

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin June 2022

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to anneoc980@hotmail.com

EDITORIAL: FINDING HOPE

Anne O'Connor 26/02/22: I had the second of two cataract operations last week. The difference to my sight is phenomenal. It feels as though a veil has been lifted and has vividly brought to life for me the meaning of the phrase 'the blind can see'. (Isaiah 29:18; Isaiah 35:5 and Matthew 11:5) Not only has my vision greatly improved; I now see the world around me in glorious technicolour! Enjoying television broadcasts from the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this week I was able to fully appreciate the beauty and brilliance of the natural world. These reports highlighted the therapeutic benefit of being 'at one' with nature and discovering that a garden can be instrumental in aiding mental health – see more on these themes on pages 2-3.

Last weekend we finally felt able to hold the long-awaited memorial celebration for our daughter Annie who died in June 2020. We invited her friends and work colleagues as well as family members. The day was full of joy, sharing happy memories together. Led by some of her musician friends who travelled from different parts of the UK, this was the farewell Mass Annie would have wanted – a far cry from the bleak graveside funeral that we were obliged to have at the time of her death, limited to just 10 people. Ironic, then, that only this week we were reminded once again of the sacrifice we and so many other families had made for the benefit of others during the dark days of Covid in stark comparison to the Prime Minister's blatant disregard for the very rules he had instructed the nation to follow. At the time of writing (26/05/22) further revelations about parties in No 10 Downing Street are coming to light with photographic evidence and testimonies from insiders about the party culture prevalent there throughout lockdown. Sue Gray's report has finally been published to damning criticism from opposition parties and from some within the Conservative Party itself too. Tory MP Tobias Elwood has called for the Prime Minister to resign. See more here: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/vomiting-and-partying-until-4am-sue-gray-delivers-damning-verdict-on-boris-johnson-s-no-10/ar-AAXHCuz?li=BBOPRmx>

Our gathering on 14/05/22 was a chance to celebrate a life lived to the full, faithfully and joyfully following the gospel message in loving service to others. After Annie died we spent time as a family deciding how best to continue her legacy. We wanted to channel our loss into an opportunity to journey forward with hope. To find out more see: <https://gracetruth.blog/2022/02/15/dont-just-live-the-length-of-life-live-the-breadth-of-it-as-well-by-anne-oconnor/>

Sometimes we can feel there is little to be hopeful about: the climate crisis; the war in Ukraine; human rights atrocities; poverty at home and overseas; yet another school shooting in Texas in which a teenage gunman has murdered nineteen children and two teachers <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/texas-school-shooting-everything-we-know-so-far/ar-AAXFQ4s?ocid=uxbndlbing>

And yet the theme of this year's NJPN Conference is '**Hope is a Verb with Its Sleeves Rolled Up**', in other words, encouraging us to foster hope in whatever way we can - in our families, our communities, our world.

As Sharon, our NJPN Editor, writes in the latest issue of the NJPN E Bulletin (22/05/22): 'We really need to find hope in things, and hold onto it.' Download the bulletin here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-ebulletins/njpn-e-bulletin-22nd-may-2022/>



The Conference will take place at the Hayes Conference Centre during the 22nd to 24th July. More details will follow nearer the time, but if you haven't signed up for it, please check out the link here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/> and think about joining us. Book in quickly, though, to avoid disappointment.

'There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself.
There can be no ecology without an adequate anthropology.'
Pope Francis - Laudato Si'

This issue of the NW NJPN E Bulletin focuses on areas where we might seek to find and foster hope.

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE: THE ST MUNGO'S PUTTING DOWN ROOTS GARDEN

This urban pocket park embodies the ethos of St Mungo's Putting Down Roots programme, which has helped people recovering from homelessness to gain confidence and grow their skills, and to rebuild their lives through gardening. It is designed as an inclusive place, bringing people and plants together, highlighting the ways in which green spaces provide personal and social, health and wellbeing benefits. It celebrates 10 years of St Mungo's Putting Down Roots and Cityscapes working collaboratively to transform lives, communities and places.

