

## Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin May 2019

Email: [lfjcomm@gmail.com](mailto:lfjcomm@gmail.com) Website: [www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk)

St Bernadette's Parish House, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 4HT

### Prayer for the 2019 European Elections

Lord, as we approach the European MEP elections,  
grant to us and across Europe the wisdom and courage we need,  
to make the right choices.

Move us to carry out our duties as responsible citizens  
with respect for the rights of all Europeans citizens.

By voting in a spirit of Christian fellowship, human solidarity and service,  
may we bring hope to the poor, unity to all European people  
and a commitment to stabilise the Climate and stop pollution,  
for a more secure and peaceful future for all your children and creation.

Lord, do not allow us to become discouraged, or misled by hollow or harmful promises.

Fired-up by the Holy Spirit, inspire us to contribute to the re-building  
of the European Peace Project with vigour and generosity.

Loving and merciful Lord, we pray that in our voting the world may be blessed,  
we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

*National Justice & Peace Network*

Launch of CAFOD's new climate Campaign



**our  
common  
home**

#### In Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Church

4 Marlborough Drive, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9UE

**on 18th and 19th May 2019**

at the weekend Masses (6pm on the 18th May  
and 8:30am and 10:30am on the 19th May

There will be the opportunity to meet members of CAFOD's Campaign Team from Romero House in London and see how you could run the campaign in your parish. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness within parishes that climate change is now a major issue for the Church and to encourage people to take action on it. We would like to ask parishes:

\* To hold a "Creation Mass" at which we celebrate God's generosity and share, over a meal or other refreshment, a conversation about what we can do to value and protect our common home;

\* To promote and support the mass lobby of Parliament on 26 June. We hope that people from across Lancaster Diocese can come to London to speak up for climate justice. It would be wonderful if our young people have a voice at the lobby, even if they are unable to attend in person, by making something for us to take on their behalf - perhaps their own petition, a piece of artwork or a letter. They will amaze us with their passion and creativity!

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-Change>

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Plus resources, events and campaigning opportunities



## The 2019 European MEP Election – Advice and Prayer from NJPN

### Thinking about which party to vote for...

**Be careful about promises:** At election time politicians like to make big promises. It is easy to promise, but much more difficult to make them happen. Ask yourself if these promises are meant honestly, or if they are just a way of capturing your vote?

**Look at who is on the party lists:** We vote for parties, but the parties send individuals to the European Parliament to be our MEPs. They are there to represent us and our interests. Who are these people? You can find out who they are by looking at the lists published. Look up:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/european-elections/european\\_elections.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/en/european-elections/european_elections.html)

Be careful about giving your vote to those who have shown themselves to be abusive, corrupt or incompetent.

**Understand their policies:** Some parties have good speakers; others can organise inspiring rallies. But when the speeches and the rallies are over, can they actually represent you diligently in the European Parliament? Will they support policies in the interests of all citizens? As Pope Francis asks in the quote below, do they have good, sensible policies? And do they know how to put these policies into place?

**There are many important issues:** The economy is important, but so is the environment and social welfare and peace. Poverty and inequality affects millions across Europe. Corruption and tax avoidance needs to be tackled, and so does violence and crime. Human rights, employee rights and freedoms need to be defended. We should not pick just one issue as the most important 'single issue'. Which party do you think has the best approach to dealing with as many of these questions as possible, as well as possible?

**Check where the funding comes from:** Some political parties have been very secretive about their donors and

have been fined for breaking spending rules, and are under investigation. Ask the parties how they are funded?

Are they funded from outside the UK?

### A spiritual preparation for voting...

Come to the decision with openness to where God may lead you. Don't vote for a party because you always have in the past.

Gather information by reading and asking questions of the parties you are considering voting for.

Consider which party seems to be thinking and acting most closely to the values of Jesus.

Ask which party is most likely to serve the common good – not just my interests, or the interests of the economic elite.

Make a tentative decision and offer it to God in prayer, talk to God about why you have decided this.

Listen to the Holy Spirit in your heart – what is God's choice?

Look for a sense of deep peace – this is a clue that you have discerned well.

