



Justice and Peace

Autumn 2022

Editor writes: There are signs of hope in our troubled world. The NPJN Conference in July at Swanwick focused on hope as something positive and active. Those of us who were fortunate to be able to go were inspired by the many people who are working in such varied ways to build a just, peaceful and sustainable future for us all. The joy of meeting in person again means we not only hear the speakers in the main hall but in our individual encounters in workshops, at meals, in the Just Fair hall and around the Centre, we learn of activities large and small with which individuals and groups are involved. They may not make the main podium as speakers but they encourage and inspire us nevertheless. At the end of the conference we were given paper and coloured pens and in groups 'dared to dream' of the future. If you missed the Conference you can catch up with some of the speakers <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>.

Putting together this Mouthpeace I had the same positive feeling to counterbalance the usual sad gloomy news on the media. Good things are quietly going on in our areas - people are coming together to get things done not just here in the UK but in various parts of our world. There is hope and as Christians we have a responsibility to share this with others.



In this issue

- P.2 Season of Creation St Alban's Macclesfield J & P events
- P. 3 Exploring Environmental Activity in Lancashire
- P. 4 Season of Creation resources Countdown to COP 27 Walk2COP27
- P.5 Fracking Support Creation of Loss and Damgae Fund Pax Christi Autumn Events
- P.6 Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel - Pax Christi Cards Rev Mary Gregory talk
- Book 'Peace is a Doing Word' Christian CND AGM and Conference
- P.7 CND Conference Debt Justice Migrants and Refugees 'Faith and Frontiers' online conference
- P. 8 Prisoners Sunday Prisons week Prison Governors Journal - book
- P.9 Making Sense of Sentencing for Serious Crime – report 3 Prophets of Today Faith Justice Network
- P.10 Just Peace weekend in Wythenshawe P.10 & 11 Burma Report
- P.12 Shchedryk Children's Choir – Ukraine Preparation Days World Day of Prayer P. 13 Diary

Archdiocese of Liverpool J & P Commission

Chair: Justine Silcock

j-p@rcaolp.co.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/jpliverpooljp>



www.twitter.com/@liverpooljandp

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission

Sue Gubric

[email: lfjsue@gmail.com](mailto:lfjsue@gmail.com)

Shrewsbury Diocese Editor of MouthPeace Marian Thompson 37 Dale Road, Marple Stockport SK6 6EZ

0161 427 7254

marian37et@gmail.com

The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury

www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk

<https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk



Listen to the Voice of creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

"I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings ...Come, now! I will send you...I will be with you"

Keith Taylor St Alban's J & P group Macclesfield writes: Drought, wild fires, 40C temperatures, flash floods, plastic in the fish we eat, polluted rivers and seas, these are constantly in the news headlines. Surely we should be paying attention. We can't go on like this. God's Creation, our Common Home is telling us something.

Already in 2015 Pope Francis said so in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. And he invited us not to forget by instituting the annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This year the symbol of the Season is the burning bush which reminds us that the fire calling to Moses did not consume or destroy it and that God heard the cries of all those who suffered, the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor.

In the Season of Creation Christians come together in initiatives of prayer, sustainability and advocacy. Again St Alban's J&P Group joins with other Churches in the Macclesfield area to propose a programme of reflection, enjoyment, learning and action for us all. The season starts with the annual World Day of Prayer on 1st September and ends on the Feast Day of the patron of the environment - Francis of Assisi - Tuesday 4th October

In the Programme something is proposed for each of the 34 days – an action or a theme for personal reflection.

New events: We have celebrated the Season for a number of years. This year's programme includes some innovations. They include an outdoor prayer meeting at an endangered nature reserve, a petition signing at Macclesfield Treacle Market (and perhaps a meeting with our MP), talks on the impact of climate of our food and our clothes. As usual It's a mixture of personal challenge to thought and action with a strong element of working together in the parish and across all local churches and local organisations

Thursday 1st September 7.00pm Prayer Service at Danes Moss Endangered largest & highest lowland raised bog in Cheshire. Meet at footpath on Moss Lane SK11 7XE opposite Craig Road—on street parking

Thursday 15th September 7.30pm Clothes Swap—"Swap not Shop"Exchange up to 5 items of good quality clothes you no longer need for new ones St. Alban's Church, Chester Road SK11 8JD

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September 1.30—4.30pm Heritage Weekend "Astounding Inventions" Come and see the beautiful Grade II listed Pugin church and the art and photography display dedicated to the Season of Creation St Alban's Church, Chester Road SK11 8DJ

Sunday 18th September 2.00pm Creation Walk A walk to appreciate God's creation Sutton Reservoir, SK11 0LD Meet at Sutton Reservoir, Leek Old Road SK11 0LD

Sunday 25th September Reflective Service 4.30pm "In the beginning" encounter the God of Creation in readings, music, stillness and prayer St. Peter's Church, Prestbury SK10 4DG

Interactive Prayer Room focusing on creation and the effects of climate change and pollution on our planet 9am to 8pm everyday from Sunday 25th until 2nd October Holy Trinity Church, Hursdsfield Road, SK10 2PX

Tuesday 27th September 7.30pm Fast Fashion—Talk on the impact of buying clothes on the environment and how we should respond St Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY

Sunday 2nd October Harvest Mass—9.30am St Albans Church, Chester Road SK11 8JD Bring some food items to donate to local people who would otherwise go hungry

And "All Creation sings": Holy Communion Service for the Season of Creation—10.30 am St. Peter's Church, Prestbury SK10 4D

For Further information The calendar of the daily suggestion is freely available in printed form and also on line at <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation-calendar-2022/> The Season's Programme Coordinator is Bernadette Bailey, 07831 647 928 dwbailey@btopenworld.com

EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY IN LANCASHIRE

Sr Anthony Macdonald writes:

'The underlying perspective of 'Laudato Si' is that every molecule of creation is sacred' Brian Grogan SJ (Finding God in a Leaf) A similar sentiment obviously inspired the group of people from different denominations (mentored by Jenny Griggs from Natural England) who approached our Faith & Justice Worker (Sue Grubic) to join with them in exploring the environmental activity in our area commencing with the 'Green Wall' in Lancaster University.



We were warmly greeted by the librarian who took us first of all to view a tree planted in a large open area. It belonged to the ficus family and thrived in an indoor setting. Next the 'Green Wall'. Everyone was impressed by this living wall of plants and the sound of water trickling through the leaves. How fortunate were the students studying in that area! It was remarked how tranquil and soothing an atmosphere was created by this living wall of plants.

One person commented on the effect such a wall would have if in a hospital. Others felt that offices, schools and Care Homes would benefit. We all agreed that it would lower stress levels. Once set up a great deal of maintenance would not be required.

Our next port of call was Nazareth House where we enjoyed our lunch in the large conservatory. Following lunch, and a delicious blackberry sponge provided by the chef, Sister Anthony gave a brief history of the house and led us in exploring the grounds. Much has been done to create an environmentally friendly area. There is a large pond where at present, a family of moorhens have taken up residence following on from two families of mallard ducks. Dragonflies danced on the surface of the pond and there was obviously an active population of insects living beneath the surface. Surrounding the pond was a woodland walk where the grass has been mown to create paths. Large areas left uncut provide shelter for small mammals and wild flowers to grow. In a shady woodland area the Community Payback team created a pathway which made it accessible for the Nursery children to explore

In passing Sister Anthony explained that much of the land, given by Margaret Coulson was originally used as a farming area for cattle. When the lease expired Sister Louis Marie, local Superior contacted the Nature Conservation Group who planted native trees over a large area. How grateful we are today for her foresight.

Hedgehog 'winter lodgings' have been erected in the woods and the area near the road fenced off to prevent these declining mammals from straying into danger. A large area, formerly a football field, has been leased to Lune Valley Beekeepers. They have created, during the past four years, a wildflower meadow. About fifteen hives have been set up and they host an open Day in July each year. The main drive is filled with bee friendly plants as is the Sensory Garden just outside the Residents Lounge (I hasten to add that no one has been stung!)

The visit ended with a prayer of thanksgiving for the beauty of the day and the inspiration all of us received.

'Every creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, God's boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God'.(84)

This quotation from 'Laudato Si' summed up our feelings. 'Meeting others dedicated to saving our planet renewed our determination to do all we can to encourage others to join in caring for our beautiful world.'

You may think there is little YOU can do but actually, just planting a bee loving plant such a lavender can make all the difference!. Do try it!



Sue Gubric writes: **Thank you so much Sister Anthony Macdonald !**

Sister Anthony Macdonald has recently retired from the Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission after 8 years of dedicated service. The Commission would like to wish her every blessing and extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all her hard work and continued support during her time with us.

Lancaster Diocese is looking forward to celebrating the Season of Creation. Parishes and Schools will be promoting our Charter on the Care of Creation and celebrating the Season through reflection, prayer and action!

Additional resources for the Season of Creation can be found on the CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Season-of-Creation>

Also the NW NJPN e bulletin for mid August produced by Anne O'Connor includes the message from Pope Francis for September 1st with a helpful summary, the prayer for the Season of Creation 2022 and links to the Laudato Si' Movement, the Anglican Alliance, A Rocha and others who have produced interesting material for the season <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-north-west/nw-njpn-e-bulletin-for-mid-august-2022/>



COUNTDOWN TO COP27 UN Climate Conference November 7-18 2022

COP27 is due to take place in the coastal town of Sharm al-Sheikh, on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Alok Sharma MP, the Glasgow COP26 president from the UK, continues to play a key role leading up to COP27. It is very important that Churches speak up and hold the UK government to account for delivering and building on COP26 commitments at COP27. This is a key chance to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Climate change is a global environmental problem, and we have learnt that the UK Government is failing to do what is needed to comply with its obligations. The June 2022 Progress Report of the Climate Change Committee - the UK's independent advisor on tackling climate change - warned that "current programmes will not deliver Net Zero." Indeed, all governments should be concentrating on a rapid and massive reduction of carbon emissions to allow us to keep to the 1.5°C recommended in the 2015 Paris Agreement and underlined at COP26.

Many hope that with Egypt hosting COP27 it will give a more powerful voice to African countries, which are among those most affected by climate change. However, the way in which the world responds to the climate emergency is crucial to all our futures. With the likelihood that countries will be asked at COP27 to ramp up their pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions within a year, instead of waiting another five, it is urgent that the UK steps up its domestic action before then to be in a position to commit more internationally.

