

## Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,  
Welcome to the summer edition of the J&P Newsletter. You will find articles sharing news, information about some of the events taking place in our archdiocese. May they be a source of encouragement and inspiration for us.

May I draw your attention to the autumn Assembly this year focussed on the theme of mission. We are joining forces with the Columbans to host this day. It is part of Octobers extraordinary month of mission called for by Pope Francis. Do join us for a day together examining Mission in our daily lives and how we might respond to the Lord's call to missionary discipleship. Please book a place. We look forward to sharing the day together.

With best wishes for your work for Justice and Peace.

Fr Gerard Murray (Chair)

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## Dates for your diary:

### Annual Justice and Peace Assembly

**Saturday 12th October 2019**

St. Peter's School, Solihull

register on-line

[http://bit.ly/JandP\\_Assembly2019](http://bit.ly/JandP_Assembly2019)

### Baptised and Sent:

#### Our call to be Missionary Disciples

Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month. The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and the Columban Missionaries invite you to reflect on your experiences, celebrating and putting into action the call to mission for justice, peace and care for creation.



## Dragon Boat Regatta

Following the success of our Dragon Boat Regatta in 2018, 'Making Waves' is back in 2019, bigger and better than ever! The event takes place on Saturday 29th June, from 10am – 3pm.

Several teams will battle it out on the river at St. Nicholas Park, Warwick to see who will be crowned the winner. Every team is fundraising for Global Care's project in Sri Lanka.

This event will help to fund the work of the Morning Star Care Centre, an informal school in a beach slum area in Sri Lanka. In particular, we are supporting the Field Officer, the frontline worker with one of the most challenging jobs on the staff, out in the community identifying children at risk, and working with families in conditions of addiction, abuse, neglect and exploitation. Our partners at MSCC want to appoint a second Field Officer, as there is far too much work for one person.

Last year's event was great fun for all, including the families who came along to watch. There will be a BBQ and drinks available, and activities for children. Come along on the day and help us raise money for a fantastic cause!

**Contact** Anita at [events@globalcare.org](mailto:events@globalcare.org) or 030 030 21 030 if you have any questions.  
**[www.GlobalCare.org/Making-Waves](http://www.GlobalCare.org/Making-Waves)**

Article supplied by Anita White



FaithJustice is a new project which was launched in March this year. Aimed at young adults in their twenties and thirties. The plan is to organise events and networks where there can be an engagement with different issues of justice in a Christian context.

In mid May the first FaithJustice weekend took place in Birmingham. Titled "God's Love Has No Borders" the weekend explored the issues of migration and how we welcome migrants. About twenty young adults took part from a range of different backgrounds, British born, EU migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. We prayed together, discussed themes of migration, studied the bible, and heard stories from those who have migrated and from those who have welcomed others. Part of the weekend was also writing to our MPs about ending unlimited detention of migrants, and about lifting the ban on asylum seekers working. There was also lots of social time and shared food.

FaithJustice aims to hold a series of such weekends through the year. Future events are scheduled to focus on the Arms Trade, Climate Change, the Family, and on Community. The next weekend will take place 28th-30th June at the Catholic Worker Farm in Hertfordshire, it will focus on the Arms Trade, see [faithjustice.org.uk/faithresistance-weekend](http://faithjustice.org.uk/faithresistance-weekend) for more details.

In time the hope is that FaithJustice will grow into a network for young adults engaged with Justice and Peace. There is a real will to draw in those who are on the margins, both of society and of the Church.

Faith Justice is being set up and supported by the Passionist province. Matthew Neville has been employed to coordinate the project. But the hope is that in time a wider range of partners will support and animate.

If you would like to know more then please take a look at the website - [faithjustice.org.uk](http://faithjustice.org.uk) - and sign up to the mailing list.

Article supplied by Matthew Neville



## Our Common Home: the new campaign on climate change



The new CAFOD campaign is extremely timely: rarely does a day go by without a news item appearing about climate change, from the 'extinction rebellion' to the work of Greta Thunberg, to say nothing of the evergreen appeal of Sir David Attenborough's calls for action. The campaign affects us all, and is one that everyone can get involved with. As ever, CAFOD bases its thinking on the fundamentals of Catholic social teaching, as evidenced in two key quotations, one 'ancient', and one modern. The first, 'God saw all that he had made, and it was very good' is from Genesis 1:31. The second, 'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth' are the starkly contrastive words written by Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

The first reminds us that all the wonders of creation come from God; nothing was created without purpose. But as we hear from the Pope, our beautiful earth has changed in some fundamental ways- we have plundered the earth unthinkingly. We have forgotten that creation is God's gift to us, for us to treat with respect. And we are seeing this being played out, right now, in our own country and around the world: from floods to forest fires, we see the effects of climate change even here in the UK. We might enjoy the warmer winters and hotter summers, but some of these changes to the climate already pose severe threats - to our health, our homes, our heritage and our beautiful landscapes. Moreover, climate change ruins the work we do to fight poverty and to lead to better lives. We have made huge progress on climate change, but things are urgent now.

Indeed, our sisters and brothers overseas face far more extreme challenges. Along with droughts and floods, climate change will multiply hunger, migration and conflict. Many of our global neighbours on the front lines of climate change are already living in poverty.

But our faith is one of hope and calls us to action. It calls us to refresh our relationships with God, creation and one another. We need to work together to go further and faster to end climate change and, by working together we can turn the tide. We can treat our home with respect by leading the way, taking responsibility and forging new habits. We must also call on politicians to go further and faster with emissions cuts.

We can also find hope in the fact that we've started to make huge progress. The UK Government passed the Climate Change Act in 2008 which commits us to cut carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2050. And in 2015, world leaders signed the global climate treaty, the Paris Agreement. In turn, more of us as individuals are making changes in their lives, eating less meat, or giving meat up all together, switching to clean energy suppliers, recycling - many of us are doing all we can in our own homes and communities.

