing of conflicts (a key cause of food insecurity).

Vatican News talk about the work that Caritas Australia is doing in launching an appeal to provide urgently needed humanitarian aid to countries such as Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.

# 3. Poverty Issues

# Tackle poverty to protect children from child labour

Pope Francis has said that in spite of the significant progress that has been made in eliminating child labour from society, the tragedy has been worsened by the impact of the global health crisis and the spread of extreme poverty in many parts of the world *"where the lack of decent work opportunities for adults and adolescents, migration, and humanitarian emergencies condemn millions of young girls and boys to a life of economic and cultural impoverishment."* 

More so, "too many small hands are busy plowing fields, working in mines, travelling great distances to draw water and doing work that prevents them from attending school," the Pope lamented, thinking also of the victims of child prostitution which has "robbed millions of children of the joy of their youth and their God-given dignity."

Speaking at the 5th Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour taking place in South Africa, <u>Vatican News</u> reports that the Pope pointed at poverty as the chief factor that exposes children to labour exploitation, Pope Francis encouraged the participants to deliberate on the *"structural causes of global poverty and the scandalous inequality that continues to exist among the members of the human family."* 

# Poor families skipping meals and unable to afford heating

<u>The Guardian</u> cites a report from Action for Children who state that the level of severe and persistent hardship is among the worst it has seen. They quote: - Hard-up families are skipping meals, wearing coats indoors to stay warm, and living in the dark because they can't afford to switch on the lights.

Action for Children set up a crisis fund to give one-off help to struggling families during the pandemic. Iceland Foods Charitable Foundation, which has donated £300,000 to the fund since November, said that while it was "thrilled" to help there were limits to its philanthropic work. It said government "especially" had a key role to play in offering a lifeline to families in crisis.

# A short government course in home economics is no solution to the deepening food poverty crisis

Joseph Kelly wrote the above blog for <u>The Universe Catholic Network</u> after what he describes as 'strange week in politics.' He lambasts some of the Conservative MPs for the way they have spoken in the past week on various issues, but in particular Lee Anderson, when he announced in the Commons : - *"not this massive use for food banks in this country"* and basically anyone who can run a household budget and knows how to cook should be perfectly able to make wholesome meals for 30p a day!

I am presuming that he knows that prices have gone up 9% in the past year, and gas/electric prices have pretty much doubled....and if he would like to share those recipes with me, I would be very pleased to receive them (Editor)

# The Great British Debt Trap

Debt Justice have produced a video about household debt. You can watch

it here.

# 4. Palestine/Holy Land (includes an Action)

#### Britain's duty to advance equal rights in Palestine/Israel

The Balfour Project's mission is : - acknowledging Britain's historic and continuing responsibilities to uphold equal rights for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples through popular education and advocacy. To persuade the British Government to recognise the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel.

On the 18th May the Balfour Project issued a Statement at the end of their Conference, which basically calls the Government out on their lack of support for the Palestinian people and compares it to the support Ukraine is getting from the Government.

You can read the full statement here.

# News from Pax Christi around the situation in Palestine/Israel

Independent Catholic News carries two articles from Pax Christi concerning the situation.

Firstly, the very sad news that Shireen Abu Akleh, a journalist for Al Jazeera, was shot by an Israeli sniper, despite being clearly identified as a member of the Press. Pax Christi's statement is available <u>here.</u>

(sadly, Shireen's funeral was disrupted by Israeli forces, with the pallbearers almost dropping the coffin. There is a statement from the Holy Land Churches through <u>ICN</u> here)

(Action) Also, Palestine Solidarity Campaign are asking us to write to our MP to demand justice for Shireen. Their proforma is <u>here.</u>

Secondly, Pax Christi International have issued a statement asking the international community to stop the ongoing Nakba. You can read the article in <u>ICN</u>, in which there is a link to the full statement.

#### Action - Oppose the Anti-Boycott Bill

Palestine Solidarity Campaign write: - The government's plans to stop public bodies from deciding not to do business with companies abusing human rights, or our planet, are completely anti-democratic and a serious blow to our civil society. This gross over-reach is part of wider government attempts to limit our efforts to campaign for Palestinian rights as well as other campaigns for international solidarity, climate and social justice.

