

Justice and Peace

Spring 2021

Marian Thompson writes:

We have reached the first anniversary of life under the Covid cloud. Two of my grandsons are planning their second lockdown – or as they say – home birthdays. When corona virus took over the world very few of us imagined it would last so long. So what, if anything, has this new unprecedented time taught us? One thing I have learnt is how people understand the same knowledge so differently. Do you remember February 2020 when a mystery lung disease had hit the hospitals of northern Italy? My daughter, a GP in Manchester, seemed to be the prophet of doom in our family and warned that we should all be careful as disaster to her seemed obviously inevitable. Did the rest of the family listen? Of course not, assuming she was again on her high horse. Two weeks later she insisted we did not meet as a family and that my husband and I should no longer use the train or bus. At this time many others were celebrating Mothering Sunday with their families or, in the wider world, going to football matches and the races. I expect most of you have one such family member who grasped the importance the situation before most others and wanted the best for you. Slowly – oh so slowly- we began to catch up and realise the need for drastic changes in life style. Some governments got the message quickly and acted decisively and others did not, or took longer to learn.

I am wondering if it is not the same with the climate emergency? The future of the planet depends on our grasping the situation and acting – all of us - both those with power and influence and those who feel they can do very little. How many people do you come into contact with now who do not know about COP 26 and its importance for our planet? How many care enough to make drastic changes in lifestyle? How many are denying there is a climate emergency? Maybe we need to be the prophets of doom in this context and speak up when others are indifferent or even hostile. For this we need to be well armed with information ourselves. There is plenty to help us take up this challenge as this edition of Mouthpeace illustrates.



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www.twitter.com/@liverpooljandp

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

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk



NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021
23-25 July 2021 **Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick**



'2021: Life on Earth – moment of truth'

As climate changes, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the COP26 climate summit and in the recovery from the pandemic are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity the like of which we will never see again.

At Conference 2021 we will take inspiration from Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace for the changes and choices now confronting us.

Conference chair: Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD

Facilitators include: Lorna Gold, Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy, Mark Rotherham, Bishop John Arnold, Marty Haugen

There will be opportunities to take part in workshops and activities throughout the weekend as well a JUST FAIR consisting of more than 20 stalls from different agencies displaying goods and resources

There will be age-appropriate parallel programmes for young children and teens, as well as provision of a creche.

Bookings are now being taken <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

Further details: Administrator, Geoff Thompson: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Just Fair enquiries, Ann Kelly: membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NJPN Networking Day on zoom February 27th "Inter-Faith Relations in the UK Today"

Speakers for the day: Dr Harriet Crabtree OBE Executive Director for The Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom

Jon Dal Din, Deacon of the Southwark Diocese, and the inter-faith representative of the Focolare Zone of Western Europe

Read a report of the day <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41648>

The next **NJPN Networking Day and AGM will be on Saturday May 8th** 11am – 3 pm on zoom . More details later



MARCH 24th is the 41st ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF ST OSCAR ROMERO who is the patron saint of NJPN. To mark his Feast Day this March there are two special events :

13th March 'Let us Dream: Unmasking a Post-Covid future with St Oscar Romero' - the annual Ecumenical Service from St Martin-in-the-Fields, London at 11am on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijJHc0x8DKc>

The presider will be Revd Richard Carter, one of the trustees of the Romero Trust. The address will be given by Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ. Gemma, a sister of the Congregation of Jesus. She is a Senior Research Fellow of the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge, where she is director of the Religious Life

Institute. After a career in secondary teaching and missionary work in Brazil, she was chaplain in the Universities of Cambridge and London before taking up a lectureship in pastoral theology at Heythrop College, University of London. She was a chaplaincy volunteer in Holloway Prison for 26 years and is an honorary fellow of Durham University.

Saturday 27th March Mass of St Oscar Romero and installation of Guardians of the Diocesan Shrine of St Oscar Romero at 12.30pm, St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass in his cathedral, which houses the diocesan shrine to St Oscar Romero, on the Saturday after Romero's feast day. He will preach on 'Unchanging Truth in Changing Times'. A limited congregation is able to gather in the cathedral, and it will also be streamed live <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uGCKQSpRto&feature=youtu.be>

NB The ecumenical service planned for March 24th at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral has been postponed until October 14th the 3rd Anniversary of the Canonisation



Read the latest Romero News is dedicated to the Maryknoll Sisters martyred in 2020 <http://www.romerotrust.org.uk/news>

Watch a short documentary from New York Times about them <https://youtu.be/8E-VwWXKLU>



GETTING PREPARED

As we approach COP26, (26th United Nations Climate Change Conference) scheduled to be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 1 to 12 November this year under the presidency of the United Kingdom, we should prepare ourselves to help others understand the issues.