*"People say 'I'm from this party' or I'm from that party', but effectively, they don't have clear thoughts about the basics, about proposals. The people are sovereign. I will only say: Study the proposals well, pray and choose in conscience." – Pope Francis*

This has been adapted from a pamphlet issued by The Southern African Catholic bishops' Justice and Peace Department, in advance of that country's recent election.

*Prayer on page 1*

Relevant articles:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/can-europe-make-it/can-british-democracy-handle-the-european-elections-publicdebate-civility-and-extremism/>

[https://www.ted.com/talks/carole\\_cadwalladr\\_facebook\\_s\\_role\\_in\\_brexit\\_and\\_the\\_threat\\_to\\_democracy](https://www.ted.com/talks/carole_cadwalladr_facebook_s_role_in_brexit_and_the_threat_to_democracy)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/alexander\\_betts\\_why\\_brexit\\_happened\\_and\\_what\\_to\\_do\\_next](https://www.ted.com/talks/alexander_betts_why_brexit_happened_and_what_to_do_next)

*National Justice & Peace Network*

## Pilgrimage

From Sr Anthony Macdonald

Recently I had the privilege of going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Having seen films, documentaries, pictures and having listened to the accounts of former pilgrims, I visualised a land of sunshine.

What a shock it was to arrive in Tel Aviv to pouring rain which lasted for four days!

Reflecting on the weather, I imagined Jesus and his followers trudging along in the wind and rain, soaked to the skin hoping for a bed for the night in the next town or village only to be turned away! I wonder if that was the reason St James and John wanted to call down fire from Heaven!

'When his disciples James and John saw it they said, 'Lord do you want us to command fire come down from heaven? Lk :9:54

Those cold, rainy days helped me to realise the humanity of Christ and his understanding of our daily lives . I thought too of the refugees fleeing from danger and forced to live in camps where there is often little protection from the elements.

Our guide, a Christian, Palestinian Arab was a man of deep faith. Nadal took us off the traditional tourist trail to the 'Valley of Doves'. This valley was surrounded by gentle ,rolling hills, a stream gurgled alongside a worn track, and birds sang and chirruped in the trees.

'This is the old road from Nazareth to Jerusalem,' announced Nadal  
'I give you half an hour to walk along by yourselves'.

Silence, birdsong, a babbling stream, wildflowers and a blue sky above.

Sheer joy!

I walked slowly along visualising Mary, Joseph and Jesus and the apostles treading this ancient path to the festivals in Jerusalem.

It was the highlight of the trip for me.

I had already noticed the presence of sparrows happily flitting among the branches and present almost everywhere we went.

These were surely descendants of those sparrows Jesus referred to in Matt.10:29.

Since sparrows have greatly declined in the UK, I felt happy to see they are flourishing in the Holy Land.

Of course we visited the traditional sights in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Our guide told us that this land had been fought over 72 times in the last 2000 years!

Armed Israeli soldiers were stationed at strategic sites in the city. I found this disturbing until I realised, that in the same city, during the lifetime of Jesus, Roman soldiers would have been a common sight particularly during festivals.

We had a free day so a few of us took the bus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. We stopped halfway and a group of young people got off and stood outside in the rain. I thought they must be waiting for another bus. Two armed police entered the bus demanding we show our passports.

They looked carefully at our documents and left, only to turn to the young people standing outside who later rejoined us. I realised they were Palestinians and felt upset at the humiliation they had endured.

I asked Nadal how he controlled his young teenage sons in the face of such treatment.

'I am not allowed to comment on the political situation', he replied but his grim expression spoke volumes!

Again I reflected on the lifetime of Jesus and the reprisals meted out to those who rebelled against Roman occupation. Jesus must have seen men crucified as he moved around the country. How incredible to his listeners must have been these words,

'Love your enemies,

Do good to those who hate you' Matt.5:44



Valley of Doves

*Continue on page 4*



# Crisis

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/cover-the-cost/>

Everybody should have a stable home they can afford.