You can write to your MP here.

# 5. Refugees/Migrants

# **Refugees at Home**

Whether you are hosting a refugee from Ukraine or elsewhere, or are thinking of hosting, <u>Refugees at Home</u> have lots of information, and in particular, <u>Advice to New Hosts</u>.

# A time for grief, anger and solidarity

Jesuit Refugee Service speak about the tragedy of the Nationality and Borders Bill becoming law. They state: - *These anti-refugee laws mandate cruelty. They will render people seeking sanctuary vulnerable to exploitation, ghetto-ise and incarcerate people asking for asylum on a massive scale, and tear families apart. They fundamentally reject any sense that societies have a duty to those in need of international protection. This is a time for grief, for anger, and for reflection. These anti-refugee laws raise deeply troubling questions about who we are and what we value as a society.* 

The full article is available through the <u>JRS website</u>.

# Care4Calais #StopRwanda

Care4Calais write: - The government has announced that it intends to send refugees arriving in the UK to Rwanda by force. We urgently need your help to stop this from happening. Find out how you can help and for the background on why we are doing this.

Click here to find out more.

# **Catholic Bishops: - Migration issues in the UK**

On the 6th May, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales issued their Spring Plenary 2022 Resolution about the situation with migrants in the UK, mentioning the Nationality and Borders Bill and its failure to treat migrants justly and with dignity.

You can read the full statement here.

#### Priti and the people smugglers

Ian Linden, again through ICN, follows on from his previous article. This time he looks at the reasoning behind Priti Patel's money-for-migrants scheme, and the three claims that it contains. He then goes on to give reasons as to why they don't hold water, and finishes: - *With the Home Office prediction of only 300 deportations to Rwanda annually and with forthcoming legal challenges, Priti Patel's money-for-migrants partnership seems unlikely to be implemented. The judges and 'left-wing lawyers' will be blamed when it is stopped. And Government headline-grabbing will continue, irresponsible, deceptive and shameless.* 

An excellent read - go to ICN.

# 6. Ukraine

#### Child welfare humanitarian crisis unfolding in Ukraine

Vatican News report on the work that Chernobyl Children International is doing. Their voluntary CEO, Adi Roche, speaks about the situation and the children who have been abandoned. She says: - a huge child welfare humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Ukraine. There are between a hundred and fifty and two hundred thousand children that are warehoused in 700 orphanages dotted throughout Ukraine, many of which, as we speak, are in occupied territories, and the shocking thing to know is these are the children that are not on anybody's radar.

The full article is available here.

#### Ukraine: a grassroots report

Mill Hill has published a report from Fr. Jarosław Krawiec OP, in Kyiv. Fr. Jaroslaw writes how things have been throughout the first 70 days of war.

It makes for interesting and thought-provoking reading. At the end of it he

quotes a few lines of a poem by Taras Shevchenko: -

Love your Ukraine. Love her... In ferocious times, in the last difficult minute, pray to the Lord for her! (translation by Yuri Zoria)

Be assured of our prayers, people of Ukraine.

Go to Mill Hill Missionaries to read the full report.

# 7. Synod News

<u>ACI Africa</u> have reported on South Africa, and their focus on broken families.

<u>ICN</u> report on the contribution of people with disabilities to the Synod on Synodality.

# 8. NJPN Blog

#### **Mental Health in Prison**

Theresa Alessandro from Pact has written this piece about an interview that CEO Andy Keen-Downs took part in on Radio 4 recently. He stressed the point that prison, for people suffering from severe mental ill health, is *'the worst possible place for you if you are ill already.'* 

You can read more here.

Thanks to our friends at ICN for publishing our Blogs. You can check out their online news site <u>here.</u>

#### **Newsletters**

#### 9. Green Christian News

Various events, initiatives and details of their Conference. Click here to

read.

#### 10. Spark Summer 2022

Lots of interesting articles based around 40 years of Church Action on Poverty. You can read it <u>here.</u>

# **11. Christian CND**

Lots of events coming up. Join in here.

# **12. Joint Public Issues May 2022**

Again, a multitude of events coming up that you can get involved in. Click <u>here</u> to read.