Anne O'Connor's March NW NJPN Justice and Peace Bulletin has a focus on Climate Change : <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

Marple MESS group looks at various environmental issues . A group member has taken a hard thoughtful look at how Climate Change will affect us <http://marplemess.org.uk/you-me-and-climate-change>

CAFOD Lent appeal this year focused on communities in north Ethiopia whose lives are already very pressured by Climate Change . <https://projects.cafod.org.uk/walkforwater/index.html>

The A to Z of Living Lightly – suggestions by St Mary's Upton <https://stm-upton.org.uk/2020/01/28/a-to-z-of-living-lightly/>

See also: CAFOD Reclaim our Common Home page 4 and reports of Fairtrade Fortnight events page 8 below.



Archdiocese of Liverpool J&P Commission Memorial Lecture 2021

TO PREPARE A FUTURE OF FULL HOPE AMID CHAOS AND UNCERTAINTY

Justine Silcock, Co-Chair of Archdiocese of Liverpool J&P Commission writes: Every year on Peace Sunday, the third Sunday of January, the Archdiocese of Liverpool J&P Commission hosts its Memorial Lecture in memory of those who have contributed to J&P in their lifetime. This year it was held on Sunday 17th January and, instead of gathering at LACE it was held virtually for the first time on Zoom. The lecture was entitled “To prepare a future full of hope amid chaos and uncertainty” and was given by Mary Colwell. Mary is an award-winning writer, environmentalist and producer, who is also a Feature Writer for The Tablet, and she put her considerable communication skills in action in a gentle, inspiring presentation which indeed explained chaos and uncertainty in our world, and explained the need for a balance between the four considerations:

GOD

OTHERS

OURSELVES

ENVIRONMENT

She pointed out that the environment had only recently become a major consideration but, quoting from *Laudato Si*, the maintenance of this balance was now seen as a major factor by the Church.



Mary then went on to help us to find ways in which we could act. She emphasised passion and simple steps and suggested “Pick something you love”. She illustrated this by her own love of the curlew, a large British wading bird, the numbers of which have drastically fallen in recent decades, and how she set out on a 500 mile walk through England, Wales and Ireland where the curlew numbers were falling and how that first action had led to interest, education and political action amongst people throughout the UK. Her suggestion of using LOAF (Local Organic Animal friendly Fairly traded) in buying food was picked up on by many participants.

Following on, we were invited to have small group discussions followed by a Q&A session with Mary where she responded to a wide range of questions including the use of public parks as a resource to educate and ways to lobby MPs. Some of the perspectives from participants from the Archdiocese and beyond are shared here (some have been edited).

“I found the lecture educational and thought provoking. I took a number of actions and thoughts away, that focussing on something I love, gives me enjoyment and calmness, which in turn will provide energy to focus on the challenges we face. The L.O.A.F and stop waste - actions we all can do, so I will refocus in this area.”

From Annie Merry - Director, Faiths4Change, Merseyside: Mary invited us all to engage actively in preparing for a future together that was rooted in faith, hope and nature. Drawing on *Laudato Si*, she highlighted Pope Francis' call for direct action and challenges to the tragedy of extinction facing many species by our current ways of living: **'We have not the right!'**

Mary concluded with asking us to stop waste, start being thankful and to **'Fall in love with the Earth again!'**

From Pat Murphy, Archdiocese of Liverpool: Mary's lecture on a damp Sunday afternoon was a wonderful reminder during this ever-long lockdown of how blessed we are with the world and all that it provides for us. Mary's words vividly reminded us that we are just custodians of this planet to hand on to the next generation. Appreciate the simple things that we take for granted - the birds of the air, the ebb and flow of the tide and the wonder of the seasons, with the changing landscape.

As Christians it is our duty to play our part in the care of the planet. Recycle, reuse, buy Fairtrade, become animal friendly, walk not drive. God has created all these things, and provided a beautiful earth for us to enjoy. Let's not destroy it. *Continued page 4*

Take a photograph each day of something simple but that uplifts us - carry the positive thoughts that will keep us positive, Take the simple more holistic approach to our daily life.