However, although we've come a long way since then, recent research by climate scientists has stressed that this is no longer enough. Unless we make dramatic changes, the damage caused by climate change will be irreversible. So, we now know that to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must limit global temperature rise to 1.5C. Going above this could multiply hunger, migration and conflict. CAFOD is calling on the UK to reach 'net zero' emissions by 2045 at the latest: this means only putting the same amount of emissions into the atmosphere as we take out. This is based on the science behind keeping global temperature rise below 1.5C and what we believe is fair and equitable. Several countries, including France, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and New Zealand, have already committed to reach net zero emissions between 2030 and 2050. The UK, as a global leader on climate change, must join them to revive our common home.

The 'slogan' for the CAFOD campaign is 'the time is now'. And there is much we can do right now. We can begin the change today. We can sign the petition to the Prime Minister. This reads: 'I am proud of the UK's commitment made as part of the Paris Agreement to endeavour to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C. This will limit the worst effects of climate change on our health, homes and communities and people living in poverty around the world. Please support a by-2045 net zero greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, and enshrine this in law within the lifetime of this Parliament.'

The Time is Now is also the theme for the parliamentary lobby for our common home this June. If we put one date in our diary this year we could make it Wednesday 26 June, and join CAFOD at an unforgettable event in London. The reason underlying the mass lobby is that it's time to tell our leaders that enough is enough. This is not the legacy that we want to leave for our grandchildren; this is not the future we want. As people of faith, we're determined to speak up for our common home, and on Wednesday 26 June we'll come together with over 100 like-minded organisations - members of The Climate Coalition - to speak to our politicians and make our voices heard.



We'll be gathering at Westminster to connect the poor to the powerful by **sharing** our concerns on climate change and the environment with leaders who can make a difference. Politicians will only increase their ambition if they see that we care. They will act if their constituents tell them that they want change.



## Nakba Day 15th May 2019

It promises to be a really exciting day. Many people will be travelling in organised groups by coach. For those arriving early, there will be a number of interfaith workshops happening in the morning at St Martins-in-the-Fields, before the lobby kicks off. At 11:30 people will gather in Trafalgar Square to walk along Whitehall as a witness to the care of all our faiths for creation. Between noon and 1:15 CAFOD is participating in an interfaith event with Archbishop Rowan Williams. From 1:00 onwards it will be time to meet our MP to discuss why we care about climate change and our common home. Last but definitely not least, at 4:00 there will be a Mass to reflect and to celebrate our common home.

Was the 71st Anniversary of the Nakba (Arabic for "catastrophe"). This commemorated the expulsion of more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and the destruction of over 400 Palestinian towns and villages to make way for the Israel state.

In Coventry a small group stood in silence for an hour on the steps of the Old Cathedral.

We can all get involved in the Our Common Home campaign today. All the resources, and further information about the petition and the mass lobby are available at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk).



Article supplied by Joe Andrew



What do you think to the changes to the website?

Do you like the new page?

<https://www.birminghamjandp.org.uk/news-and-events.html>

Pax Christi members protest outside Coventry Cathedral as City Councillors and guests gathered for the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making. They asked the Council as part of the West Midlands Consortium, to stop investing our money in the Arms Trade and contributing to war, death and destruction.

Do you promote your events on our Diary Page?



## A Diocesan Environmental Policy

Work-in-progress - your J&P Commission members are working on a **Diocesan Environmental Policy**.

This is primarily in response to Pope Francis' Encyclical, '*Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home*' in which he calls upon our world community to **value and take care of our precious planet and its limited resources** and undertake **an ecological conversion and change our lifestyle**.

For the Diocese to consider it as a policy, though, we have condensed it to a number of objectives for the Diocese itself, for parishes and for individuals. We have tried to take into consideration what is already in place, such as an Ethical Investment Policy, having a green energy supplier and being a real Living Wage Employer, as well as what we would like to see the Diocese working towards.

Do you know if:

- \* your Parish a Green Parish?
- \* your parish pays its workers a real Living Wage and that its suppliers also pay a Real Living Wage?

If you have any strong opinions about this, by all means let our Administrator know your views by email to [bham.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:bham.jandp@gmail.com)

## Birmingham J&P Environmental Policy (Draft)

Raison d'être

In 2015, Pope Francis issued the encyclical, 'Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home'. This document, above all, makes the connection between loving our planet and loving our neighbour. It challenges our "throwaway culture", engendered by the never-ending growth of our industrialised economies, treating the planet as though we had unlimited resources. He calls upon our world community to value and take care of our precious planet and its limited resources. In that year he also embraced the existing Season of Creation and, in September 2016, he said that prayer and action to protect the environment should be added to the traditional corporal works of mercy. He calls on us all to undertake an ecological conversion and change our lifestyle in the light of global warming and the damage it is causing especially to the most vulnerable people on the planet. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has said, "The changing of attitudes and minds is the priority. Making the encyclical and its teaching known as broadly as possible is the key, both within and outside the Church"

In response to this, the Archdiocese of Birmingham commits to the following Environmental Policy:

### At Diocesan level:

We will make all our parishes, schools and institutions aware of this policy and encourage them to have their own individual environmental policy that relate to their own individual circumstances.

We have in place an Ethical Investment Policy and we will divest from fossil fuels.

We are a Real Living Wage employer and will continue to be so.

We will continue to purchase "green energy" and we will work towards ensuring all parishes, and school and institutions are either included or independently committed to green energy suppliers.

When considering new build or refurbishment projects, we will, as far possible, make every attempt to achieve a zero-carbon 'footprint'.

We will promote and participate in the Season of Creation, 1st September – 4th October every year

We will give particular support to CAFOD's campaigns for safeguarding the environment both at home and overseas.

We will encourage the use of public transport, car sharing and hybrid or electric vehicles where appropriate and discourage the use of avoidable air travel.