A properly funded safety net should be there for people who need help to keep their home, like after redundancy or illness, or when stuck in low-paying jobs. Local Housing Allowance rates - part of Universal Credit - were created to help people pay their rent until they get back on their feet. **But repeated cuts to the rates over the years now mean that in most of the country, people who need this support are struggling to afford a home.**

Losing a private tenancy is one of the most common reasons people become homeless. One major reason behind this is Universal Credit not keeping up with the cost of rent. People are being forced to make impossible choices between paying for food and bills or covering the rent. When the pressure becomes too much, they can lose their homes. Often councils are left to pick up the pieces, spending millions of pounds on homelessness services.

Until there are enough social homes for those that need them, Universal Credit must cover the cost of rent. If we don't act now, thousands more people will become homeless. Government has a chance to change this by **investing in Universal Credit in the upcoming Spending Review** so it becomes a better safety net to prevent and end homelessness.

Crisis Cover the Cost campaign is calling on Government to invest back into Local Housing Allowance rates and prevent more people from losing their home, therefore saving money in the long run.

**Get involved:** We need your help to demonstrate public support to politicians that this should be a top priority in the upcoming Spending Review. Now is our chance to call on Government to stop more people becoming homeless by ensuring Local Housing Allowance will #CoverTheCost of rents.

Add your support at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/cover-the-cost/>

Watch: <https://youtu.be/bQ8IFu64BIM>

*Continued from page 3*

Returning to our hotel, I picked up a booklet published by a Palestinian Women's group and was heartened to read that a crèche had been opened in Jerusalem for Jewish and Palestinian children

On our last day in Jerusalem, we were approached by a small group of Jewish schoolgirls who engaged in friendly conversation.

We laughed together as both sides strove to make themselves understood!



At the airport we were each closely questioned as to our activities over the past week. Concluding, the young man who had quizzed me, added on returning my passport, 'Have a happy birthday next week'. We parted smiling.

These incidents gave me hope for the future, for surely it is in small gestures towards strangers and neighbours, that tolerance and understanding grows between people.

I felt another pilgrimage beginning!

*Sr Anthony Macdonald, member Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission*



## Westminster Abbey

### nuclear weapons thanksgiving service

On Friday 3 May Christians from across the country came together for a witness for peace outside Westminster Abbey. Inside Prince Williams was among those attending a National Service of Thanksgiving for 50 years of British nuclear weapons being at sea, described by the Royal Navy as a 'celebration'.



Christian CND among others had called for the service to be cancelled. [More than 200 Anglican clergy members](#) signed our statement and more than 1000 people signed a petition to the Dean of Westminster. Unfortunately we were not able to prevent the service, but we were able to demonstrate the mainstream Christian view that nuclear weapons are nothing to be thankful for.

The event, which was supported by Pax Christi, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Church and State, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Community of Reconciliation and the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, included Bible readings, prayers and contributions from a range of denominations.

Among those taking part Revd Matt Harbage from London who read Romans 12:9-18 while Alyson Peberdy from Oxford brought us Colossians 1:15-20. Paul Parker, Quakers in Britain Recording Clerk spoke about the contribution Quakers have made to peace and disarmament efforts throughout the past 60 years while Father Joe Ryan prayed for those submariners involved with the Trident programme. Bruce Kent led an act of repentance for the possession of nuclear weapons and the service finished with an impromptu rendition of Amazing Grace.

While we regret that the service in the Abbey took place, the strength of unity among Christians opposing nuclear weapons, along with the media coverage of the event including in Church Times and on Premier Christian Radio will really invigorate our campaigning for the coming season.

Some people engaged in a die-in and sang peace songs and when the event ended, the dignitaries filed out to make their way to the QE2 centre for a reception and had to pass them.

A short rally followed, with speeches from Bruce Kent and supporting organisations: Theresa Alessandro from Pax Christi, Lindsey German from the Stop the War Coalition, and Daniel Jakopovich from the Quakers.