Speaking at Chatham House in June 2022, COP26 President, Alok Sharma MP said: *"Unless we honour the promises made, to turn the commitments in the Glasgow Climate Pact into action, they will wither on the vine."*

You can contact Alok Sharma MP at alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk and also your own MP. To help, suggestions for your correspondence are on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45206>



Walk2COP27 Glasgow (COP26 to Sharm El-Sheikh COP27)

This initiative starts on the 1st September and ends in November. It is a virtual walk, whereby participants can sign up to walk, run, cycle or wheelchair as far as they can cover over the 45 days, in their chosen location.

Each country en route is hosting a hybrid or virtual Townhall meeting that showcases the way climate change is impacting that location and the solutions that are being deployed. The Townhalls will also include an update on Walk2COP27 and a deep dive on a particular COP27 issue. More details are available through their website. <https://www.walk2cop27.com/>

TELL THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER NOT TO LIFT THE FRACKING BAN



The government's dash for fossil fuels has taken a dangerous new turn. Candidates for the next prime minister - Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak - have both declared that they want to revive the failed fracking industry. Even though their government was forced to ban fracking following a series of earthquakes in 2019.

Amid a cost-of-living crisis and record-breaking temperatures, the next prime minister must prioritise affordable renewable energy and home insulation, not dangerous fossil fuel extraction. Fracking won't meaningfully lower our energy bills. But it will be terrible for our climate. We do have a real chance to stop it though. Both candidates claim their support for fracking depends on local communities backing it too. Let's make sure the next prime minister hears loud and clear that no one wants fracking on their doorstep.

Add your voice by signing the Friends of the Earth petition <https://action.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/tell-next-prime-minister-not-lift-fracking-ban?>



SUPPORT CREATION OF LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND AT COP27

The richest 10% globally have contributed seven times more carbon emissions than the poorest 50%. Blocs of countries, including the least developed countries and small island states, have regularly called for loss and damage finance at international talks. However, at COP26 and previous talks, rich countries have repeatedly blocked attempts to set up such a fund. At the latest climate talks in Bonn this June, rich countries tried to remove loss and damage from the agenda of COP27 altogether. With COP27 taking place in North Africa, there is growing pressure from the global climate justice movement to use this historic opportunity finally to set up a loss and damage fund. We need to stand in solidarity with the global south in their demands for loss and damage. Tell the UK government to pay for their polluting and support an international loss and damage fund!

<https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/tell-rich-countries-pay-their-climate-damages>



PAX CHRISTI ENGLAND AND WALES AUTUMN NEWS

There's a lot happening at Pax Christi in the next few months. We hope you will be able to join in with some of it! In addition to national initiatives, the Merseyside Pax Christi Group are hosting an event in Waterloo in October:

Saturday, October 15th 'Exploring Gospel Nonviolence' 9.45 for 10.00 a.m. start ending at 3.45 p.m.

All welcome to a day of prayer, reflection and optional sharing, to explore how we might 'live in the Light of Christ's peace' in these troubled times. There will be information about developments in the Catholic understanding of nonviolence and justpeace.

Organised by Merseyside Pax Christi.

Please bring food for a shared lunch; tea/coffee are provided

Suggested offering £10 or £5 unwaged

Venue: Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Rd L22 1RD (nearest station: Waterloo on Merseyrail)

For information and booking contact Jan Harper 07591 082195

email: janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

Days of Action for Nonviolence, 21 September – 2 October

This is a project of Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and Pax Christi International. What might you do?

- Celebrate the creativity of nonviolence. Can you bring a story or prayer for nonviolence and link it to one of the dates/events listed? Share and pray the Vow of Nonviolence on 2 October
 - Amplify the many ways in which Pope Francis is moving us in the direction of nonviolence at personal, national and global levels.
 - Explore the faith challenge of nonviolence. See below prayer and reflection card for personal or group use.
 - 1 September – 4 October, Season of Creation theme: Listen to the Voice of Creation.
 - 21 September, International Day of Peace
 - 15 – 22 September, Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel
 - 2 October, International Day of Nonviolence
- Use the nonviolence prayer & reflection card on this day in your home and parish.

See <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prayer-Vow-October-2022.pdf>

15 – 22 September, Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel

This card is to encourage us to 'pray, learn, act'. One side has an affirmation: Change is in the Air by Jan Sutch Pickard and the other side some useful resources and ideas for action you can take. Available at £3.00 for 50 cards from our shop.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/shop/>

Change is in the air: an affirmation

God-with-us, this world, your world, is in a state of constant and creative change; and within it, our human institutions, our nations, unstable, dynamic, heading for destruction:
Change is in the air.
Storm clouds swirl over mountains of the Land we call Holy; doves circle over a city of conflict, strangely named Peace:
Change is in the air.
Every morning, children run eagerly to school, in spite of all that could hold them back: in their hunger for learning, we see hope.
Change is in the air.
Women and men of different traditions journey together, witnessing to justice: in a way that rekindles our faith.
Change is in the air.

The old ask hard and honest questions; the young dance with joyful defiance: minds, homes, hands, hearts opening.
Change is in the air.
With love in action, change is in the air: God's love moving the world.
© Jan Sutch Pickard 1.7.22



Photos: Usama Nicola, Bethlehem

World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land.