# **13. Joy in Enough Newsletter**

Similar events to those being advertised through Green Christian, but also some recommended reading ideas. You can catch it <u>here.</u>

# 14. Churches' Refugee Network May 2022

Looking ahead to World Day of Migrants and Refugees in September, and why we are treating Ukrainian refugees differently to other refugees, and the element of racism. Available <u>here.</u>

# 15. Journey to 2030 May 2022

Interesting information, lots of events and recommended reading. Click here to <u>read</u>.

# **EVENTS** (in chronological order where applicable)

**16. 22nd - 29th May - Laudato Si' Week** Listening and Journeying Together

**17. 25th May - 1pm - 3pm - Westminster Justice and Peace** Racial Justice: Where are we now?

# **18. 27th May - 7.30pm - Fellowship of Reconciliation** Friday evening Prayers for Peace

# **19. 30th May - 10am - 4pm - Youth Climate Action Network** with Rebecca Thompson at Edible Landscapes London

#### **20. 31st May - 5.30pm - 7pm - ~Operation Noah** The Global Church and the Fossil Fuelled Five Webinar

#### 21. 4th June - 10am to 3.30pm including 12.15pm Mass -Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission and NJPN in North West

'Finding Jesus in the Eucharist, the Poor and Creation' St Wilfrid's RC Parish Centre Chapel Street, Preston (5 minutes walk from Railway Station)

Keynote speaker- Fr Eamonn Mulcahy - Fr Eamonn will then pose three different questions for groups to think about and discuss, then preach at 12.15pm Mass. After lunch short presentations. Book via - Eventbrite - Finding Jesus in the Eucharist

**22. 11th June - various organisations incl. JPIT** From the Ground Up: unearthing hope and seeking justice

23. 12th June - Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility Tax Justice Sunday

24. 13th June - Southern Dioceses Environment Network Sustainable Summers

**25. 14th June - 10am - Footsteps** <u>Tackling the Funding Challenge Workshops:</u> Overcoming barriers to reducing energy use in faith buildings

26. 18th June - Pax Christi AGM

27.18th June - Operation Noah Annual Supporters Event - Save the Date

#### 28. 25th June - JPIC Save the Date

Spring Assembly, Dover. Details to follow.

29. 29th June - 7.15pm - 10.15pm - Housing Justice Comedy Night

# 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. 2nd - 4th September - The Runnymede Trust** We Move: Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit

# 33. 3rd September - 4pm - Southern Dioceses Environment Network

Mass for the Season of Creation at Farm Street Church, Mayfair, London

#### 34. 17th September - JPIC Save the Date

Golden Jubilee Celebration in London- Details to Follow

#### 35. 24th September - NJPN

Open Networking Day hosted by Hexham and Newcastle

#### 36. 7th-8th October – Green Christian Conference

#### 37. 12th November - NJPN

Open Networking Day - London/South East tbc

# Actions

# 38. Zambia's Debt Crisis: Stop Black Rock

Zambia pays more on debt repayments than health, education and

sanitation. Right now Zambia is in talks to renegotiate its enormous debt burden. In solidarity with Zambian civil society we're demanding big banks cancel the debt. Watch Debt Justice's <u>video</u>.

Tell Blackrock to do the right thing

# 39. Survey - Share your thoughts with ECCR

The ECCR (Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility) are moving ahead with a rebrand, and they want our thoughts on some questions they have posed.

Click here to answer their survey.

# 40. Vacancies

# Speaking Truth to Power Development Coordinator

Church Action on Poverty have the above role to fill. Details of the vacancy are available on their <u>website</u>.

# THE LAST WORD

#### 41. Dignity, Agency, Power - Online Book Launch Event



Church Action on Poverty have drawn on 40 years of experience to create an inspiring collection of poems; prayers, hymns and liturgies; Stories of people's real experiences and struggles against poverty and much more besides.

This is a book that is an invaluable resource for churches and individuals who want to be part of the movement to end UK poverty.

Register for the online book launch event on Wednesday 8th June, from 7.30pm to 8pm.

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Independent Catholic News Find Justice and Peace stories at: http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/justice-peace-environment Sign 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

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#### 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.

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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 <u>http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/</u>

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