### At parish level:

We will encourage the growth of Live Simply Parishes and Fair-Trade Parishes and work towards becoming a Fair-Trade Diocese.

We will encourage parishes and schools and institutions to have a collective lifestyle that respects others and God's creation, to become more environmentally friendly as far as they possibly can do so.

We will recommend our parishes schools and institutions all carry out energy and environmental audits and act on the resultant recommendations.

### For all the faithful:

We will encourage people to walk or cycle to church or use public transport.

We will recommend that the consumption of meat is reduced, helping to reduce methane gas and grain consumption, as well as making more land available for crops.

We will encourage individuals to look at their lifestyles with a view to reducing their use of resources, energy consumption, the use of fossil fuels, food waste, and consider reusing, recycling and compostable materials as alternatives to the 'throwaway society'.

We wish to encourage everyone to engage in making their own gardens or open spaces havens for wildlife with the appropriate planting and development of habitats, as well as adopting specific schemes such as 'Grow you own', 'Incredible Edibles', and other local initiatives.

Prepared by the Birmingham Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission

## Bishop John Arnold

Bishop John Arnold, the lead bishop on environmental issues for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, has welcomed the publication of the Committee on Climate Change 'net zero' report. The report advises the government to phase out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, ending the UK's contribution to global warming. It is confident that this is manageable with existing technology, the existing budget, and serious public engagement. However, it acknowledges this will require a major ramping up of ambition in policy.

The report states that current pledges from countries across the world are predicted to lead to warming of 3°C by the end of the century, substantially short of the Paris Agreement's goal to limit the rise to 1.5°C. If adopted, the committee state that their recommendations would fulfil the UK's commitments under the Paris agreement, and encourage increases in ambition internationally.

Bishop John said: "This is an ambitious target which will be welcomed by the thousands of Catholics in this country who have responded to Pope Francis's call for us to protect our common home.

"In achieving this target, we must all play our part, and I'm proud that the Catholic community has taken a leading role in showing what can be achieved. Thousands of our churches are running on renewable energy and schools and parishes in dioceses around the country have committed to living simply and sustainably.

"We look forward to seeing the government embracing its role in delivering this agenda urgently and enthusiastically. Pope Francis has asked why any leader would want 'to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so'. Those who think that this is an issue which can be left for another day should ask themselves this question.

"The report represents a welcome recognition that as a country we must be a good 'global' neighbour and must think about the millions of our brothers and sisters around the world who already face danger and suffering, and the millions more who will increasingly be affected by climate change.

"I would echo the words of my brother Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, from Fiji who has said: 'For those of us suffering the consequences of climate change I welcome the international leadership shown by the Committee on Climate Change with these recommendations. With its historic emissions and size of its economy this is a hugely important global step by the UK and one I hope similar countries will replicate.'"



## No Planet B ....

"There's no Planet B: Stop Climate change" is an Erasmus project which will bring together science education expertise from a range of European parties to develop scientific skills and concepts with particular reference to climate change.

We aim to raise pupil's awareness of the impact that climate change will have on their future and our wish for our pupils is to change their outlook and daily behaviours thus having a positive impact on the future of our planet.

We aim to raise the level of attainment of Science in all participating institutions as well as improve pupil's confidence in areas of scientific skills in all contexts.

This project is designed to give teachers the skills and confidence to teach about climate change, focusing on subject knowledge and pedagogy. In line with the national picture to enhance teaching and learning, our project which focuses primarily on primary education will provide children with secure and necessary skills.

We aim to develop a positive attitude towards Science, including the acquisition of higher-order skills, such as the ability to explore, to reason and to communicate scientifically. We want children to use their scientific knowledge effectively to help reduce climate change.

Climate change is defined as a change in climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate vulnerability observed over other comparable time periods. The future of Europe depends largely on the level of education of children and young people; therefore, the aim of our project is to improve the quality of education.

The [schools](#) involved in the project are:

St Columbas Primary – England

Ettore Sacconi – Italy

Radviliskio Vaizganto – Lithuania

Szkoła Podstawowa Nr 8 – Poland







## No Planet B... Acting out Faith in the World

An ecumenical day for all those concerned that there is no planet B, and interested in how we can act out faith to protect the world we already have.

Featuring speakers & workshops on:

- Connecting us with the World
- Practical action we can take together as Churches
- What we can do as Individuals in our Communities plus an exploration of plant based diets, with a vegan lunch provided.

All welcome, whether you are beginning your environmental faith journey; are committed but feel like you are isolated in your church; or are already part of an active congregation.

Please bring a donation on the day if you are able. If we receive an average of £15 per person this will help cover your food, refreshments and speaker expenses - any donation you can afford is gratefully received. Central England Quakers as hosts are providing the conference rooms and facilities.

Saturday 29th June 2019 10am -4pm

The Priory Rooms Meeting & Conference Centre  
40 Bull Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6AF

Register at: [centralenglandquakers.org.uk/noplanetb](http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/noplanetb)

We plan (subject to demand) to include a children's programme: please register interest when booking.

Organised by a planning group of regional environment representatives from Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Quaker and URC churches, plus CAFOD and Christian Aid

**Season of Creation.**  
**September 1st**  
**to**  
**October 4th.**



September 1st is the World Day of Prayer for Creation, established by Pope Francis. The Season of Creation or Creation Time runs from 1st September to 4th October. We have published articles about the Season of Creation in previous newsletters, but what are we supposed to do? How do we as individuals and as parish communities mark this season?

Well, there are a number of things we can do as individuals. We can use this day (September 1st) or this Season to actually begin to take those simple actions we have been meaning to. Begin to take the bus, or walk, instead of the car. If we have to drive, to work for example, can we car share? Give someone a lift or accept a lift. And do the same when we attend Mass. Begin to reduce our meat eating.