Pray	Learn	Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pray and act for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel; arrange a service or time of prayer in your church, school or community;Order Pax Christi cards to give out;Invite speakers from Palestine to speak about 'Faith, Hope and Love in Action': Towards Justice in Palestine and Israel!;Reflect on where you see hope in Palestine and Israel;Share the stories on the Pax Christi website; put up a display, put in newsletters, use them in prayer time;More information on the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel from Pax Christi: https://tinyurl.com/bdhmy3m5 and from the World Council of Churches: https://tinyurl.com/7wpbe3r		

PAX CHRISTI
International Council of Churches for Peace

Pax Christi England and Wales, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY
020 8203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

As the 2022 Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel approaches in September, the World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land under the strapline Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine.

"The annual world week for peace in Palestine and Israel offers an opportunity for all of us to engage in active hope towards ending the occupation," said WCC acting general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca.

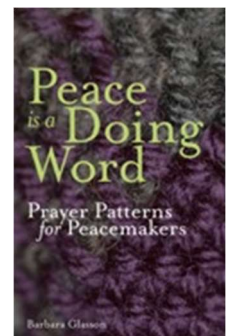


Advance notice: Pax Christi Advent Service this year will take place in London on Saturday 3 December.

Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon of Arts and Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral talked at the AGM on June 18th. If you did not manage to hear her you can read her talk <https://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/news-reports/news-reports-2022/>

Book review : Seventeen years ago Rev. Barbara Glasson with a group of fellow Methodists felt called to bring a Methodist presence back into Liverpool's City Centre. The grand Methodist Central Hall with its memories of stirring rallies and mission work had been sold in 1990. But times had moved on within the City and there was no perceived need for a Methodist monolith. Instead the small intimate Bread Church developed with breadmaking at its heart. See <https://www.somewhere-else.org.uk>. Barbara then moved to Bradford as leader of the Touchstone Centre, a Methodist led interfaith inner city project. In 2020 she became President of the Methodist Conference.

Her latest book 'Peace is a Doing Word – Prayer patterns for Peacemakers' gives a pattern for each day of the year using poetry, story and prayers to reflect on what practicing peace means in every moment of our daily lives. The book offers insights throughout the course of the day, from 'waking' to 'resting' and concludes each section with a blessing. There are questions for reflection which could be a starting point for personal growth or group discussions. The book aims to encourage a wide-ranging engagement with peace keeping and peace making for ordinary people in everyday life. Published by Sacristy Press. Buy from <https://paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/peace-books/>



CHRISTIAN CND AGM and CONFERENCE Saturday 1st October
C3 Church, Kempston Street, Liverpool L3 8HE 10.30 am – 3.30 pm
Join us for speakers, workshops and a chance to share together. Register for free ticket <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-cnd-agm-2022-tickets-402279888977>
Also available to take part in through Zoom.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrce6rqTgqHNIsfnRIEu4UYxNclr3hhjdz>

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NOT NUCLEAR WAR! CND annual conference and AGM online

Saturday October 8th CND's AGM and policy conference

Sunday October 16th The public conference for discussion and debate

To join Email: conference@cnduk.org <https://cnduk.org>



A NEW NAME The previous name, Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC) came from origins in the Jubilee 2000 campaign which was a movement that took the issue of debt to the forefront of mainstream politics in the years leading up to the millennium and after. As part of the global Jubilee campaign, JDC won \$130 billion of debt cancellation for lower income countries which led to significant improvements to public services such as healthcare and education. Though this was an important victory, the structural causes that keep debt crises

happening again and again, remained in place and so the now Debt Justice continues to campaign for systemic change. Read more <https://debtjustice.org.uk/>



GOOD NEWS We've recently heard that Ukraine's lenders have come to an agreement to suspend Ukraine's debt. This is fantastic news for the people of Ukraine. As war broke out in Ukraine earlier this year, Debt Justice supported the demands from civil society groups in Ukraine for debt cancellation. Thank you to those of you who supported this campaign - whether it's signing our petition, sharing our articles or helping us to spread the word. Together you have helped to push this issue onto the political agenda. The debt suspension will stop essential resources flowing out to

wealthy lenders at a time of serious humanitarian need. Read more <https://debtjustice.org.uk/news/campaign-success-cancel-ukraines-debt>

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

Every year the WDMR is the last Sunday of September; in 2022 it will be celebrated on 25 September. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees".

Pope Francis's message for 2022:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20220509-world-migrants-day-2022.html>

See also <https://nationaltoday.com/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>

FAITH AND FRONTIERS

Christian Responses to the Migration Crisis

This conference will explore the challenges to policy and practice that arise when people cross borders to seek sanctuary. Specifically, it addresses the question of what the Christian response to those who seek care and shelter in our country should be, and asks what insights can be derived from the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Saturday 17th September 2022
10:00-16:00
FREE ONLINE EVENT

Speakers include Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Dr Ulrich Schmiedel of the University of Edinburgh, an authority on religion and migration, and Rev Dr Keith Clements, a noted Bonhoeffer scholar. We will also be joined by groups who are currently working on the ground to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in Calais, Kent, and the North of England.

www.projectbonhoeffer.org.uk/events
contact@projectbonhoeffer.org.uk

'FAITH AND FRONTIERS' - CHRISTIAN RESPONSES TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

A free online conference on Saturday 17 September from 10am to 4pm. Arranged by Project Bonhoeffer. The speakers will include Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Dr Ulrich Schmiedel of the University of Edinburgh, an authority on religion and migration, and Rev Dr Keith Clements, a noted Bonhoeffer scholar, who will be joined by people from groups currently working to meet the needs of asylum seekers in Calais, Kent and the north of England.