The Cost of Trident:

<https://cnduk.org/resources/205-billion-cost-trident/>

The Catholic Church and Nuclear Weapons :

[http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/](http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Revised_Catholic-Church_Nuclear-Weapons2015.pdf)

[Revised\\_Catholic-Church\\_Nuclear-Weapons2015.pdf](http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Revised_Catholic-Church_Nuclear-Weapons2015.pdf)

[Read the report in the Church Times](#)



Outside Westminster Abbey

**Your young people deserve to be celebrated!**

**Who will you nominate?**

**Celebrating Young People Awards 2019**

This is your call to action: nominate a young person or group you know for a Celebrating Young People Award today

**To nominate visit:**

<http://millionminutes.org/awards>

**Deadline for nominations is  
the 24 May 2019.**

**RECOGNISE. NOMINATE.  
INSPIRE.**



**UNITED PRAYER AND INTERCESSION**

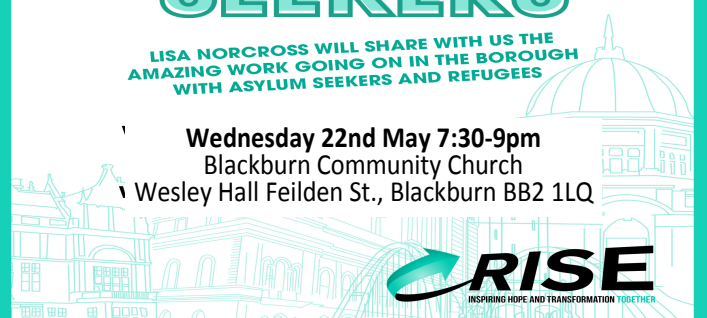
**ASYLUM  
SEEKERS**

**LISA NORCROSS WILL SHARE WITH US THE  
AMAZING WORK GOING ON IN THE BOROUGH  
WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES**

**Wednesday 22nd May 7:30-9pm**

**Blackburn Community Church**

**Wesley Hall Feilden St., Blackburn BB2 1LQ**



## 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea3nEOoNv_w)

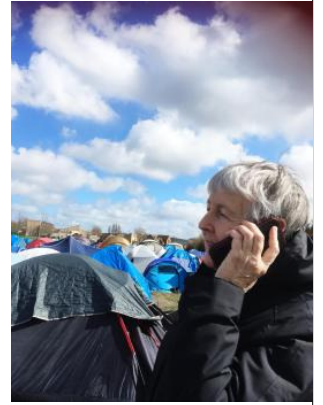
### **Judge in awe of activist, 83, who climbed on train roof**

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 yesterday, 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

## CALAIS REFLECTION: PEOPLE NOT WALLS

Barbara Kentish

I spent a March weekend in Calais and Dunkirk for a 'People Not Walls' meeting. 'People Not Walls' - a working title - consists of several charities/associations and non-governmental organisations on both sides of the Channel who meet regularly to strengthen our solidarity for the humanitarian treatment of migrants on our borders. Organisations based in France, such as Help Refugees, l'Auberge des Migrants, Utopia 56 and Calais Catholic Worker, the Diocese of Europe, meet with some in England, such as Justice and Peace, the Diocese of Canterbury, Samphire, Seeking Sanctuary and others.



We seek to show our respective governments that investing in barriers is a futile way to build human flourishing. Instead we call for investment in the welfare of the hundreds, if not thousands, who continue to congregate along the coast, from the Belgian border to Calais and beyond. The monthly meeting took place at Secours Catholique in Calais, with 10 or 12 people who are getting to know each other and building a programme of action.

Our Calais friends were downhearted and even traumatised by the recent violence of the riot police, who had demolished a small settlement on the outskirts of Calais. Each time this happens, tents, sleeping bags and clothing are destroyed. They nevertheless hold out some hope that new avenues of collaboration can change the situation. We are planning this on three levels:

1. exchange of information
2. a joint symbolic action on both sides of the Channel on 20 June - World Refugee Day
3. a collaborative campaign for greater humanity from both our governments.

All these objectives are in progress, aided by some semi-professional lobbyists, as well as volunteers, all with determination to seek something better for the hundreds forced to 'drift' around the coastline. For most 'exilés' there is now no alternative but to attempt some illegal entry into the UK.

Two of us had booked to stay over till Sunday and travel northwards to Dunkirk. A quiet farm B&B near the coast seemed far from the struggles of the Calais streets, but we reached Grande Synthe on the outskirts of Dunkirk early next morning. Here, Sylviane, a volunteer friend, met and led us to a nature reserve where we discovered a group of 20 plus Afghans camping in the woods, safe, they said, from police disturbance. One was known to my friend who had seen him in Calais two years before. Others had spent time in Italy before coming North. Pallets kept the men from the worst of the mud, and there was a substantial camp fire. We were offered a cup of tea - I remembered Afghan hospitality from the Calais Jungle - but we had other visits to make.