Spend some time with nature, perhaps visiting your local park. Take a look at a flower; really look and think about the structure, the petals, smell the perfume, and wonder at the differences between plants and flowers, yet in a way they are all the same. Think about the cycle of life and death in nature and ponder the magnificence of Creation and so the Creator.

As a parish, can we arrange to have bidding prayers each week during Mass. Can we arrange a special Liturgy. There is an excellent vigil for Creation on the CAFOD website. You can find it here <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/World-Day-of-Prayer>

Can you arrange to study the papal Encyclical 'Laudato Si' during this time? CAFOD has produced a guide to Laudato Si, as have the Columbans. Use one of these. Can your parish explore the possibility of becoming a Live Simply Parish. This is a wonderful time to launch such a project. Can you arrange to show the 'Global Healing' film, produced by café?

These are just some ideas which we have used in our parish of Holy Trinity, Newcastle under Lyme. They are not meant to be prescriptive. Indeed, I hope that we will hear or read about other ideas which we can use in the future.

Article supplied by Phil Mayland

Hosted by Central England Quakers, organised by:





## Extinction Rebellion actions in London

working and acting for all of  
US

A small extract from Phil Kingston's input into the National Justice and Peace Network day in February 2019 Phil is a member of Christian Climate Action. I'm glad to be in your company because I imagine each of you walking a path towards what Pope Francis called 'a poor Church for the poor', a People of God who 'listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' and who keep in mind always the generations who follow us. I am particularly happy to be here at CAFOD because some 30 to 40 years ago, I may well have left our Church if I hadn't been inspired by

staff who were here. I recall especially CAFOD replacing the Archbishop Oscar Romero's radio station when it was blown up by people who were determined to stop him being heard. I thought 'this is the kind of Church I want to be in....'.....

...Being with friends, old and new, in Christian Climate Action had deep meaning for me. The integration of prayer with action was an ongoing strength and I experienced the truth of 'Where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name' prayers are answered. Shared prayer at times of uncertainty and risk was a special gift.

I valued the solitude of being in a cell. I appreciated the singing when it travelled along the ventilation system in one police station. Joining in Amazing Grace was a special way of being Church. I read some of Riot Days by Maria Alyokina, a Russian Orthodox Church member and one of the Pussy Riot group. She was incarcerated in a punitive gulag where human rights and dignity had little meaning yet she somehow maintained the courage to keep challenging the abuse which she and others received.

Compared with Maria, the challenges and restrictions I experienced in that fortnight are peanuts; and our actions are only scratching the surface of the power of domination and opposition which we can expect.

I've referred to major concerns which are generally off limits in British political, media and church life. One is the relationship between the global economy and the destruction of the Earth. Another is the utter seriousness of the likelihood of runaway climate breakdown. And a third is the need for a widespread movement of civil disobedience to expose and challenge the current responses to both of these overarching problems.

There is as yet no sign that Government or opposition beginning to engage with them with the seriousness and urgency which is essential. Nor is mainstream media with the honourable exception of journalists like George Monbiot. Nor is our British and Irish Church. Nor are the NGOs. When the Climate Coalition which claims 15 million supporters initiated its Show the Love campaign, I could see that it was onto a crucial source of motivation in caring for the Earth and our descendants. But unless our love is connected with a) understanding the truth about this economy's destructiveness and the complicity of all major political parties in the mantra of more growth, and b) the utter seriousness of unstoppable climate breakdown, it can become out-of-context sentiment.

Extinction Rebellion is striking a chord and filling a void. In just 3 months it has taken root in most UK cities and many towns. It has also spread to 40 countries.

Read full talk in Read here:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36519>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea3nEOoNv\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea3nEOoNv_w)

### Judge in awe of activist, 83, who climbed on train roof

A judge told Phil Kingston, an 83-year-old climate change activist "your knees are obviously better than mine" as he appeared in court for clambering on to the roof of a rush-hour train. He will be subject to a curfew and banned from London until he appears at crown court next month, but described his "delight" at being bailed rather than remanded in custody. The retired probation officer was at Highbury Corner magistrates' court, where he denied a charge of obstructing trains or carriages on the railway by an unlawful act.

He was charged alongside five fellow Extinction Rebellion activists, who also pleaded not guilty and were bailed. They were part of a group called Christian Climate Action and climbed on top of a Docklands Light Railway train at Canary Wharf station on 25th April carrying a banner that stated

"Business as usual = death", singing and holding a prayer vigil as police arrived.



Phil appeared with Greta Thunberg at Marble Arch



## Coventry Friends of Palestine has a new website!

Here is the link to our new website - take a look and tell us what you think!

<https://coventryfofp.org.uk/>

Please note that although our email address is CoventryFoP, the web address has 'OF' in it rather than 'O'!

\*\*\* <https://CoventryFofP.org.uk> \*\*\*

(web links / email addresses aren't generally case sensitive.....)

## THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE IN THE ERA OF TRUMP



### Daud Abdullah

Director of Middle East Monitor, Former Deputy Secretary General of Muslim Council of Great Britain

Saturday 15 June, 6.00 (for 6.30)

All Saints' Parish Church, (bottom of the Parade) Leamington Spa CV31 1AA



### NEW DATE for Restore's Annual Celebration 2019:

Having publicised the original date a long time ago, it is with HUGE apologies for any inconvenience caused that for reasons beyond our control and to avoid a clash with another refugee-related event we are moving the date of the **Restore Annual Celebration to Tuesday 9 July from 7:15pm to 9:15pm at Carrs Lane Church, B4 7SX**. This event is not a business meeting - it's an opportunity to celebrate the work of Restore and our friendships with refugees. On this 20th anniversary of the founding of Restore we will look back to our roots, see how the work has developed and look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead. There will also be lots of time to socialise with other volunteers, supporters and refugees over refreshments at the end.