The Project, set up in 2011, aims to inform and remind today's Christians - especially the young as well as the not-so-young - of the challenges of discipleship that Dietrich Bonhoeffer addressed in his radical theology and in the Christian witness that led to his execution by the Nazis at the end of the Second World War.

The project's events seek to enable people to put Christian faith into action in ways that make a positive difference in the world, engaging with the key social and political challenges we face. It encourages and resources theological reflection, conversation and community-building around Bonhoeffer's work and life and its implications for today.

The goal is not unlike that of the well-worn Pastoral Cycle, providing opportunities for people to think and to act - reflecting on faith ... and then doing something about it in the context in which they live and feel called to serve.

Book at: www.projectbonhoeffer.org.uk/events/

On Prisoners' Sunday the Catholic Church encourages everyone to reflect on and pray for prisoners and their families. Prisoners' Sunday is a time to think about how we as individuals, as a Church and as communities are serving those affected by imprisonment. Prisoners' families, prisoners and people with convictions often find themselves on the margins of our society. Yet Jesus challenges us with His words: *I was in prison and you came to me.*

Our work at Pact draws on the values of our faith: dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity. We believe that everyone can make a fresh start whatever they may have done. Bishop Richard Moth, Catholic Liaison Bishop for Prisons, writes to all parishes in the Pact Prisoners' Sunday Pack, to encourage support for this time of reflection and prayer everywhere on Prisoners' Sunday. We are grateful to parishes who are able to hold a second collection to support the work of Pact - and to individuals who may send a donation at this time. A second collection can also be arranged on an alternative date if that works better for your parish. Perhaps some supporters may be able to hold a simple Prisoners' Sunday fundraising event.

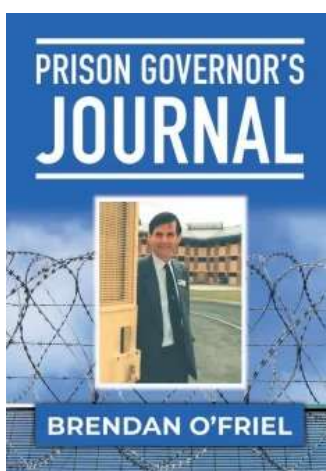
Find out about marking Prisoners' Sunday in your Church. <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Pages/Category/marking-prisoners-sunday> or contact Theresa Alessandro, Catholic Community Engagement Manager at parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

Prisoners' Sunday marks the first day of the ecumenical **PRISONS WEEK**, a dedicated week of prayer across our Christian communities. Prisons Week was founded by Bishop Victor Guazzelli in 1975. Since then, the Prisons Week group has prepared resources to enable the Christian community to pray for the needs of all those affected by imprisonment.



It's hard to be thankful when life feels hopeless, lonely or unfair. In saying 'thank you' for the small things, we realise they are often the big things – the new day that brings another chance, family, friends, the air we breathe, shelter, food, the kindness of a stranger, even the loyalty of a pet. This year's Gospel reading for Prisons Sunday shows us the far-reaching impact of thankfulness. (Luke 17 v. 11 -19) From a harsh, hopeless place on the edge of society, the lepers cry out in pain and despair. God answers their prayer through Jesus, already travelling and working in that hostile place. And Jesus does more than heal them physically, his compassion shows them that they are people loved and valued by God, who can be restored to community and freedom. But the Samaritan who returns to thank Jesus finds an even deeper, everlasting spiritual freedom, amazed by the power and willingness of Christ to make him fully whole – his joy and thanks come straight from the heart.

Pray with us each day in Prisons Week as we journey this year through hostility, stigma and despair to move towards hope with thankful hearts for all that is possible. We make our faith journey with Christ at our side, giving thanks to God, always and everywhere. Reflections and prayers for each day of the week <https://www.prisonweek.org/wp-content/uploads/PW2022-TEXT-ONLY-ENGLISH.pdf>



Prisons in England and Wales have weathered a succession of crises since 1947. Brendan O'Friel considers the impact of cell overcrowding and regime destruction on both staff and prisoners. The consequential inability to reduce re-offending, he argues, generates continuing threats to public safety. Drawing on his decades of service as a Governor, he explores some "unanswered questions" arising from the chronic prison crises. He provides insights into life within the seven penal establishments in which he served, including the "explosion of evil" – his story of the Strangeways riot of April 1990. From being involved in the difficult formation of the Prison Governors Association in 1987, he describes the work of the Association to influence and improve penal policy and practice. The 2020 Covid 19 Pandemic has added substantially to the prisons crisis but Brendan O'Friel suggests it may also offer a surprising opportunity for radical change. Illustrated with photographs, verse, drawings and cartoons, the book captures the realities of the prison crisis. <https://www.prisongovernorjournal.com/>