On to the municipal gymnasium where open ground and surrounding sports pitches have been made available for camping. We saw perhaps a hundred tents of varying sizes and 200-300 people, mostly men, enjoying the comparative warmth of the morning sun. With goods from our friend such as sleeping bags, tents and warm jackets, we were temporarily popular, till these ran out, and the men returned to their serious occupation of getting phones recharged on multiple socket cables. A favourite criticism of migrants is of course that they can afford smart phones. But it is a lifeline for most, not only to keep them in touch with family - generally with free Whatsapp, but also it tells them where the lorries are, the traffic flow, and so on. Perhaps also family can transmit money via phone. There were a few children, one is an Iranian with excellent English after only eight months in Europe.

Sylviane then drove us to a municipal children's holiday centre where women and children are housed - a lovely sheltered modern house in its own grounds. Alas, both the gym and the holiday house will be needed in the warmer weather and the migrants will be out on illegal ground again.

By lunchtime Sylviane decided we needed feeding and took us to an amazing Vietnamese 'eat all you want for a fixed price' meal, where we did just that, without much encouragement. Then we continued on to her house on a street by the sea in town, where she proudly pointed out where the blockbuster 'Dunkirk' had been filmed. Her house, of old 19th century architecture, had been part of the film set, close to where sandbags had blocked the way.

*Continue on page 8*





## Diocese of Salford announces plans for Laudato Si' Centre

This Lent, parishes and schools of the Diocese of Salford were asked by Bishop John Arnold to take the environmental crisis more seriously and to make changes in their own lives that would make a difference. The Bishop didn't just ask others to make changes, he has responded to his own challenge by beginning a major environmental project - the Laudato Si centre - in the grounds of his own residence, Wardley Hall. Named after Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment and human ecology, the centre will create a space for practical action to care for our common home, which will help to leave a sustainable world for future generations. The final elements of the project will be agreed after a period of consultation with parishes and schools. The plan includes a walled vegetable garden, an outdoor classroom, hens, a forest school and a wildflower meadow. This ambitious multi-phase project will take between three and five years to fully realise. It will be open to the public and it is hoped will inspire the local schools and parishes to transfer some of the ideas on display into their own communities.

At the Centre ecological solutions to problems such as single use plastic will be taken from across the globe - solutions such as an 'eco brick', which is also produced in Cambodia. The eco brick is a way of putting old plastic bottles to good use. When the bottles are packed with waste plastic they become a very useful material and are used instead of bricks for building walls.



Raised beds at Wardkey made from Eco Bricks

These are the materials that will be used to build the raised gardens and other small structures at Wardley Hall.

The 'eco brick' is an indication of the Centre's aims to be a place for practical action, inspired by faith, rooted in prayer and that gives a sense of the sacred for people of all faiths and none. People will have the opportunity to proactively engage with the pressing environmental issues facing our generation and the generations who follow.

A statement from the diocese says: "Our goal is to make the Diocese of Salford a flagship for effective action on Climate Change and by launching this initiative the Bishop is putting his words into action on his own doorstep."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36941>

*Continued from page 7*

Walking along the beach we were treated to enormous ice creams and a visit to an old German bunker on the beach, which a local artist has just completely covered with fragments of mirror, calling it 'Reflections'. Modern barbed wire fences in Calais, old German war bunkers in Dunkirk: you do indeed have to reflect on this stretch of the French coast! Who is protecting whom from what?

My reflections were mostly, however, on the resilience of the migrants, and the support needed by volunteers and aid workers for the long haul in seeking justice on the borders, and that the money spent on walls would be much better spent on food, clothing and shelter for migrants.