If you can offer a cake for this event, please contact Geraldine on [admin@restore-uk.org](mailto:admin@restore-uk.org)

**Lift the Ban campaign** - Day of Action in Birmingham - Friday 28 June 2019: In addition to Restore's relational work to welcome and integrate refugees and asylum seekers, Restore also works for change to improve the systems and structures that impinge on the lives on refugees and asylum seekers.

Restore has signed up as a partner in the Lift the Ban campaign which is lobbying the government to change their policy and allow asylum seekers to work after they have been in the asylum process for 6 months. Asylum Matters and Refugee Action are leading the campaign.

As part of the campaign, there will be local Days of Action. In Birmingham, the Day of Action event will be in Birmingham city centre on Friday 28 June. Details re venue and timing are still being finalised but its likely to be around 4pm.

If you would like more information, when it is available, please contact Jeremy on [befriend@restore-uk.org](mailto:befriend@restore-uk.org)

For more information about the national campaign please see: [Lift the Ban](#) and to sign the petition to the Home Secretary [please click here](#)

**"Feeding the Darkness"** and Cycle against Torture: To mark the Freedom from Torture 'Cycle against Torture' cycle ride from Hastings to Edinburgh that will pass through Birmingham in July, the Quaker Peace Committee invites you to a free performance of a play by Journeymen Theatre entitled "Feeding the Darkness" at 7pm on Thursday 11 July at Bull Street Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, B4 6AF. No need to book, all welcome. There will be an opportunity at the end of the performance for discussion with Freedom from Torture members and some of the cyclists.

**Staff changes:** Don't panic no-one is leaving! Whilst the Management Committee continues with its strategic planning process which will include addressing longer-term staffing and fundraising matters, we are delighted to report that Rachel has taken on the role of Acting Befriending Co-ordinator and Geraldine, our Admin Assistant, has increased her hours. This is for a 6 month period from 1 May to 31 October 2019. Rachel's new role includes additional responsibility for volunteer training and the volunteer application process.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Restore and we hope to see you at our Annual Celebration on Tuesday 9 July at 7:15pm.

With best wishes,  
Jeremy, Rachel, Andy and Geraldine

## Modern Slavery It's closer that you think

Many people believe the myth that slavery is a thing of the past and that the practice ceased with the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the American Civil War.

Others see the problem from a different perspective. They believe that modern slavery is a new phenomenon which is only restricted to countries such as India, China, Pakistan and North Korea. The reality is that whilst the laws permitting slavery have been repealed everywhere, people around the world continue to be brutalised, broken, exploited and enslaved through violence or the threat of violence. Making something illegal doesn't make it cease to exist. Making something illegal only causes it to vanish from view.

It is estimated that 45.8 million people worldwide are trapped in some form of slavery, with an estimated 14,000 victims living in the UK.

Walking down a quiet, leafy street in London, you wouldn't cast a second glance at the ordinary-looking three-storey town house. But for the occupants of Caritas Bakhita House, life is anything but for the dozen women living here, their lives have been turned upside down as victims of modern slavery. This is their sanctuary, this is their safe house.

The project is named after St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. Bakhita House was set up by the Catholic Church, opening its doors in June 2015. It has strong links with Rotary and the Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery.

Since 2015, it has hosted 100 women from 35 countries, aged between 17 and 68. One lady who had never been educated and could only speak one language had been taken on as a domestic servant when she was 16. She had brought up the children in that Family. They brought her to the UK as a domestic servant and she was found sleeping under the table, that was her bed, and she was 65. Her whole life had been controlled by that family.

To find out more visit:  
[caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhitahouse](http://caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhitahouse)

The seaside resort of Exmouth is a haven for holidaymakers every summer, serving as the gateway to the spectacular Jurassic Coastline. However, the picturesque Devon town is also the unlikely focal point for a major police operation cracking down on modern slavery across the country.

Modern slavery preys on vulnerable people, is hidden from plain sight, and often relies on incredible bravery from the victims to end it and prosecute the perpetrator.

## Before Sleeping by a Bakhita House guest

You feel bad, angry, upset, don't worry, better days will come again.

Maybe those days will never come again, but don't forget to hope.

Hope, what is it? The only way to believe, it's maybe a lie.

But it's better than to feel nothing. And maybe that hope that you feel ...

Is the only way to believe. Do I believe? I forgot to believe, to love and to be loved, but we can be reborn, feel, be bad.

Be angry, be upset, love, breathe. To feel everything or nothing. But anyway, it's your life, my life.

Keep it, love it, don't hurt it. And if the others push you, hit you, destroy you. Get up and be reborn, rebuild.

Don't let anyone be your shadow, make your own shadow.

And never forget to HOPE.

Extracts from articles in Rotary Magazine April/May 2019  
[Rotarygbi.org](http://Rotarygbi.org)



## Amazonia Synod 7: Laudato Si and the Synod on the Amazon



Scott Wright June  
2nd, 2019  
image: Colin  
McLean

Recently, I attended an interfaith service to commemorate the deaths of six immigrant children from Central America who had died in US custody during the past year after crossing the US-Mexico border with their families seeking asylum. We were reminded by Juanita Cabrera Lopez, Executive Director of Mayan League, who spoke at the vigil, that five of the children came from indigenous Guatemalan families:

"Each indigenous child whose life was stolen was forced to migrate, because they are the most affected by centuries of structural inequality and discrimination in Guatemala. Our children often have no future in the rural and extremely impoverished communities that they come from."

In many ways, these indigenous children and the hundreds of thousands of migrant families crossing the US/Mexico border every year are the human face of climate change in the Americas. Centuries of exclusion and the continued impact of transnational corporations and governments exploiting the natural environment for profit have reached the point where the poor can no

longer survive on the land. Changing weather patterns caused by global warming and the pollution of air and water caused by mining operations have forced people to flee in order to live.

**We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family... There is no room for the globalisation of indifference. (LS 52)**

Easter is a season of resurrection, but in the resurrection accounts we are told that when Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room, his wounds were still visible. The Resurrected One is the One who was crucified. We still live in a world in which "all of creation cries out" as a mother groaning in labour, and "tired huddled masses" are still "yearning to breathe free."