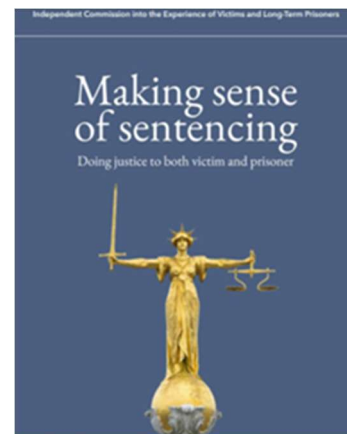
CALL FOR NATIONAL DEBATE ON SENTENCING FOR SERIOUS CRIME

In a report that came out in June this year the Independent Commission into the Experience of Victims and Long-term Prisoners (ICEVLP) has called for a fundamental reassessment of the policy and practice of sentencing for the most serious of crimes. The Commission is chaired by Bishop James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool and of Prisons, and former Chair of the Hillsborough Independent Panel. Its expert panel members include the founder of the Forgiveness Project Marina Cantacuzino; public health expert Dr Bill Kirkup; criminal barrister Michelle Nelson QC; former chief executive of the prison and probation service Michael Spurr; and the writer on public ethics Paul Vallely.

The number of people given a prison sentence of more than 10 years has more than doubled in a decade. Yet this constant increase in sentence length, at ever greater cost to the taxpayer, has failed to achieve the results which legislators desired.

Drawing on evidence received from both victims and prisoners, and a range of criminal justice experts, the Commission concludes in its final report that sentencing for serious offences has lost its way and is not working for victims, prisoners, or society as a whole. The Commission's main recommendation is for a national debate on sentencing backed by a Law Commission review of the sentencing framework for serious offences, a citizen's assembly on sentencing policy, and strengthening the remit of the Sentencing Council in promoting public understanding of sentencing.

The report is 92 pages long but if you can't manage this the foreword by Bishop James Jones and the Executive summary make helpful reading. <https://icevlp.org.uk/final-report/>



THREE LIVERPOOL PROPHETS OF TODAY still making an impact.

A new website is now up and running so you can continue to be helped and inspired by the writings and talks of these much loved priests www.fr-tom-cullinan.co.uk

Fr. Kevin Kelly 1933-2018

A leading moral theologian and pastoral priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. His theology grew out of an intense global listening to the experience of the people living with HIV/AIDS, divorce, ageing, being marginalised as women or LGBT+ people, facing the challenges of belonging to a changing church.

Fr. Tom Cullinan 1935 -2019

Formed as a Benedictine Monk and living in his self-built urban monastery near Liverpool, his spirituality rooted in prayer and scripture impacted hugely especially with people concerned about ecology, social justice and living simply, sustainably and in solidarity. He was profoundly ecumenical.

Fr. Austin Smith 1928 -2011

A Passionist priest who lived in Toxteth, Liverpool immersed in the black community experience of inner-city poverty and racism. A poet, writer and philosopher whose ministry was a profound listening and universal love for everyone, from which his prophetic reflections critiqued the reality around him.



FAITH JUSTICE is a Christian network

We aim to bring together young adults of faith with a concern for justice. We believe that our faith inspires us to act for justice in our world, and that acting for justice deepens and enriches our faith.

FaithJustice is a new initiative launched by a group of Catholic organisations, which is seeking to help young adults in their twenties and thirties discover the intimate connection between a life of faith and the struggle for justice in our world.

We do not claim to be experts. We have no pre-defined solutions to offer you. Instead we hope to provide spaces in which to explore faith, share together, ask questions, challenge ourselves, and learn from each other.

Continued next page

Maybe you are already involved in projects and movements of compassion and change: working with the homeless, helping to welcome migrants, opposing the arms trade, caring for the disabled, promoting fair-trade, campaigning for change to unjust structures such as international trade or climate destruction, or in all sorts of other ways struggling for a better world.

Or perhaps you are not involved in any movements or projects. Maybe you feel inspired to act but are struggling to find your place and purpose in life. Maybe you are looking for an experience of faith which is more deeply rooted in the needs of the world?

Or you might be unsure if you believe in God or if you agree with organised religion. Maybe you are looking for a safe space to share your questions, explore your ideas, and to listen to others in a similar place. <https://faithjustice.org.uk/faith-and-justice>

JUST PEACE – WORKING FOR PEACE, CHALLENGING THE ARMS TRADE AND MILITARISM

Fri 30 Sept to Sun 2nd Oct hosted by FaithJustice, the Dandelion Community and Pax Christi in Wythenshawe, Manchester

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/ZLNfu458njWLAQWQA>

Join us for a weekend of stories, information, sharing and planning for the future. A place to find energy and inspiration. The weekend will bring together a wide range of people; those who are new to arms trade activism and those who have been involved for a long time. Wherever you are in your journey you are welcome.

We are able to offer floor space to sleep. (please get in touch if you have a disability and need different accommodation). Food will be provided.... come willing to help.

Cost: Free (Donations will be welcome) To register see <https://faithjustice.org.uk/justpeace>



Young demonstrators manage the defiant three-finger salute and hold a banner during an anti-coup protest in Yangon, Burma (Myanmar) on July 17, 2022, ahead of the country's Martyrs' Day.

STR | Nurphoto | Getty Images

BURMA MILITARY EXECUTES FOUR ACTIVISTS
The first executions in Burma for decades.



July 25, 2022

Burma Campaign UK is deeply saddened to learn the news reported on state media that the Myanmar military has carried out threats to execute four democracy activists Ko Jimmy, Phyo Zeya Thaw, Hla Myo Aung and Aung Thura Zaw.