**Barbara Kentish** 11 April 2019

**Note:** The political border between the UK and France is on the French coast, rather than mid-way across the sea; border security, therefore, while geographically on French land, is financed greatly by the UK. The hundreds of migrants, having entered Europe through Greece, Italy or even Northern Europe, and crossed several Schengen borders, are brought up short when arriving on the North coast of France, facing a daunting barrier of steel, barbed wire, and 25 miles or so of freezing English Channel.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36899>

**Barbara Kentish** retired recently as J&P Fieldworker for Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. An excellent French speaker, she continues working with the cross channel solidarity group she initiated and other Calais projects. **See more at:** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36332>





The Climate Warriors: Auimatagi Joseph, Brianna and Sione on their visit to the UK from the Pacific islands.

Joseph, Brianna and Sione are young climate activists known as Pacific Climate Warriors. Drawn from across the Pacific region, they represent grassroots, frontline and indigenous communities. With support from around the world they are enabling young people in their communities to get involved in environmental justice issues. In Pacific cultures the image of the warrior is that of a protector. The Pacific Climate Warriors work to revive our common home in the face of climate change.

They are calling on world leaders to build a better world for us, and for generations to come.

They have spoken in the UK and all over the world to emphasise that the actions we take here have impacts there. Communities in the Pacific Islands could stand to lose everything unless the UK and other countries stop using fossil fuels, lower their carbon emissions and reduce their contributions to climate change

### **Sign our petition now We need urgent action**

The Climate Warriors are speaking up from the frontline of this climate crisis. Things are urgent now and we too have to play our part in the response. The UK now has an opportunity to take a lead. So we are petitioning the Prime Minister to commit to a target of net zero emissions by 2045 in UK law. If the UK can reach net zero, it means we are no longer contributing to climate change.

The UK was one of the leading countries on climate change at the time of the Paris Agreement, but we need to do more to protect our homes and our beautiful landscapes. Scientists have proven that we need to keep the world's temperature within 1.5C. This increase in global temperatures can only be limited if we control the amount of greenhouse gases we release into the atmosphere.

Join the Our Common Home campaign

There are many ways to join the [Our Common Home](#) campaign, from signing our petition to joining us at the Time is Now mass climate lobby on 26 June. We really need everyone to come together and show the government we are demanding action on climate change.

You can help to raise awareness in your parish by running a Creation Celebration – a mass and a meal to celebrate God's gift of creation and highlight our duty to protect it. We have created an Organisers' Guide to help you through the entire process.

[Download the Creation Celebration Organisers' Guide](#)

### **Ask the government to get behind urgent climate action**

Climate change affects our health, our homes, our heritage and our beautiful landscapes. It ruins the work we do to fight poverty and lead better lives. To stand the best chance of avoiding this, we need the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 'net zero' by 2045.

This will mean Britain no longer contributes to climate change.

Things are urgent – **take action and sign the petition to the Prime Minister today at:**

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-Change>

*There is this imagery of the canary in the coalmine. The Pacific is the canary in the coalmine right now. So we're the first to go, if nothing happens, but eventually it's going to affect you guys too if you don't curb these habits of consumption which is driving your addiction to fossil fuels."*

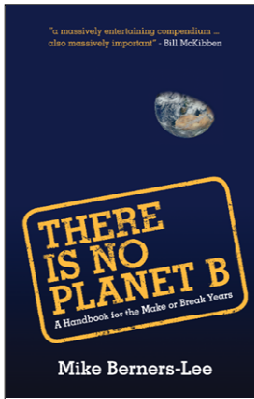
Auimatagi Joseph

### **Another reminder: Saturday 18 May/Sunday 19 May**

#### **Creation Mass, launching CAFOD's new climate campaign, *Our Common Home***

at the weekend Masses at: Our Lady & St Edward's Catholic Church, 4 Malborough Drive, **Preston PR2 9UE**

Come and meet members of CAFOD's Campaigns Team from Romero House in London and see how you could run the new campaign in your parish by celebrating a Creation Mass.



Organised by the Justice & Peace Group of



## There Is No Planet B:

A Handbook for the Make or Break Years

**Speaker: Mike Berners-Lee**

Author of *How Bad Are Bananas?* and *The Burning Question*

Professor at Lancaster University and is the Director of Small World Consulting

**7:30 pm Wednesday 12th June 2019**

in St John's Church, Church Street Settle BD24 9JH

Feeding the world, climate change, biodiversity, antibiotics, plastics, inequality, fake news – the list of concerns for the Anthropocene seems endless.