A most uplifting couple of hours. A burst of energy almost, and a reminder if we can all just change our lifestyle in a small way, we will leave the earth in good condition for the next generation.

From Br Bernard Foy, Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: Mary evoked both an intellectual and emotional response in me. Her delightful presentation reminded us of the glorious variety of creation, and through that of the exuberance of the Creator. G.M. Hopkin's poem came to mind, **"the world is charged with the grandeur of God."**

After a lifetime of involvement with young people and becoming increasingly aware of the diminishment of life experiences for many young people in the deprived city areas we serve, I was led to ask how can we focus on animal charities when women and children suffering appear daily?

The really difficult area of Justice and Peace commitment is: how do we prioritise issues, especially when concerning people?

From Pauline Volk, Archdiocese of Liverpool: At a time when we can all feel over-whelmed, it was refreshing to hear someone, after giving some thoughts on the larger picture of the concerning situation we are in at present in light not only of Covid-19, but also the climate crisis, to highlight the value of looking at taking some initial smaller steps.

Through sharing her personal story, it was much easier to imagine those first possible smaller steps we each could make. In the break-out groups and afterwards in the chat, many concrete actions were suggested. Last year, I took part in the Laudato Si Animator course and I take this talk as further encouragement to put the ideas of Pope Francis into practice by choosing to adopt the Live Simply principles and also invite others to do so too.

From Mark Wiggin - Director Caritas Diocese of Salford & Northern Dioceses Environment Group convener: When I logged on, I didn't have any clear expectations about what I was going to learn. It has been a busy week and I didn't do my usual due diligence of looking up who exactly Mary Colwell was. I remember reading a Tablet article some time ago about her walking the Camino which led me thinking perhaps today would be a spiritual reflection on a painful journey towards redemption. The title of the lecture sounded as it might be a call to the 'new normal' for us to rally round social justice issues of poverty, disadvantage or even reflect on what a post-Brexit Britain might look like.

Instead, I found myself listening intensely to the wisdom of a person who had fallen in love with nature and who offered a simple solution to climate change and the finite resources of our planet when she said, **'we want to have a future where people and nature are in harmony'**.

Asked about what our priorities should be she offered the following advice **'pick something to love and go with your passion, go with your heart, that's where you will make the best difference.'**

At the end of her inspiring memorial lecture it began to dawn on me that the curlew was indeed a metaphor for redemption and its survival and flourishing, like everything else on God's earth, begins by taking the first deliberate step on that journey to salvation. The Curlew film Mary Colwell shared with us ("six minutes of loveliness") can be seen at: www.curlewaction.org/world-curlew-day/ NB This article first appeared in Catholic Pic February 2021

RECLAIM OUR COMMON HOME



CAFOD's new campaign is a response to Pope Francis's call for a new way of thinking about the world, and for us to take an active part in renewing our troubled societies by embracing the universal values of solidarity and fraternity. As Catholics, we are called not to stay silent and not to be passive. This is why Reclaim Our Common Home is a call to action! It's a call to participate both individually and collectively in rebuilding a more dignified and sustainable world after the pandemic.

To do this we need to:

RECLAIM nature so that everyone can breathe clean air and be protected from the threat of climate disasters.

RECLAIM the world's land and resources so they are more fairly distributed and all our brothers and sisters around the world can live in dignity.

RECLAIM power so that everyone can be involved in decision making and have control over their own lives.

This year, the UK will host the 'COP26' climate talks, the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil. Boris Johnson, as Prime Minister, must push world leaders to show the ambition we need to keep temperature rises below the disastrous 1.5-degree threshold. If you haven't already done so, **please sign CAFOD's petition** urging Boris Johnson to put people hardest hit by the climate crisis at the heart of COP26. For more information <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home>



AN ECONOMY WITHOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Terry Philips Co-Chair of Archdiocese of Liverpool J&P Commission and member of the Liverpool South J&P writes:

To mark the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita (8 February) a Sudanese victim of slavery, Liverpool South Pastoral Area J&P organised a Zoom event on Tuesday 9 February joining the International Day of Prayer for victims of human trafficking.