On June 18, the Catholic Church marks the fourth anniversary of Pope Francis' ground-breaking encyclical letter, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

The encyclical letter is addressed "to everyone living on this planet," and it calls each of us individually, and all of us globally, to a radical revision of the way we think about the world, the way we live in the world, and the steps we need to take to make this common home we share something more than a place where nature is ravaged, resources are consumed and thrown away, profits are maximized, and the needs of the poor and the vulnerable are ignored.

Right from the beginning of his encyclical letter, Pope Francis asks: "What is happening to our common home?" and he addresses in the very first chapter the manifold challenges we face as a human family: pollution and waste, scarcity of water, loss of biodiversity, decline in the quality of life and breakdown of society, extreme consumerism and global inequality. His answer to the question he asks sets the tone, not only for the encyclical, but for his entire papacy.

**We must hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (LS 49)**

Since the publication of *Laudato Si'* in 2015, which came out shortly before the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor have grown ever more urgent. According to the latest report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we are on track for a 3.0 C rise in temperatures above pre-industrial revolution levels, twice as high as what was recommended by the scientific community and the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to sustainable levels. Unless we are able to keep fossil fuels in the ground and move globally to a renewable energy framework, we will face unprecedented levels of droughts and flooding, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and severe weather events leading to severe famines, endless internal conflicts, and millions of climate refugees.

Truly we are in need of an ecological conversion, beginning with the way in which we see the world, not as a place to ravage and consume, but as a place to reverence and cultivate for the good of all, especially the poor, and to preserve and sustain it for future generations. It's all about living in right relationship to creation and to each other, connecting the dots and

seeing our lives as holy. We need the wisdom of First Nation peoples to remind us that we stand on holy ground and all life is sacred.

For Pope Francis, "everything is interconnected" (LS138) and we have a special obligation, not only to the poor and to the earth, but to future generations, what he calls "intergenerational solidarity" (LS159).

**What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? (LS 160)**

Only a month ago, Pope Francis met with the corporate heads of the transnational mining companies, many of which have investments in the pan-Amazon region, including fossil fuels and precious metals, and many of which are tied to large-scale hydroelectric and infrastructure projects that have wreaked havoc on both the indigenous communities and the natural environment of the region. Francis did not mince words:

"The precarious condition of our common home has been the result largely of a fallacious economic model that has been followed for too long. It is a voracious model, profit-oriented, shortsighted, and based on the misconception of unlimited economic growth. Although we frequently see its disastrous impacts on the natural world and in the lives of people, we are still resistant to change." These words echo what he had said four years earlier in *Laudato Si'*: "Economic powers continue to justify the current global system where priority tends to be given to ... the pursuit of economic gain. (56)

**Signs of Hope: The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor in the Amazon Region**

But not all is discouraging. One sign of hope in this Easter season is a special Synod on the Amazon called by Pope Francis to be held in Rome this October. In preparation for the Synod, the Pan Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), together with indigenous and church leaders, held a three-day conference at Georgetown University in Washington DC in March on "Integral Ecology." There cardinals of the Church and indigenous leaders issued a prophetic call in defense of life and in defense of creation. Why is the Amazon so important to the planet and to the Church? What is at stake? For Columban missionary Peter Hughes, the answer could not be clearer nor more urgent: "The destruction in the Amazon puts in jeopardy the future of the world's drinking water as well as the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere. It also affects directly the chaotic effects of climate change, increases in flooding and droughts throughout the planet."

**What is happening now in the Amazon region has significance for future life on the planet. (Fr Peter Hughes, SSC)**

Fr Hughes, the former director of the Justice and Solidarity Commission of the Latin American Bishops' Conference (CELAM), was instrumental in the creation of REPAM, and works closely with its episcopal leadership, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, OFM and Peruvian Cardinal Pedro Barreto, SJ. Along with Mauricio Lopez, they recently met with Pope Francis in Rome.



For Fr. Hughes, these disastrous impacts are an open wound in the heart of the Amazon, crying out for life and denouncing a project of death that has only brought ruin to the region:

"Today, the Amazon region is the target for huge capital investment in the exploration, production and exportation of commodities, energy resources of oil and natural gas, electricity through the construction of mega hydroelectric dams; mining and precious metals; the expansion of vast areas of land for agribusiness by burning the rainforest for production of sugar, soya and palm oil. The Amazon has been transformed, negotiated by nation states giving concession rights to global corporations for exploitation of its natural resources with little or no regard for ecological environmental preservation and the rights of its original inhabitants."

These words of denunciation describe, not only what is happening in the Amazon, but what is happening throughout the Americas, and much of the entire world. Market solutions and profit motives are wreaking havoc on nature and people. The stakes could not be higher. In Pope Francis' words: "What is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is up to us. It has to do with the ultimate meaning of our earthly sojourn" (LS 160).

***The Spirit of God blows where it will and breaks in, transforming reality ... We are living an absolute Kairos of God. (Mauricio Lopez, Executive Director of REPAM)***

The Synod on the Amazon is an opportunity and points to an urgent need to deepen the vision of *Laudato Si'*, and to implement an integral ecology in all of its diverse dimensions. According to Mauricio Lopez, Executive Director of REPAM: "We want the Synod to be profoundly territorial," in the sense that "the voices of those who live in the Amazon are actively present," and "the indigenous peoples and communities in the Amazon are subjects of their own history." But the implications of the Synod go far beyond the Amazon and address the concerns of other biomes of the planet, including the Congo River Basin, the Asia Pacific region, Mesoamerica and many other regions of the Americas. The current global economic model is not sustainable.

Fr Hughes agrees with this assessment: "For Pope Francis, the Amazon is a major challenge for the Church in Latin America and beyond."