- But how does it all fit together, and what should we do?
- And, given the global nature of the challenges we now face, what on Earth can any of us do?

**ALL WELCOME**

## Divest Parliament

### Fossil Fuel Divestment Debate in Parliament

**on the 22nd May 2019**

Our political leaders are failing us on climate action. But together, we're pushing our demand for a Fossil Free world to the top of the political agenda – where it firmly belongs.

**Over 200 MPs agree: we need a Fossil Free future.** It's time to Divest Parliament. **Send a message on twitter or email to encourage your MP to attend the debate** *from the Divest Parliament team*



[Click here and @ your MP to tweet and ask them to attend the debate.](#) or

By email you can personalise the sample text at the bottom of this email and send your MP [a quick email](#) asking them to participate.

Sample letter

### Westminster Hall Debate (May 22) on Fossil Fuel Divestment

Dear [Your MP],

I'm writing to you as a resident of your constituency. I am concerned about the climate crisis and Parliament's support of the fossil fuel industry, including significant investments made by the Parliamentary Pension Fund in BP and Shell PLC. I am encouraging you to attend an upcoming Westminster Hall debate on this subject being held in Parliament at 2.30-4pm on May 22nd.

Divesting the Parliamentary Pension Fund from fossil fuels is an important opportunity for MPs to back up recent rhetoric about the climate emergency with action. To bring emissions to net zero in the earliest time frame, the fossil fuel industry needs to be brought into managed decline, and significant investment has to be made into renewable infrastructure and improvements in energy efficiency.

In contrast, fossil fuel companies continue to invest tens of billions (£s) to develop new reserves of fossil fuels that we cannot afford to burn. We cannot rely on fossil fuel companies to comply with the essential emission reductions that are directly opposed to their core business model. This is why it is essential for us to remove all pension investments from them and reinvest in positive solutions to tackle the climate crisis.

I am very hopeful that you will attend the upcoming debate on 22nd May to make the case for divestment as an important action that all pension funds, including your own, can implement to help decarbonise the economy. To date 246 serving and former MPs have signed the Divest Parliament Pledge and you can add your name here if you've not already done so.

**Being Church in smaller groups.**  
Prayer, reflection and discussion with

**Rose and Greg McCrave**

**Saturday 18 May 2019 10.00am – 3.00pm**

Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre,  
**169 Sharoe Green Lane, Preston, PR2 8HE**

*Greg and Rose are experienced small group facilitators in parish and retreat settings. Rose is a visiting Guest Director at St Beuno's, North Wales and Greg has a particular interest in male spirituality. They will lead us in exploring and experiencing the joy and companionship of being part of the Body of Christ by belonging to smaller groups.*

Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided  
To book please email [anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk)  
or T: 01772 555483

**'Emerging Church'**

**the challenge of the Gospel and new responses**

**Prayer, reflection and discussion  
with Simon Stewart**

*Simon is chaplain at The Cornerstone, a community hub which is part of Lancaster Methodist Church. He will be reflecting on what he has learned from ministering in the centre of town and on his recent experiences as a prison chaplain.*

**Saturday 13 July 2019 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre  
169 Sharoe Green Lane, Preston, PR2 8HE**

Please bring a packed lunch.,Tea and coffee are provided.  
To book please email [anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk).  
or phone 01772 555483

**ACTA National Conference 2019**

**Diarmuid O'Murchu**

***Imagining the Church of the future***

**Saturday 12 October 2019**

King's House Conference Centre,  
King's Church, Sidney Street, Manchester M1 7HB

Registration 10.15 for 11.00 start. Finish 4.00pm  
Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch  
Cost £20 Early Bird £18 Under 25's Free

**ACTA - A Call to Action** - ACTA aims to encourage dialogue at all levels in the Church we love and to grow in our relationship with Jesus through an exploration of the Sacred Scriptures and the riches of Vatican II.



**Engage with God's heart for  
poverty in your community -  
new course available now**

**[Download the Transforming Poverty course - click here now](#)**

Using Ken Loach's film *I, Daniel Blake*, our new course *Transforming Poverty* brings church groups together to talk, think and pray about local people's struggles with poverty (including your own). It will help you look at how the Bible and your faith in Jesus guide you to respond.