Sister Imelda, a Loreto sister and president of RENATE*, spoke from Albania where she has worked preventing trafficking and was the founder president of the NGO, Mary Ward Loreto. She began by examining the growth of neoliberalism over the last 40 years and the consequent creation of a world in which the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. She focused on the lives hidden behind the ready availability of cheap goods and services produced by those working without breaks or payment in sweat shops or on farms, as well as the reality behind the lives of women forced into the sex trade, or those forced to give body parts.

The second speaker **Julia Bayton, is an outreach worker at Refugee Women Connect (RWC)**, working in the Liverpool City Region with women asylum seekers, some of whom have been victims of trafficking. She described the work of RWC's anti-trafficking project, helping women, many of whom had fled persecution or forced marriages, sometimes paying to escape but finding themselves enslaved and sometimes moved from country to country. They face particular difficulties in revealing their plight and seeking justice.

A recording of the talk which included a quiz, practical advice on what we can do and two short films is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFXwb-5Pobg&feature=youtu.be>

*RENATE: Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation www.renate-europe.net

RWC: www.refugeewomenconnect.org.uk

Mary Ward Loreto: www.albaniahope.com



Medaille Trust's mission is to provide refuge and freedom from modern slavery. This is one of the largest provider of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK. Read their latest magazine <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/resources/newsletter>

PATHS TO PEACE

A zoom meeting St Alban's J & P group Macclesfield Tuesday January 12th



Marian Thompson writes:

'Nonviolence- what does it look like today?' This was a question Joan Sharples explored for a zoom meeting organised by St Alban's Macclesfield J & P group as we approached Peace Sunday. As often with zoom, people joined from various parts of Shrewsbury Diocese and beyond, mostly Catholics but also Quakers and at least one Methodist. Bernadette Bailey, the group's Chair welcomed us all.



Joan started by giving us a bit of background – her own since she was made redundant as Shrewsbury J & P Fieldworker in 2012 and that of the Pax Christi's Paths to Peace Nonviolence Initiative. Joan spent a few years of intense grandparenting, then in 2019 was invited to join the Pax Christi UK executive. She commented that as a Fieldworker she had been involved with many J & P topics but in her new role she

was on a steep learning curve just focusing on one issue – peace. Joan used as her starting point the 2016 Conference at the Vatican - Nonviolence and Just Peace: Contributing to the Catholic Understanding of and Commitment to Nonviolence- This was organised by Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace and Pax Christi International. Pope Francis suggested: "your thoughts on revitalising the tools of nonviolence in particular, will be a needed and positive contribution". He encouraged this focus with his address on Peace Sunday 2017. Then in 2019 there was a follow-up conference The Path of Nonviolence: Towards a Culture of Peace organised by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. For those wanting to go more deeply into these events Joan recommended 'Choosing Peace: The Catholic Church Returns to Gospel Nonviolence' edited by Marie Dennis.

From this, 7 international groups were formed to explore nonviolence further : Theology & Nonviolence, Advocacy, Media & Communication, Bishops, Religious communities, People of God /grassroots engagement and Integrating nonviolence into church structures/ institutions. Joan found herself on the Advocacy group.

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So what does Nonviolence look like in this context? Two people on the group gave their own illustrations. Sister Pat Ryan of Dhuma in Peru is working with local people. The river in their valley known as 'the river that burns' was strongly polluted with waste from a tungsten mine. Sr Pat supported the local peoples' right to be consulted and eventually the river was diverted. Lorretta Castro in the Philippines as a Anti Marcos protestor was very uncomfortable with the anger of some of the protestors. As a teacher she pioneered a programme of peace education. Joan was asked to report herself on the EAPPI: Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel which is strong in England and Wales.

She also reminded us of The Women in Black who meet each Wednesday for an hour at the Edith Cavell statue opposite the entrance to the National Portrait Gallery. This London vigil is part of a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence.

In the week following our zoom meeting, The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is due to be ratified at the United Nations. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have issued a statement calling on the UK government to "to forsake its nuclear arsenal." Joan suggested one nonviolent action we could all take after the meeting was to write to our Bishop congratulating him on this.