The Amazon Synod highlights the importance of the periphery as the centre of God's presence in history. The Church must relocate there. REPAM is committed to the search for a true Amazonian face of the Church, inspired by love for the indigenous people."

***The Amazon Synod highlights the importance of the periphery as the center of God's presence in history. (Fr Peter Hughes, SSC)***

What does this mean, then, for the future of the Amazon and the future of the Church?

For Mauricio "the defense of the indigenous peoples includes many risks. Every day, in all of the diverse regions of the Amazon, there is persecution, violence and profound suffering, assassination of human rights

defenders and indigenous leaders, including the most vulnerable of all, the indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation."

"We need a theology that responds to the signs of the time today, that embraces the new reality that the Spirit is revealing, the pastoral process that Pope Francis is leading, a pastoral conversion to become a Church that goes out of itself and responds to the world of today."

"This is where REPAM is putting its focus, encountering Christ incarnated in the reality and culture of the indigenous people," in such a way that we learn "it is possible to live in harmony, and with hope for the future, for the Kingdom of God is profoundly woven into the living expressions that reflect the mystery of God in the peoples of the Amazon."

"The indigenous peoples want a presence that accompanies them in their daily life and struggles, and in the defence of their territories, as was the case of so many missionaries who were prophetic signs of the Church, in a process of mutual enrichment, shared evangelization, and from the perspective of discovering the signs and living presence of Christ's mission in their particular reality."

***I am talking about the Church accompanying indigenous people and sharing the same fate, one of death and of suffering, but also of celebration and hope. (Mauricio Lopez)***

Something new is happening in our common home. A new spirituality of creation is emerging, one deeply tied to the fate of the Earth. The stakes - the fate of the Earth and future generations - are high. Indigenous communities and women play a crucial role. The spirituality of creative nonviolence is deeper and more holistic, rooted in the gift of creation.

Significantly, while the church commemorates the fourth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, we are invited to consider the connections between care for creation and climate change, welcoming the stranger and the refugee crisis, option for the poor and global inequality, nonviolence and a world at war with itself. These are the challenges but also the Christian virtues and witness required of all of us, on a global scale. We have a shared vocation and a common hope. So, returning to Pope Francis' initial questions: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us?" "What kind of world are we leaving the children?"

Like the parable of the Good Samaritan, we can ask ourselves the question Jesus asked: "Who made themselves a neighbour" to the one fallen by the roadside? How can we today make ourselves neighbours to those who suffer the devastating impact of climate change? to the refugees and immigrants crossing our border? to those who are famished and in danger of starvation? to the families and children who suffer the violence of war without turning away from their faces or their cries for help?

That is the Gospel message that Pope Francis presents us with in *Laudato Si'*. It is a challenging message, but it is also an invitation to share "the joy of the gospel," knowing that we are called to be who we

are, one human family living in one common home, to share this beautiful creation with each other and to protect and sustain it for future generations.

God, who calls us to generous commitment, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. Praise be to God! (LS 245)

Our spiritual traditions are deeply enriched by the spirituality of indigenous peoples rooted in the gift of creation. As Christians, we know that the joy of Easter is the victory of Christ over death, and that life, not death, will have the last word. But even as we celebrate the joy of Easter, the passion of the Earth and the passion of the poor continue in the drama of countless nonviolent struggles of poor and indigenous peoples for life, for future generations, and for all of creation. As we anticipate the celebration of Pentecost, we pray to the Spirit that unites us all and binds us to creation: "Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth!"

Scott Wright is Director of the Columban Centre for Advocacy and Outreach, based in Washington DC.

stormed the beaches to ensure peace around the world.

The only disappointment was the absence of the Orchard's inspiration, Dennis. We hope to have made him proud and wish him a very speedy recovery.

Article supplied by Miss E Cunningham



Benches made by Cardinal Newman Coventry pupils for the Peace Orchard

## Peace Picnic 2019: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

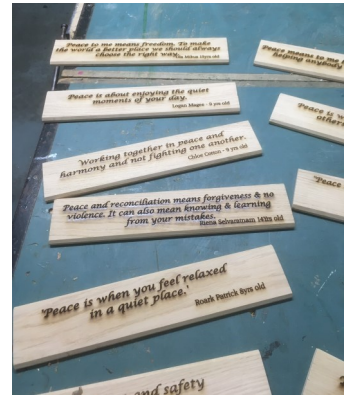
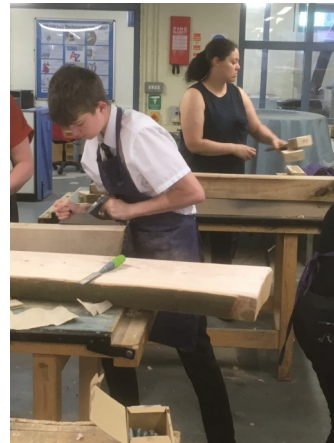
On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019, staff at Cardinal Newman took a group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students to Coundon Park to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Coundon's very own Peace Orchard.

The Peace Orchard is the dream of Dennis Davison, a WW2 veteran who bravely stormed the Normandy beaches at just 19 years old. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Dennis could not join in with the celebrations, but his daughter, Heather, stepped in for him. Dennis has been honoured by the Prime Minister for his service to the country and his ambition to ensure peace reigns in the world.

This journey started back in June 2018, when Dennis officially opened the Peace Orchard along with the Lord Mayor of Coventry. Since then, Cardinal Newman have been working closely alongside to encapsulate Dennis' dream of peace. Both staff and students have worked tirelessly to make benches and plaques for the Peace Orchard, as well as organising activities for the celebration.

Cardinal Newman school was commended by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, as well as Heather, for all the tireless work and effort the school has put into ensuring the message of peace is spread, the original intention of the Peace Orchard.