Kyaw Min Yu, better known as Ko Jimmy, was an activist who rose to prominence during Burmas's 1988 student uprising.



The 52-year-old and his wife are part of the so-called 88 Generation, people who took part in a series of student-led protests that challenged a previous military regime. They have been in and out of jail for playing a key role in anti-government protests in 2007, nicknamed the Saffron Revolution for the participation of orange-robed monks. Ko Jimmy's last stint behind bars was from 2007 to 2012. He was released as the generals loosened their decades-long stranglehold on the country.

The military issued an arrest warrant for him after the February 2021 coup which removed democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power and triggered protests and a mass movement of civil disobedience. He was arrested in an overnight raid by soldiers who stormed a housing complex in the North Dagon township of Yangon .

Phyo Zeya Thaw shot to national fame after co-founding ACID, one of the first hip-hop groups in Myanmar, in 2000. Their first album "SaTin Gyin", which means beginning, topped the music charts for months, defying expectations in a country

which was quite conservative. ACID's music resonated with the frustrated youth living under then-military dictator Than Shwe. But Phyo Zeya Thaw wanted to do more for the country. So he co-founded a youth group called "Generation Wave" with three high school friends after the 2007 Saffron Revolution - protests led by monks, sparked by rising fuel prices. The group sprayed pro-democracy graffiti and distributed stickers and pamphlets with the message. They were swiftly banned and Phyo Zeya Thaw was arrested in 2008. But he was released three years later under amnesty.



"Zeya Thaw loathed military dictatorship and injustice since the beginning," says his friend and co-founder of Generation Wave, Min Yan Naing. "His belief - for ending military dictatorship - was so strong that he was always ready to face whatever danger he came across.

"They [the junta] want to terrorise and frighten people. But as always, Zeya Thaw didn't give a damn about the death sentence.

"Even though he might feel something inside, he wouldn't show them [the junta]. That is Zeya Thaw."

The crackdown which followed the 2021 coup has been brutal for many pro-democracy activists.

Zeya Thaw's girlfriend Thazin Nyunt Aung left their home in Yangon and moved to a tiny safe house where she has been there since. She says she stopped using Facebook before bedtime because her feed was filled with nothing but news of arrests of fellow protesters and atrocities by the military.

Hla Myo Aung and Aung Thura Zaw were convicted on 12 April and sentenced to death the next month. They had killed a woman who was suspected of being an informant for the military, the junta said. The Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP), an activist group, said they were from Yangon and had been involved in protests and resistance movements since the 2021 coup. People from all walks of life – from doctors and teachers to farmers and poets – have joined in movements opposing the military since the coup, despite the huge risks. have been executed.

It has been decades since the Burmese military has carried out executions of political prisoners. The executions are a sign of desperation, not strength by the Burmese military, as they face growing resistance since the attempted coup began last year. The military is hoping they will terrify people into submission. It will not succeed.

"This is a desperately sad day for family and friends of those executed," said Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, Senior Advocacy Officer at Burma Campaign UK. "I have known Ko Jimmy my whole life, he was an inspiration to me. He dedicated his life to freedom and democracy for the people of Burma."

The resumption of the use of executions of political prisoners happens in the context of the Burmese military being unable to consolidate the attempted coup it began last year, and they now face unprecedented resistance across the country. "The executions are a sign of how weak and desperate the military are, but trying to terrify the people into submission won't work," said Wai Hnin Pwint Thon. "It is incredibly frustrating that there are so many practical things the British and other governments can do to stop the flow of money and arms to the Burmese military, but they lack the political will to do it. The people of Burma are paying the price of international inaction with their lives.

August 15th 2022 Myanmar's military junta sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to another six years in prison. According to Reuters, Suu Kyi, the 77-year-old Nobel Peace prize laureate was given the sentence after being convicted of corruption charges in a closed-door, military-controlled court. She has denied all the charges and her lawyers are expected to appeal her sentencing by court. She has already been sentenced to 11 years in a previous trial on multiple charges.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2022-08/myanmar-military-junta-sentences-aung-san-suu-kyi-prison.html>

Some good news: The British government has finally announced its intention to join the Rohingya genocide case at the International Court of Justice. Burma Campaign UK launched our campaign for the British government to join the case almost three years ago.

"For decades the Burmese military have been allowed to violate international law without consequences, encouraging them to commit genocide and attempt another coup," said Anna Roberts, Executive Director of Burma Campaign UK. "We are delighted that the British government has finally joined the Rohingya genocide case. They will bring vital additional resources and expertise, as well as sending an important political message."

The British government has faced sustained pressure to join the case, including from Rohingya civil society organisations, Rushanara Ali MP, Co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on democracy in Burma, the Foreign Affairs Committee, opposition political parties, more than 100 MPs, former Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, and international human rights groups.

The Burmese military has enjoyed impunity for decades, despite widespread documentation of numerous violations of international law, mainly against ethnic and religious minority groups.

The sense of impunity encourages further violations of international law. The failure to act to prevent Rohingya genocide and then the failure to hold the military to account for Rohingya genocide would have encouraged the military to believe they could get away with the coup and subsequent violations of international law without facing serious consequences.