Joan finished by looking briefly at the theology of nonviolence. She used as an illustration the two hands of nonviolence which Barbara Deming, a US peace activist developed. One is held up saying stop and the other reaches out in forgiveness and reconciliation. Jesus lived in violent times but he chose the creative way of loving our enemies. Nonviolence is not something passive – doing nothing- but involves action – walking the extra mile, sharing our cloak and coat with a stranger. Joan finished with a reflection to help us to develop the practice of nonviolence in our own lives. There followed a short time of discussion. Joan has offered to repeat her talk on zoom should anyone else or any group like to offer it.

3 websites were suggested to help us: Catholic Nonviolence Initiative: <https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>

Pax Christi International : <https://paxchristi.net/> Pax Christi England and Wales : <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

We were also reminded that Peace Sunday is usually a time of church collections for the work of Pax Christi but it is expected that this will not happen in most churches this year so any donations will be gratefully received .

RECLAIMING OUR TRUE HUMANITY AFTER COVID: PREPARING ALL OUR FUTURES
Tuesday March 23rd 7.15 for 7.30 to 8.15 pm

A zoom talk arranged by the J & P Group of St Alban's Macclesfield, open to all, given by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father Missionary. Born in Manchester, ordained in 1980, he has extensive missionary experience in Africa, working with young adults, teaching theology and preaching retreats.

Pope Francis' wants us to prepare the future after Covid 19. Drawing on his recent Encyclical *Fratelli tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship* and book *Let Us Dream*, Fr Eamonn will share insights into Francis' Vision for reclaiming our humanity and emerging out of the Pandemic.

For details of the zoom link contact Keith Taylor, St Alban's J & P Group, 01625-429915 skeithtayl2@outlook.com



**CAMPAIGN
 AGAINST
 ARMS
 TRADE**

IT STARTS HERE Conference Friday 19th March – Sun 21st March

CAAT have designed an ambitious, exciting, and educational interactive programme which will bring together much of our work in previous years as we continue to understand the arms trade as inextricably linked to other intersecting issues. The launch on Friday evening which will be an opening panel marking 10 years of the Arab uprisings of 2011, drawing parallels with the Black Lives

Matter Civil Rights Movements of 2013 to the present, with last year's peak of activity sending powerful reverberations globally. Other panels taking place across the Saturday programme will include taking a look at Scotland and its relationship to the arms trade; exploring how we demilitarise education; how we Rethink Security; and reflecting on the role of art and creativity in our resistance. On Sunday there will be a full day of workshops and trainings, aiming to upskill our activists to campaign in a digital world, while also preparing us to resume our in-person work once the world opens up again.

Join at caatpresentsitstartshere2021.eventbrite.co.uk



FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (FOR) LATEST NEWSLETTER PEACELINKS <https://for.org.uk/peacelinks/>

The ecumenical FOR is a community of people who are inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ (Jesus of Nazareth) to oppose war and work together to build a world order based on love.

Our Mission: to grow and resource the community of Christians committed to nonviolence; challenge militarism; embody peace and reconciliation.

Our Methods: to grow and support our membership of nonviolent peacemakers; campaign and advocate at a national and local level; work with partners to campaign at an international level; offer training, prayer, worship, and living example.



The Pandemic Year



Catch up on two events during Fairtrade Fortnight :

HOW IS THE CLIMATE CRISIS IMPACTING THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY

Guardian Live Monday 22 February <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDL5ouiHMP8>

FAIRTRADE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC AND CLIMATE CRISIS

Ann Taylor writes: Buying Fair Trade is a good habit to develop but it can become just that - a habit. That is why the annual reminder of its benefits, during Fairtrade Fortnight, is so valuable.

This year the fortnight ran from 22nd February 7th March but all the events were on line, virtual meetings. On Tuesday 23rd February a talk was organised by St Alban’s, Macclesfield Justice and Peace Group, in which Stefan Donnelly from the headquarters of the Fairtrade Foundation described several case studies and settings in which the payment of the Fairtrade Premium allowed local farming communities not only to improve the lives of members and their families but also to invest in better crop selection, good farming practice and protection against catastrophes caused by severe weather events.

When we buy fairly traded goods, most of us don’t notice the small premium we pay but this does go directly to the growers, through the Fairtrade Foundation and the uses to which it can be put are decided locally and democratically by the growers themselves. Stefan’s talk greatly increased my own understanding of how my good habit can directly benefit farmers growing the crops I buy.

Two interesting case studies were described -

Farmers Biting Back At The Climate Crisis With Fairtrade Cocoa On Honduras the coffee crop often failed, attacked by rust fungus, irregular rains and prolonged dry periods, all directly related to climate change But cocoa was more resistant to the changes in the climate so one Fairtrade supported co-operative replanted and established their own chocolate factory.

Better In A Bunch: Fairtrade Banana Farmers Weathering The Storm Together In the Dominican Republic cyclones and storms are now much more frequent due to climate change. The farmers on one co-operative use the Premium to build up a fund shore up their defences against the effects of the weather in the future. Read both <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/choose-the-world-you-want/storytelling-tent/>



During the meeting on Fairtrade, Steve Clare – for 20 years with his wife Jane a very active Traidcrafter – explained a scheme which he operates with support from his church Tytherington Family Worship. It benefits Traidcraft and the local Foodbank – ie Fairtrade producers and local people in need of help to put food on their table.

He explained: “Eight years ago we began an arrangement with the local Foodbank and encouraged our church to donate money to us to convert into suitable Traidcraft goods which we then deliver to the foodbank.

“Each month we check to see what are the products in greatest need. We supply tea, coffee, rice pasta and toilet rolls! Over the last year due to more people falling into financial difficulties the demand for foodbanks has increased and the Marcus Rashford factor has played a big role in drawing the public’s attention to this problem. In the last 12 months donations to Macclesfield Traidcraft have doubled and now account for 40% of the local turnover.”

Is this a scheme which could be replicated elsewhere?



On Friday 22 January 2021 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into legal force and made nuclear weapons illegal under international law in the same way as other weapons of mass destruction. All signatories are required to encourage other states to sign up to the treaty. The Treaty is the result of decades of campaigning and years of diplomatic negotiations, an international effort by politicians and civil society which demonstrates the strength of opposition to nuclear weapons globally.

There have been calls for nuclear weapons to be banned ever since their first use against Japan in 1945. The indiscriminate nature and the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use is well documented and the International Committee of the Red Cross has said there is no way any medical system in the world could cope in the event of a nuclear blast. Christian CND is proud to have been involved in these calls both in the UK and through our partnership with the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN was a driving force behind the Treaty, receiving the Nobel Peace prize for its work in 2017.

As we celebrated the Treaty entering into force, Christian CND gathered with friends from the Network of Christian Peace Organisations for an online celebration with contributions from around the UK and South Korea, where our friends in the Bargn Nuri Community have lived for years under the threat of nuclear war. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkLnli-xOz0>

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Whilst the entry into force of the Treaty is a landmark event and a cause for pause and celebration, there is still much more work to be done. Christian CND, alongside wider civil society in the UK, is redoubling efforts to bring the UK to the table and rid the world of nuclear weapons once and for all. But they can't do it without the support and prayers of people who share the vision for a nuclear weapons-free world.

Christians around the world have been working to bring the Treaty into force since it was agreed by the United Nations. The Holy See was one of the first states to join and the Pacific Council of Churches urged states to join, many did so. Countless individual Christians across the world have been working and praying for the Treaty for decades.

Many Christian traditions and denominations in the UK have supported the idea of a Treaty to ban nuclear weapons for some time. The Baptist Church, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and Quakers have long-standing positions opposing nuclear weapons and have welcomed the Treaty. The Church of England passed a motion in 2018 calling for the Government to "respond positively" to the Treaty and in November 2020 31 Anglican Bishops signed an open letter calling on the UK to sign the Treaty.

A joint statement from the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales and Scotland has called on the UK Government to "forsake its nuclear arsenal" and to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The full text of the statement is shown below: Statement on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:

On Friday 22 January 2021 the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons comes into force. This is a historic milestone on the path to nuclear disarmament and an opportunity to refocus on genuine peacebuilding rooted in dialogue, justice, respect for human dignity, and care for our planet.

In setting out the "moral and humanitarian imperative" for complete elimination of nuclear weapons, Pope Francis reminded us that "international peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation." [1]

We urge support for the Treaty and repeat our call for the UK to forsake its nuclear arsenal. The resources spent on manufacturing, maintaining and upgrading these weapons of mass destruction, should be reinvested to alleviate the suffering of the poorest and most vulnerable members of our society, for the Common Good of all peoples. [2]

At the same time, we implore the government to strengthen its arms control regulations, tackling the manufacture and sale of other weaponry, which continues to destroy so many lives throughout the world.