Overall, the afternoon was full of enjoyment and celebration with a very competitive football game between Year 7 and Year 8. Students also contributed to the live music, with several playing their own instruments and a mix of singing and dancing. This was all in remembrance of those soldiers who bravely



## Columban Mission and the Extraordinary Missionary Month – October 2019

'Mission' is an important theme for 2019. Pope Francis has declared October as the Extraordinary Missionary Month, offering the theme 'Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World'. 2019 is also the year in which the Columban Missionaries in Britain have been given Birmingham, our 'home' diocese, for the Annual Mission Appeal, meaning Columban Missionary priests are visiting parishes across the Archdiocese. The Columbans and the Archdiocese share the desire that this year leaves a legacy of formation – broadening understandings of 'mission', and challenging and encouraging all in their baptismal call to "missionary discipleship" (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*). A number of initiatives

With the support of Vicar General, Fr. Tim Menezes, the Columbans contributed a discussion paper on mission for the deanery meetings in May. Fr. Jim Fleming SSC and Stephen Awre from the Columban Mission Office attended the Birmingham East deanery meeting to facilitate an hour-long discussion based on five 'characteristics' of mission prepared by Fr. Tom O'Reilly SSC. This paper could be used more widely, so the 'characteristics' are provided below and you are invited to use them as you wish for personal or group reflection. A version suitable for secondary schools is also available.

### **Characteristics of Mission**

#### **Mission of God – what is God's dream for the world?**

A communion of loving relationships. God reaches out to invite all people, and indeed all creation, to participate in the divine Communion of Love.

*What are the 'loving relationships' in your parish community?*

#### **Purpose of Mission – promoting God's Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God is the activity of God in our world, the liberating and transforming power of God breaking into our world in the person and mission of Jesus. The Church is called to be a *missionary community* constantly reaching out beyond its borders in service of the Kingdom of God.

*How is your parish community 'reaching out beyond its borders'?*

#### **Goal of Mission – Integral Salvation as a present reality**

Salvation involves *liberation* from anything that destroys, diminishes or threatens life today. It also involves a *transformation*, a restoration to a state of wholeness, so that we can live in true communion, in right relationship and harmony with God, with others, and with all creation.

*What are the 'signs of the times' in the world today that destroy, diminish or threaten life?*

*How does your parish community participate in restoring the world to a 'state of wholeness'?*

#### **Way of Mission – Giving and Receiving**

Pope Francis reminds us that we must never cease sharing the joy and the gift of the Gospel with others. But that gift can never be imposed. *Listening and receiving* are absolutely essential in mission. God is already present and active in any given situation long before the missionary arrives.

*What 'gifts' have you and your parish community received from your encounters with other people?*

#### **Call of Mission – Missionary Disciples**

Every member of the Church is called to play a part in the Church's mission. The missionary call is rooted in our common baptism. A well-integrated *inter-cultural parish community, open and welcoming to all*, can be a tremendous sign and instrument of the communion God desires.

*How prepared are you and your parish community to*

*be a 'sign and instrument of God's communion'? What opportunities/forums are there for you and your parish community to discuss your 'missionary call'?* Currently in progress is '2019: The Mission Project', a mission exposure programme for Year 9 students, devised by the Columbans in collaboratively with the Diocesan Education Service. This is being led by Columban JPIC Education worker, James Trewby, and our Faith in Action volunteer, Catherine Bridgwood. Over the course of two months, the project invites young people to take a fresh look at mission and how they are called to participate, and involves visits to mission activities supporting refugees and asylum seekers, and contributing to the care of God's creation, including St. Chad's Sanctuary, Fatima House, Solihull Welcome and City Hospital Greenhouses. An assembly on mission for primary schools is also available.

The Columbans are working side-by-side with the Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission on '[Baptised and Sent: our call to be missionary disciples](#)', the annual J&P Assembly at St. Peter's School, Solihull, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Based on the 'See, Judge, Act' model, participants will be invited to learn about mission from a variety of perspectives and to engage in practical action for justice, peace and care for creation. Archbishop Bernard Longley will be there and we are looking forward to welcoming people from across the Archdiocese. To book your place, visit:

[http://bit.ly/JandP\\_Assembly2019](http://bit.ly/JandP_Assembly2019) (Google Form) or email [bham.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:bham.jandp@gmail.com)

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, for young adults, there will be a day of formation and experiences exploring mission followed by a vigil and Mass for World Mission Sunday (20<sup>th</sup> October), organised jointly by the Diocesan Vocations Office, Youth Service, Evangelisation Department and the Columbans. This will include participants interviewing a Columban missionary overseas via Skype.

We are very grateful for the wonderful people and organisations in the Archdiocese of Birmingham who support and partner with the Columbans in responding to the call of God's mission. Through all of the events and activities described, we hope to strengthen and grow the community of missionary disciples, constantly reaching out beyond its borders in service of the Kingdom of God.



Stephen Awre  
Columban Mission Office  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2019





# BAPTISED AND SENT

## OUR CALL TO BE MISSIONARY DISCIPLES



Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month. The Justice and Peace Commission for the Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Columban Missionaries invite you to reflect on your experiences, celebrating and putting in to action the call to mission for justice, peace and care for creation.

### BOOK YOUR PLACE

Use Google Forms at [http://bit.ly/JandP\\_Assembly2019](http://bit.ly/JandP_Assembly2019) or email: [bham.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:bham.jandp@gmail.com)

DATE: **SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

TIME: **10 AM to 5 PM**

VENUE: **ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, SOLIHULL**

The Columban Missionaries are visiting parishes in the Archdiocese of Birmingham during 2019.



register for this year's Assembly on-line

[http://bit.ly/JandP\\_Assembly2019](http://bit.ly/JandP_Assembly2019)

If you have a contribution you would like included in the **November 2019** newsletter please send it by Email for consideration to:

The Administrator, J&P Commission.

Email: [bham.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:bham.jandp@gmail.com)

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*The views expressed in this newsletter are the view of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission or the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.*

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