The Rohingya genocide is not over. The laws and policies which are an integral part of the genocide continue, and the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice to prevent ongoing genocide are being ignored by the military.

Burma Campaign UK also welcomed the imposition of new sanctions on three businesses working with the military that are helping them to earn money and buy arms. The companies are Star Sapphire Group of Companies, International Gateways Group of Companies Limited (IGG), and Sky One Construction Company Ltd.

For more details see <https://burmacampaign.org.uk/>



SENDING THEIR MUSIC ROUND THE WORLD

Shchedryk Children's Choir from Kyiv, is one of Ukraine's most recognised youth musical ensembles. The choir celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, a year which was meant to be marked with recordings and even a world tour. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 put a stop to all that. Prior to the invasion, the children's choir had only managed to record two songs, both lullabies, in St Andrew's Church in Kyiv.

Danish-Argentinian-Israeli conductor, Saul Zaks, is the artistic director of the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Festival, held in Austria. He first heard the Shchedryk Children's Choir perform in 2019 when they won the first prize at the Festival in the Children's Choir section.

When the invasion began, Zaks attempted to get the children out of Kyiv to Denmark, arranging transport and starting to organise accommodation; but the effort proved impossible. Children and their families were scattered, as some fled the country, while others sheltered in their homes. Instead Zaks decided to help send the Shchedryk Children's Choir's music out into the world.

Read the full story and listen to some of their music on <https://choiroftheearth.com/shchedryk-childrens-choir-kyiv>



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER PREPARATION DAYS have been arranged in Liverpool, Manchester and Preston

More details : <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/preparation-days/>

The theme for March 2023 is 'I Have Heard About Your Faith' Ephesians 1:15-19

The service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan

Thank you to the following helpful websites:

ICN Independent Catholic News <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

National Justice and Peace Network <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

If you have any material for the Winter Mouthpeace please send to Marian Thompson marian37et@gmail.com by November 15th

DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

September 1 – October 4 Season of Creation starting with 1 World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation Prayer service Dane Moss 7.30 pm See page 2

13 'Challenges of Global Politics – Mis-use and Mis-Governance' talk by Dr. Mark Bendall 7pm at The Unity Centre in Cuppin Street, Chester organised by CWDF

15 World Day of Prayer preparation day Preston P.12

15 Clothes Swap Macclesfield Page 2

15 – 22 Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel, theme: Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine. see Page 6

16 CAFOD QUIZ in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle with good prizes and entry is still only £3 -contact Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

17 'Faith and Frontiers – response to migrant crisis' online conference see page 7 & 8

17 -18 'Astounding Inventions' 1.30 -4.30 St Alban's Macclesfield see page 2

18 Creation Walk Macclesfield see page 2

21 International Day of Peace Theme 'End racism, build peace' <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

21 September – 2 October Catholic Non Violence Days of Action see page 5

22 Walk2COP27 starts see Page 4

24 Fairtrade Coffee morning 10-12 Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT in aid of Chifundo UK Empowering girls and women in Malawi www.chanasachifundomalawi.org There will be a stall selling bags, gifts, jewellery, cards, and fashion items; a cake stall; workshops & refreshments: Flower arranging workshop, Card making workshop, Sew a pin cushion workshop. Free admission small charge for workshops. contact chair@chanasachifundomalawi.org

24 September – 2 October The Big Green Week <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

24 Festival in Grosvenor Park, Chester 11am-4pm Many local organisations and community groups will be there with their stalls - including CWDF.

24 NJPN Open Networking Day in the North East. Darlington, working with Middlesbrough will host the event with Refugees and Migrants as the topic. <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/>

25 World Day of Migrants and Refugees see Page 7

25 Reflective service 'In the Beginning' 4.30 Prestbury see page 2

27 Fast fashion 7.30 talk Macclesfield see page 2

30 September - 2 October (or just 1st October) Just Peace - a weekend for 18-40 year olds looking at the arms trade and militarism. Hosted by Faith Justice and the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe, Manchester. See page 10

OCTOBER

1 Christian CND Conference and AGM in Liverpool and on zoom see page 6

4 St Francis Feast Day – Celebrate end of season of Creation see page 2

7 World Day of Prayer preparation day Manchester P.12

7 – 8 Green Christian Conference Friday 7.30 Zoom event Saturday In person day at Priory Rooms Birmingham To book <https://greenchristian.org.uk/conference2022/>

8 CND AGM see page 7

9 Prisoners Sunday 9 -15 Prisons Week see page 8

13 World Day of Prayer preparation day Liverpool p.12

14 CAFOD QUIZ see September 16

15 LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S PEACE: Exploring the Gospel Non-Violence' Pax Christi Day in Liverpool see page 5

16 NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NOT NUCLEAR WAR! CND public conference for discussion and debate.org see page 7

NOVEMBER

8 'The Impacts of Climate change on Migration' talk by Paul Tacon CWDF Forum meeting. Paul works in the Migration Team based at the Geneva head-quarters of the International Labour Organisation. He will talk on zoom. This meeting will be in conjunction with the University of Chester Department of Social and Political Science, and will be held on the university campus at 7pm. Details of the venue will be confirmed later. Contact Ann McCarthy mccarthyj@talktalk.net

7 -18 COP27 in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt

9 Finish of Walk 2COP27 see page 4

18 CAFOD QUIZ see September 16