Above all we pray: "Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity; pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war." [3]

+Declan Lang

Bishop of Clifton Chair, International Affairs Department, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

+William Nolan

Bishop of Galloway Commission for Justice and Peace, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland

+William Kenney Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham

[1] Message to the UN conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination (23 March 2017) http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2017/documents/papa-francesco_20170323_messaggio-onu.html

[2] Statement on nuclear weapons (4 August 2020) <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/statement-on-nuclear-weapons/>

[3] Fratelli Tutti Vatican

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

The TPNW is a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and other related activity. This includes:

A ban on the use, stockpiling, testing, production, manufacture, stationing and installation.

A ban on assisting with the prohibited acts, such as the United States leasing the Trident missiles to the UK.

A ban on allowing nuclear weapons to travel through territorial waters or airspace.

The requirement of assistance to the victims of nuclear weapons. This is the first time this has been included in a treaty.

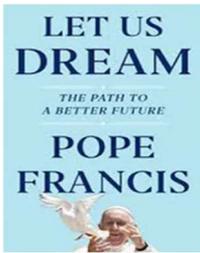
A requirement to take action in areas that have been damaged by the testing of nuclear weapons

Christian CND are supporting CND in their petition calling on the UK government to sign the Treaty and cancel Trident replacement.

Sign the petition calling on the UK government to sign the TPNW <https://christiancnd.org.uk/tpnwpetition/>

Read a copy of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons <https://wp.christiancnd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Treaty-8-page-A5-booklet.pdf>

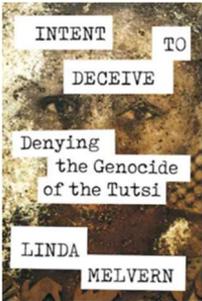
BOOKS and PICTURES



If you really want to understand Pope Francis this is the book for you.

It is a beautiful vision of how the world could emerge from the trauma of Covid but it is more than the Pope giving us a succinct version of his recent encyclical. It gives us a real ringside seat into his spirituality and how as a shepherd who wants to smell like the sheep, his heart beats for the one billion flock he leads.

Available from <https://www.worldofbooks.com/> £10.99 new



Why is a book about genocide denial still important, 80 years after the Holocaust and 26 years after Rwanda? Because there is a thriving industry in spreading misinformation about massive human rights abuses, current and past.

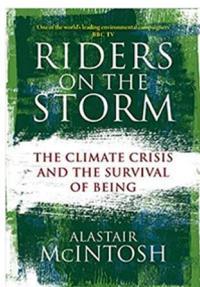
Linda Melvern is the foremost expert on the Rwandan genocide, and her latest book picks apart the lies propagated about the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi ethnic group. She draws parallels with Holocaust denial which persists around the world. An Anti-Defamation League global survey in 2014 found that one in three people dispute the basic facts of the Nazi's systematic extermination of six million Jews. This matters in an age when political leaders, aided by their media cronies, sacrifice the truth to enhance their re-election chances. publisher: Verso Books, £11.99



Pre-pandemic, have you ever had someone refuse to shake hands with you when you offer them the sign of peace at Mass? Have you ever had to console your young daughter when she comes home crying from her Catholic primary school because other children think she is "too black" to play with? Have you ever felt like an outsider or even unwelcome when entering your parish church?

These are the real-life experiences that Fr Richard Nesbitt of Our Lady of Fatima parish in London's White City, Westminster Diocese, learnt about when he preached last year on the dreadful sin that is racism. Parishioners responded positively, saying it was the first time they had heard the issue of racism, including inside the Church, being preached about. From this homily, the parish organised a series of zoom meetings to discuss racism and to explore what could be done. Their starting point was a belief that if Catholics do not act towards each other as children of God - including in the house of God - what hope can there be for challenging the racist behaviour of society generally?

This powerful booklet contains personal reflections on their own experiences of racism from members of the parish group: You can download or read this booklet online at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/01/Rooting-Out-Racism.pdf>



Climate change is the greatest challenge to humankind today. While the coronavirus sheds a light on the vulnerability of our interconnected world, the effects of global warming will be permanent, indeed catastrophic, without a massive shift in human behaviour.

Writer, scholar and broadcaster Alastair McIntosh sums up the present knowledge and shows that conventional solutions are not enough. In rejecting the blind alleys of climate change denial, exaggeration and false optimism, he offers a scintillating discussion of ways forward. Weaving together science, politics, psychology and spirituality, this guide examines what it takes to make us riders on the storm.