It's a great resource for Lent, or for house groups and study groups at any time of year.

**[Click here to download Transforming Poverty now!](#)**

[www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

**Dementia Action Week**

**May 20-26<sup>th</sup> 2019**



*'unites people, workplaces, schools & communities to take action to improve the lives of people living with dementia'* ([www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk))

As part of the Churches Together Dementia Project there will be a dementia friendly

**Service of Preparation for Dementia Action Week**  
to which all are invited. On **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
**at 2.30 at Kendal Parish Church**

followed by refreshments.

For more information please contact Yvonne Povey,  
Dementia Project Officer [dpotic@outlook.com](mailto:dpotic@outlook.com)/

T: 01768 897138.

**DISCOVERING JOHN BRADBURN**

**Boarbank Hall, Cumbria 21st-24th June 2019**

**(third night optional)**

John Bradburne (1921-1979) is the nearest thing we have to a modern St Francis, despite his Englishness! Born in Cumbria, the son of an Anglican vicar, John became a Third Order Franciscan. He was associated with the Benedictines at Buckfast and Prinknash and the Carthusians at Parkminster. He was a musician and a poet, and a deep lover of God's creation, especially birds and bees. He finally found his vocation caring for lepers in Mutemwa in Zimbabwe. Since he was murdered there in 1979, many miracles have been attributed to his intercession. The process for his beatification has begun.

**Speakers**

**Professor David Crystal**, who is currently editing the poetry of John Bradburne.

**Dr Julia Pigott**, who runs the charity BeeEd, and works for the National Bee Unit.

***A visit to John's birthplace will be included***

For more information: email: [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk);  
phone **015395-32288**; website: [www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk).



<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby>  
[www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow)

Politicians will only increase their ambitions for action on the climate crisis if they see we care. They will act if their constituents tell them that they want change.

Join CAFOD at Parliament in Westminster on 26th June ask your MP to support ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement of 2015.

Don't worry if you are not an expert, CAFOD and the Climate Coalition will produce a briefing for your conversation with your MP. Together we will create a noise outside Parliament that can't be ignored.

### Climate Coalition Lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 26th June 2019

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate/Climate-lobby>  
[www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/thetimeisnow)

If you would like to travel with others on the train from Lancaster to the lobby please contact Maggie email : [lfjcmm@gmail.com](mailto:lfjcmm@gmail.com)

### Events & Opportunities for Awareness Raising

12th-18th	Christian Aid Week <a href="http://christianaid.org.uk">christianaid.org.uk</a>
15th May	International Conscientious Day
18th May	Pax Christi Annual General Meeting in London NW1 1LY
18th-19th	Launch CAFODs Our Common Home Campaign Our Lady & St Edward's Preston p.
18th May	Being Church in Smaller Groups Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre Preston
21th May	Feast day of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter - Inspiring Conscientious Objector of WW2 <a href="http://www.paxchristi.org.uk">www.paxchristi.org.uk</a>
20th-26th May	Dementia Week
22nd May	United Prayer & Intercession Asylum Seekers Blackburn p.5
22nd May	Divest Debate in Parliament p.10
5th June	World Environment Day
8th June	National Gathering CAFOD volunteers London
12th June	No Planet B Mike Berners-Lee Settle see p. 10
15th June	National Gathering CAFOD volunteers Manchester
26th June	Climate Coalition Lobby London <b>26 Climate Change Lobby: "The Time Is Now".</b>
21st-24th June	Discovering John Bradburne Boarbank Hall Cumbria see p.11
13th July	Emerging Church Xaverian Missionaries Spirituality Centre Preston p.11
26 -28th July	FORGOTTEN PEOPLE: FORGOTTEN PLACES <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick</i> , NJPN conference will be exploring UK poverty. The major partner to the conference is Church Action on Poverty. John Battle, will chair the conference. For details on NJPN website <a href="https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/">https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</a>

Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission

[lfjcmm@gmail.com](mailto:lfjcmm@gmail.com)

[www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk)