NJPN E-Bulletin 10th July 2022



We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace."

(Pope Francis)

Dear Friends,

Well, what a week it has been in politics. Despite all of the lies, resignations, and all of the furore, things are just the same as they were this time last week. Boris Johnson, probably the most disliked Prime Minister in my lifetime - and certainly the least trustworthy when it comes to telling the truth - is still in charge and will be for several months. The only difference is that most of the Cabinet has changed (instead of A-listers, we now seem to have Z-listers apologies if one of them is your MP, but most of them many of us have never heard of). There will now be months of wrangling and mud-slinging from both sides of the House, which will certainly take everyone's attention away from the important job in hand of running the country, at a time when we need ideas and leadership. Interesting, but probably very frustrating times ahead.

This weekend we celebrate Sea Sunday, and we lead with this as our Action of the Week. Seafarers and fishers are often forgotten when we talk about everyday heroes, but with many foodstuffs and goods being imported across the sea they deserve our thanks and support.

The next e-bulletin will be around 4 weeks time as we have the NJPN Conference in a fortnight (more details below), and I am then away on holiday the following weekend. If you are submitting articles to be included, please bear this in mind.

I look forward to meeting some of you at the Conference, and if we have already met, I look forward to catching up with you again! God bless,

Sharon (Editor)

E-Bulletin Contents: -

ACTION OF THE WEEK

News and Comment

- 1. NJPN Annual Conference
- 2. Plastic-Free July (includes an Action)
- 3. Climate/Environment (including an Event and Actions with one for this Monday)

- 4. Refugees/Migrants (includes an Action)
- 5. Pilgrimage on the Margins
- 6. Save the Children call for global response to famine
- 7. Christians in Syria heading for humanitarian disaster
- 8. 200 million free meals
- 9. Synod News
- 10. Peace Issues

Newsletters

- 11. NW NJPN E-Bulletin July and mid-July 2022
- 12. Boaz News June 2022
- 13. Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility June 2022
- 14. Salesians of Don Bosco Justice and Peace June 2022
- 15. Laudato Si' Movement July's Encounter
- 16. Green Christian News
- 17. Christian CND
- **18. London Mining Network**
- 19. Operation Noah June 2022
- 20. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
- 21. Talitha Kum Annual Report 2021

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

- 22. ***11th July*** Southern Dioceses Environment Network
- 23. ***14th July*** Catholic Association for Racial Justice Workshop
- 24. 20th July Ecoparks Faith Open Evening
- 25. 20th July Resisting Mining Book Club
- 26. 22nd 24th July NJPN Annual Conference
- 27. 23rd July Catholic Association for Racial Justice Workshop

28. 4th August - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Workshop
29. 20th August - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Workshop
30. 1st September - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Workshop
31. 2nd - 4th September - We Move:

Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit 32. 3rd September - Green Christian On the Road in Dronfield 33. 3rd September - Mass for the Season of Creation 34. 17th September - JPIC Golden Jubilee Celebration 35. 17th September - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Workshop 36. 24th September - NJPN Open Networking Day 37. 7th - 8th October - Green Christian Conference 38. 12th November - NJPN Open Networking Day

39. Pope Francis on Justice and Peace

Actions

40. LGPS Divest: Write to your Councillors

41. Business and Human Rights: Protect against abuse

The Last Word

42. 'Stranger Things' brings Kate Bush's Catholic hope to a new generation

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

ACTION OF THE WEEK



SEA SUNDAY 2022 - 10th July

If you attend church this weekend, in the Gospel you will hear about the love and care that the Good Samaritan showed to the stranger that he found upon the road. For seafarers and fishers, Stella Maris is that Good Samaritan. It has chaplains and volunteers in ports all over the world. They are a friend for seafarers and fishers, in good times and bad.

Concern for the welfare of the stranger, and the value of friendship to those who are far from home, is exactly the reason why Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, was established over 100 years ago. And today this has never been more relevant.

In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many seafarers are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and worse mental health. And the war in Ukraine has added to crew shortages and shipping turmoil.

So today, please remember seafarers and fishers in your prayers. Thank God for them and the vital role that they play in our lives, often working in difficult, hazardous conditions. Please pray for the Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers who ensure that seafarers will always have a friend in port. Catholic charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) provides pastoral and spiritual support to seafarers and fishers. Your prayers and support are greatly needed. To support the charity's work, please go to www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate

Thank you!

In a related article: -

Stella Maris backs Vatican's urgent call to grant all seafarers shore leave

Nathanial Xavier from <u>Independent Catholic News</u> has reported that the Vatican have issued a statement saying that some governments and some shipping companies must no longer use the pandemic "as an excuse" for banning the crew from going ashore.

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. NJPN Annual Conference

Regular readers to this e-bulletin will be aware that our Annual Conference takes place between the 22nd and 24th July at <u>The Hayes Conference</u> <u>Centre</u> in Derbyshire. Not only is it a beautiful setting, which in itself gives you a sense of peace, but the Conference line-up of speakers and workshops will send you away wanting to do more, and the tools with which to do so.

Details on how to book **(and it's not too late!)**, and of the Speakers, are included in the Conference Section of the <u>NJPN website</u>, and the Workshops are as follows: -

- issues of domestic poverty and universal credit,
- Guardians of Creation,
- Restoring Dignity to Prisoners and their families,
- Interfaith working,
- Church Action for Tax Justice,
- Synodal listening,
- The work of Stella Maris Chaplains.

My son and I sat down last weekend and it took us an hour to choose the workshops to attend. How do you choose with such a great line-up! We very much look forward to meeting you there.

2. Plastic-Free July (including an Action)

This month we can join with millions of people all choosing to refuse singleuse plastics. More details are available from the <u>Plastic-Free July</u> <u>website</u>. You can sign up to get plastic-free ideas into your inbox. As an aside, <u>Wicked Leeks</u> have done an investigation into where the supermarket soft plastic collections really go. It shows that these schemes are not all they are cracked up to be.

Action - Don't Bank on Plastics

Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility write: - Many of us are reducing our own single-use plastic waste as part of our care for creation. But what's less well known is the connection between our banks and the plastics industry. UK banks are heavily involved in financing the world's biggest plastic producers and polluters. We need banks to be part of the solution and support the transition to a world without plastic pollution.

Can you help us mobilise people to take action through our new Money Makes Change campaign – <u>Don't Bank on Plastics?</u>

3. Climate/Environment (includes an Event and Actions)

Urgent Action - Tell your MP to attend the Windfall Tax Debate ***taking place this Monday, 11th July***

Greenpeace write: - Boris Johnson has resigned as Prime Minister - but still plans to rush through a half-baked windfall tax on Monday. Instead of helping people with a long-term solution to the worsening cost of living crisis, his government is trying to funnel money back to fossil fuel companies.

For more details, and to email your MP asking them to attend the debate, <u>click here.</u>

Catholic institutions join global divestment announcement

<u>The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales</u> reported on the 5th July: - *In a challenge to the fossil fuel industry's dangerous expansion plans and increasingly empty rhetoric on climate, 35 faith institutions from seven countries – including five Church of England dioceses, two Catholic dioceses in the UK, and a Church of England cathedral – today announced their divestment from fossil fuel companies. In total, 19 of the 35 institutions divesting are from the UK.*

Organised by Operation Noah, Laudato Si' Movement, the World Council of Churches, Green Anglicans and GreenFaith, this latest divestment announcement comes from faith institutions in Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, the UK and the US, just three weeks before Anglican bishops from around the world gather for the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference in Canterbury.

Click on the link above to read the full article.

Action - Tell the UK government to stop the Jackdaw gas field

Friends of the Earth are part of a coalition to end all fossil fuel extraction. Action Network write: - *The UK government is considering approval of a new gas field in the North Sea - Jackdaw. But extracting more fossil fuels is not the answer to soaring energy bills or the climate crisis. The UK government must reject Jackdaw and all new oil and gas projects.*

Jackdaw is located 155 miles off the coast of Aberdeen. It's 100% owned and operated by Shell. A company who, amidst astronomical rises in energy bills for households, recently announced a record £14.2 billion in profit.

You can sign the petition to the government here.

UK Food Waste

According to Katie Hill from My Green Pod, surplus food redistribution is up in the UK, but still 200,000 tonnes of food goes uneaten. In 2021, thanks to the combined efforts of UK retailers, food manufacturers, hospitality and food service businesses and the voluntary sector there was an increase of 16% in the redistribution of food. Katie writes: - *More than 106,000 tonnes of surplus food – the equivalent of 253 million meals – were redistributed via charitable and commercial outlets, with a value of more than* £330 *million.*

The full article, including words from <u>WRAP</u> (who are involved in food waste prevention work) and details on the <u>Felix Project</u> is available <u>here</u>.

Planting trees for the Planet's benefit

Vatican News has reported on the work of the Alberitalia Foundation, responding to climate change and the increasing atmospheric pollution that is poisoning the Planet. They are '*Reconnecting rural areas, mountains, plains, urban space – reconstructing woodlands and forests, placing with care the right trees in the right places, creating 'ecological pathways' able to recreate the natural beauty of world communities'.* There is lots of interesting information in the article here.

Action - Tell rich countries to pay for their climate damages

Global Justice Now are asking that we petition the government telling them to pay for the damage that our carbon emissions are doing to the environment, thus impacting on the climate issues in the global south. Join in <u>here.</u>

Fears environment bills could be side-lined amid Tory leadership race

Like the rest of us, The Guardian have expressed concern as to how much will not get done with all of the efforts and energies of the government now focusing on the leadership contest. In particular, they are looking at the various environmental legislation, including the land management scheme, and the highly protected marine areas consultation. Read the article <u>here</u>.

Event - The Great Big Green Week

Advance notice that this will be happening between the 24th September and the 2nd October. <u>Be part of it!</u>

Adapt sustainable development planning to address climate change

This article in <u>ACI Africa</u> really covers both the climate and refugee headings, as an official of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the East Africa region has produced a report which lists 'deforestation, flooding, drought and soil erosion as some of the observable effects of climate change in Africa.' These issues result in climate-enforced displacement.

Mr Dee Dungy says : - "Environmental protection, and consequently sustainable development, require that both women and men be actively involved, including through daily activities aimed at preserving natural resources and through participation in local and high-level environmental decision-making." Click on the link above to read it in full.

4. Refugees/Migrants (includes Actions)

Building the future with Migrants and Refugees

In advance of World Day for Migrants and Refugees on the 25th September, Pope Francis has appeared in a new <u>Video</u>, which highlights the importance of the contribution that migrants and refugees give to the socio-economic growth of societies welcoming them in.

Pope Francis is asking all of us: *How can we promote the development of the potential of migrants and refugees?*

We are all invited to respond to his question by emailing a short video or photo to media@migrants-refugees.va, or by following <u>World Day of</u>

<u>Migrants and Refugees</u> on social media and reply directly to the question posted on it. The best answers will be part of the campaign.

What I learned about service and unconditional love will last a lifetime

Abi Aswege, through <u>America Magazine</u>, writes about the time she spent with Afghan refugees, volunteering through her Law School. She describes her experiences working with them, and the trials and tribulations that they had gone through at the hands of the Taliban. She writes: - *It dawned on me as I worked with our guests that, in spite of the barriers I overcame to get there, at least I had the opportunity to access higher education.*

Action - Stop Rwanda



Care4Calais write: - On 19 July we will be back in court to determine whether the Government's Rwanda plan is lawful. This will be an incredibly important case for the future refugee rights in the UK. Our lawyers will argue:

• There is compelling evidence, provided by UNHCR, that Rwanda is not a safe country for refugees.

- There is a risk that refugees human rights may be breached in Rwanda.
- It is against international refugee law to penalise refugees for their unlawful arrival in a country.
- UNHCR have provided evidence that asylum seekers will not get a fair hearing in Rwanda.
- The procedure that has been used to decide to send people to Rwanda may not have been fair.

We are currently working with 24 people who have been detained and issued with notices since the last court case, and many of those from last time still remain in detention now. We heard today that the first woman has been detained and issued with a Rwanda notice.

We also understand that a second flight is now being prepared, a source of great fear for all those at risk.

We need your help to show the Government this is not what British people want. Please act now.

Here's what you can do:

1. <u>Download the icon</u> and save it as your profile picture on social media

2. Download or make a <u>#StopRwanda card</u> and take picture of yourself and/or your friends holding it. Post the pic on your social channels and tag us @care4calais, and send your pic to

us stoprwanda@care4calais.org

3. <u>Buy your t shirt</u>, take a photo, post it on socials, wear it out and about, talk about it and

wear it to the demo!

4. Make sure you repost any social media posts again on 19 July using the #StopRwanda hashtag.

19 July is the day we most need to be heard!

5. Demonstrate!

Join a demonstration: Tuesday 19 July, 9am to 5pm

Outside the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL There will be further demos around the country. For details of these and other actions you can take go to <u>care4calais.org/stop-rwanda/</u>

Rwanda asylum initiative 'Treating people like landfill'

Jenny Rossiter, from <u>Independent Catholic News</u>, reports on the speech given by Rev. Sam Wells at St. Martin in the Fields, London, on World Refugee Day. Rev. Sam dismantled the Government's Rwanda policy, and refuted the Government's claims that Rwanda was a safe country. He asked, "safe for whom?"

The prophesy of Lampedusa

Vatican News write: - On 8 July, nine years ago, a few months after the beginning of his Petrine ministry, the Holy Father made his first Apostolic Journey, when he traveled to Lampedusa. The trip was also a message because in those few hours spent on the island symbolizing the drama of migrants in the Mediterranean, Pope Francis testified with gestures and signs what he meant by the "Church which goes forth."

The heart of the visit was clearly the plight of migrants. Pope Francis, however, on that occasion, delivered a homily that broadened his gaze moving from that island and what it meant at that moment. That homily today is striking to re-read - and even more to re-listen to - in light of what is happening in recent months in Ukraine under Russian attack, as well as in every more or less remote corner of the Earth where wars unleash - release from shackles - that Cain-like spirit of killing, instead of the spirit of peace.

The full story is available through Vatican News.

Texas: more than 50 people die in migrant truck tragedy

Jo Siedlecka, of <u>Independent Catholic News</u>, highlights the tragedy of the 50 or so people who died trying to cross from Mexico into the United States recently, bringing back memories of our own migrant tragedy where 39 Vietnamese men and women were found dead in the back of a truck in Essex.

Cynthia Gonzalez of the Columbans is quoted as saying: - "Policies like Title 42 and 'Remain in Mexico,' as well as the militarization of the US/MX border, prevent migrants from accessing their fundamental right to seek safety in our country. By creating a policy labyrinth that is nearly impossible to navigate, we force migrants into increasingly desperate situations that often make them even more vulnerable to danger and criminal abuse. What happened in San Antonio is another reminder that an immigration system built without justice and mercy kills."

Her words apply just as much over here as they do in the States. May the souls of those who have died trying to cross any border, or into any country, rest in peace.

Action - Words of Hope

Freedom from Torture write: - *With everything going on right now, torture survivors need our support more than ever. Many survivors arrive here without a support system, feeling alone and confused at what their future might hold. They arrive in a country with a government that wants them to believe they're not welcome here.*

You can show torture survivors how welcome they are by <u>taking 2</u> <u>minutes</u> to send a message today.

5. Pilgrimage on the Margins

This year it is Church Action on Poverty's 40th Anniversary, and there have been various events going on to mark this occasion, involving hundreds of people.

In ten places around the UK, as part of Pilgrimage on the Margins, people are journeying with marginalised people and communities, listening, reflecting and sharing dreams of change and transformation. You can see some of those events <u>here.</u>

6. Save the Children call for global response to famine

Vatican News report that Save the Children has allocated a record amount of US\$28.5 million to deal with the current food crisis affected several countries in the world, and they say that the number of people suffering from hunger has doubled in the last two years. <u>Vatican</u> <u>News</u> quotes Save the Children as saying *"We know how to treat malnutrition and we know how to prevent it, we only need a united global response to stop this famine"* From a personal point of view, I hear about people like Elon Musk wanting to pay out (or not!) \$44bn for Twitter - and I wonder why all of that money cannot be put to better use...

7. Christians in Syria heading for humanitarian disaster

Obviously Syria is one of those countries mentioned in the Vatican News report above, but in particular, Christians in the region are suffering from persecution as well as poverty. <u>ICN</u> have reported on an event that took place on the 5th July 2022, the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief, in which Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq, and Sister Annie Demerjian of Aleppo, Syria, described the precarious position of Christians in the region. The same Sister Annie, also through <u>ICN</u>, has spoken about a 'big bomb of hunger' that is exploding across Syria.

8. 200 million free meals

Katie Hill from My Green Pod reports on Olio's (the free sharing App) ambitious plans to work with FareShare to save and redistribute 200 million meals over the next year, with support from major UK businesses including Tesco, One Stop, Planet Organic and many more.

Olio want other businesses to follow suit and join in the initiative to help tackle the food waste problem, and that of the cost of living crisis by providing surplus food rather than letting it go to waste. Click <u>here</u> for more details.

9. Synod News

Synod National Synthesis England and Wales

The 'National Synthesis' has now been produced by the Team that has been reflecting and collating the responses since they were received just before Holy Week. It makes very interesting reading, and after reading my own parishes responses to the questions that were posed of them, most of the themes running through this document are very similar. Read it through the CBCEW website <u>here.</u>

10. Peace Issues The UK's ramshackle approach to defence spending is doing little to encourage a safer world

Joseph Kelly of The Catholic Network has set out a good article about the money wasted by successive Governments on things that have been scrapped, the money promised by the Government, and quotes Pope Francis on the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The article finishes with the paragraph: - *A meaningful and equally public commitment to promoting global peace strategies, human dignity and dialogue between all nations would do a great deal more to diffuse our increasingly unstable world.*

Read the full article here.

How do we stop the Arms Trade?

Paul McGowan, of the Justice and Peace Group in Coventry, writes for ICN about the problem they have faced in the form of investments made by the West Midlands Pension Fund. This Fund exists to provide for the needs of the employees of the seven District Councils of the region. It therefore draws money from Council Tax revenues to pay into the Fund.

Read the rest of the article through <u>ICN</u>, and then possibly take action yourselves with your local Council.

Hundreds attend Funeral Mass for Bruce Kent

I couldn't bring this Peace section to a close without reporting on the funeral of Bruce Kent, a giant in the world of Peace issues. <u>ICN</u> (by Jo Siedlecka) have a report on the Mass itself, including a link to the video of the funeral, with a separate link to the words said by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon.

Also, <u>Ann Farr of Pax Christi</u>, gave a tribute to Bruce Kent during an online memorial on the 7th July.

Newsletters

11. NW NJPN Newsletter July and mid-July 2022

Anne O'Connor produced the mid-July issue just as the coup against Boris Johnson happened. She looks at the turmoil in British politics, CAFOD's Fix the Food System, and leads with an opinion piece by peace activist and writer, David Gee. You can read both issues through the <u>NJPN website</u>.

12. Boaz News June 2022

There is a garden theme running through their <u>newsletter</u> this month.

13. Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility June 2022

Various campaigns and actions. You can read it here.

14. Salesians of Don Bosco Justice and Peace June 2022

A single sheet newsletter, focusing on human rights this month, with their organisation of the month being Christian Solidarity Worldwide. Download it <u>here.</u>

15. Laudato Si' Movement - July's Encounter

Read their monthly prayer guide here.

16. Green Christian News

How to get involved, details of their Conference and various other items. Read it <u>here.</u>

17. News from Christian CND

Details on the meeting about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear

Weapons, the Service remembering Hiroshima in August, and other things besides. Read it <u>here.</u>

18. News from London Mining Network

Lots of news, campaigns and events coming up. It can be read online <u>here.</u>

19. Operation Noah June 2022

Watch their recent webinars, and read about the latest climate news here.

20. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Bible Study, the churches opinions on Rwanda and Ukraine, plus more besides. Available <u>here.</u>

21. Talitha Kum Annual Report 2021

A <u>summary</u> of the activities of the past year and an outline of the commitments for the years to come.

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

22. 11th July - 12.45pm - 2pm - Southern Dioceses Environment Network Season of Creation and COP27

23. 14th July - 6pm - Catholic Association for Racial Justice White Paper – Opportunity for All: Strong Schools with Great Teachers for your Child *Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk*

24. 20th July - 5.30pm - 8pm - Footsteps EcoPark Faiths Open Evening (Birmingham) 25. 20th July - 6pm - 8pm - London Mining Network Resisting Mining Book Club: The Extractive Zone

26. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up.

27. 23rd July - 10am - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act/Police Race Action Plan Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk

28. 4th August - 6pm - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Proposals to Reform the Human Rights Act Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk

29. 20th August - 10am - Catholic Association for Racial Justice Report on the Historical Roots of the Windrush Scandal/Nationality and Borders Act *Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk*

30. 1st September - 6pm - Catholic Association for Racial Justice RCN Employment Survey 2021: Workforce Diversity and Employment Experiences *Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk*

31. 2nd - 4th September - The Runnymede Trust

We Move: Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit

32. 3rd September - 9.30am - 3.30pm - Green Christian On the Road Together in Dronfield

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. 17th September -10am - Catholic Association for Racial Justice

Private Rented Sector White Paper / Social Housing Regulation

Bill (as trailed in the Queens Speech) / The Grenfell Inquiry *Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk*

36. 24th September - NJPN

Open Networking Day hosted by Darlington with Middlesborough, on the topic of refugees/migrants

37. 7th-8th October – Green Christian Conference

(at the time of producing the e-bulletin, the Green Christian website appears to be down. Please keep trying!)

38. 12th November - NJPN

Open Networking Day - London/South East tbc

39. Videos from Justice and Peace Scotland

Dr Duncan MacLaren presenting Pope Francis' attitude to justice and peace matters.

Actions

40. LGPS Divest: Write to your Councillors

Palestine Solidarity Campaign write: - Yesterday marked the 17th anniversary of the historic statement from Palestinians calling on people of conscience around the world to show solidarity through campaigns to boycott and divest from companies involved in Israel's oppression of Palestinians, and to push for sanctions on the state of Israel to help bring down apartheid.

Help us mark this anniversary by <u>asking your local councillors</u> to push for divestment from companies involved in Israel's attacks on Palestinians (or share the e-action with your friends if you have already taken it).

41. Business and Human Rights: Protect against abuse

Anti-Slavery write: - World Chocolate Day was on Thursday...delicious, tasty and moreish – who doesn't love chocolate? But there's a darker side to our favourite treat.

Every year, small farms in West Africa produce 70% of the world's cocoa beans. The two largest producers, Ivory Coast and Ghana, produce more than half the world's cocoa. It's estimated that 30,000 people in these countries alone get forced to work on plantations. Children as young as five get trafficked and sold to make chocolate for global companies.

That's why <u>our petition</u> is calling for a new UK law to ensure companies' supply chains are free from modern slavery. The current law isn't strong enough so many businesses are profiting from people's suffering.

This petition is a first step in getting a new law because it shows Parliament that the public want it. So please tell your friends and family about it by sharing it on Facebook or Twitter. It'll only take you a few clicks.

THE LAST WORD

42. 'Stranger Things' brings Kate Bush's Catholic hope to a new generation

Some of you, possibly as a result of pressure from your offspring (hands up here!) may have been following the Netflix series 'Stranger Things', which ended on a bit of a cliffhanger recently. Throughout the last couple of very lengthy episodes, Kate Bush's 'Running Up that Hill' has been playing, and rocketed the song back into the charts (originally released in 1985, many of you will remember it from the first time around).

In this piece from <u>America Magazine</u>, Kate Bush explains that it is actually a religious song. What a great way to introduce God to a pop culture generation.

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NEWS LINKS

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 <u>www.catholicnews.org.uk</u>

Latest Zenit Headlines here

Vatican News homepage: www.vaticannews.va

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

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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.

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

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make a bacs payment to our account: Sort code 16-31-15 account 10089516 reference Donation with your surname or our CAF donate

page: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8130#!/DonationDetails

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