£9.99 from <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/riders-on-the-storm/>

ACADEMICS COLLABORATE ON PALESTINIAN ART EXHIBITION



The plight of Palestinian children living in the West Bank has been laid bare in a new exhibition depicting the young people's heart-rending artwork.

The collection, Hope and Resistance: Through Palestinian Children's Eyes, has been curated by academics at Liverpool Hope University. More details of the project, and the artwork, are available <https://hopeforpalestine.co.uk/>

Art gallery pictures here: <https://hopeforpalestine.co.uk/childrens-art/>

SPRING DIARY

MARCH

8 International Women's Day www.unwomen.org/

Pax Christi : To celebrate the power of nonviolence and the role of women peacemakers, Mary T Yelenick, Pax Christi International UN-NGO, New York and Sr Katrina Alton csjp peace activist and member of Pax help us understand more about Nonviolence and the role of Advocacy and Nonviolence and Religious Life. There will be time for prayer and discussion too. The session will last for around one hour. To join register on ZOOM here <https://bit.ly/36QWZeQ>

9 CWDF Forum-by-Zoom 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Our Forum meeting include a talk by Martin Evans, Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University: "Development interventions and social realities in paddy rice farming, South Senegal" – Email bernard.payne691@btinternet.com for Zoom link

11 Sacred people, sacred earth Day of action events on line <https://www.faithfortheclimate.org.uk/publicevent/Sacred-People-Sacred-Earth-Global-Day-of-Action>

13 Let us Dream: Unmasking a Post-Covid future with St Oscar Romero ecumenical service at 11 am on you tube see page 2

19 – 21 It Starts Here CAAT conference on line see page 6

21 International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination un.org/en/events

22 World Water Day - Valuing water <https://www.worldwaterday.org/> <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>

23 Reclaiming our true humanity after Covid: preparing all our futures. A zoom talk by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy. All welcome. 7.15 for 7.30 to 8.15 pm For zoom details: Keith Taylor, St Alban's J & P Group 01625-429915 skeithtayl2@outlook.com page 6

24 Feast Day of St Oscar Romero

24 Stories, poems and music for Passiontide St Mary's Without-the-Wall Overleigh Road, Handbridge Chester, CH4 7HL7:30 pm - 9:00 pm With Trevor Dennis, Michael Reynolds and Sarah Jessop. Proceeds to Christian Aid. We are hoping to be able to invite people to attend in person in the church while also enabling others to attend remotely via Zoom or watch it on YouTube afterwards. If you wish to reserve a place in the hope we can meet in church please ring Trevor on 01244 638441, or email him on trevordennis11@gmail.com We are not selling tickets, so there's nothing to be lost if you put your name(s) on his list, and we will let you know if plans have to change. Details of the links to Zoom, YouTube and JustGiving will be given later.

27 Mass of St Oscar Romero and installation of Guardians of the Diocesan Shrine of St Oscar Romero 12.30pm, St George's Cathedral, Southwark livestreamed see page 2

27 Earth Hour www.earthhour.org

APRIL

4 Easter Sunday

26 Chernobyl Remembrance Day <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-chernobyl-disaster-remembrance-day/>

MAY

Exhibition & Conference "Our Journey to Sustainability" – PROVISIONAL Chester Sustainability Forum and Chester Cathedral hope to stage this event, originally planned for May 2020 but postponed due to Covid. It aims to display the wide range of responses to the climate emergency that are being planned and implemented by the many faith groups, environmental groups, businesses, and political parties which share the common objective of improving the environmental sustainability of Chester and its surrounding area. Dates and details to be confirmed in due course <https://www.chesterwdf.org.uk/event/may-2021-exhibition-conference-our-journey-to-sustainability-provisional/>

8 NJPN AGM and Open Networking Day on zoom 11-3 <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/>

9-15 Christian Aid Week <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

15 International Conscientious Objectors Day Peace Pledge Union www.ppu.org.uk

17 -30 UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) in China

ADVANCE NOTICE: JULY 23 -25 NJPN Annual Conference at Swanick see page 2

NOVEMBER 1 - 12 United Nations Climate Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow. The climate talks will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together over 30,000 delegates including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. The Vatican will be represented.