Located in a shady aspect, the planting focuses on layered plant communities with green textural foliage punctuated with floral accents of colour, bestowing the garden with a sense of tranquility, contrasting with the vibrant colours woven throughout the hard landscaping, made from reclaimed and recycled materials. Large planters throughout the garden provide a sense of height and enclosure, creating an immersive and safe experience for users. A pavilion structure and seating provide opportunities for dwelling and respite from the pressures of city life.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/the-st-mungos-putting-down-roots-garden>

St Mungo's outreach teams go out each night to meet people who are homeless and to help them off the streets. With 17 outreach teams we are one of the largest providers of outreach services in the country. Each night we offer a bed and support to more than 3,200 people across London, the south east and south west. We believe that people can – and do – recover from the issues that cause homelessness. We work to prevent homelessness and support people at every step of their recovery from homelessness. <https://www.mungos.org/>

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH: THE PLACE2BE SECURING TOMORROW GARDEN

The Place2Be Securing Tomorrow Garden is a beautifully planted garden. It offers a safe space where children and adults can take time to relax and talk – a garden that helps facilitate and stimulate conversation. Not only has the garden been developed in close consultation with pupils from Viking Primary School in west London, but also it will be relocated there after the show.

Children feel calm and relaxed in this garden, and can take in the beauty of plants and being outside – something that is especially important for those who have little or no outdoor space at home. This connection with plants and the natural world is something that has proven increasingly important for mental health and wellbeing over the past two years.

Place2Be is a children's mental health charity providing support and training to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families, teachers and school staff. The charity works in partnership with schools – including Viking Primary – to support children's emotional wellbeing and address any issues before they become more serious. Find out more here: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

Plants take centre stage with the trees providing structure, and shrub and herbaceous planting adding texture, interest and pops of colour. Simple but refined hard landscaping adds to the sense of calm, while large stone boulders and sculpted seats provide spaces for children to sit and talk. A child-friendly, tippy-toe path adds interest and fun for the people who'll use this important space. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/the-place2be-securing-tomorrow-garden>

DISCOVERING THE MAGIC OF FORAGING: ALDER HEY URBAN FORAGING STATION

The Alder Hey Urban Foraging Station is a landscape that weaves together young and old, green and urban, play and learning, and Alder Hey Children's Hospital with its community. At its core is the aspiration to inspire children to lead active, healthy, pleasurable lives.

The garden is infused with the magic of discovery inherent to foraging. Visitors first encounter the garden as nostalgic glimpses through rampant, blossoming hedgerows. Once within, a sense of freedom prevails to explore, leave the path and 'get lost in your own world'.

A design language of forms associated with foraging is abstracted into a woven landscape. Precast concrete 'strands' make up a picnic blanket laid over an undulating landscape with edible herbs growing through. The garden is designed to encourage engagement with nature through foraging, sharing healthy food, play, relaxing together and being in the moment.

The garden features planting inspired by a number of habitats that were once commonplace including species-rich hedgerow, orchard meadow and bog/ditch habitats. These are human-made habitats that are easily damaged through the loss of knowledge about how they should be maintained. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/alder-hey-urban-foraging-station>

THE MOTHERS FOR MOTHERS GARDEN – ‘THIS TOO SHALL PASS’

The expression ‘This too shall pass’ is a mantra passed between mothers navigating the challenges of raising young children and the associated mental health challenges that can come with it, from post-natal depression, to anxiety and isolation. This garden is a garden for mothers and represents a place of transition: from despair to hope.

A cloister of bronze-toned walls and archways represent how long days at home with a baby can feel like either a sanctuary or a cage. A fractured pathway through the garden demonstrates the physical and mental journey of nurture and repair. For the planting, what starts as a restrained, muted palette gives way to a joyful, feminine celebration of colour, as the road to recovery, supported by other mothers, becomes clear.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/the-mothers-for-mothers-garden>

The Circle of Life Garden

Designed as a sanctuary and a place of escape from the digital world, this small garden seeks to represent the cycle of life from beginning to end through different means. The different heights within the garden depict the highs and lows of life, and the curves are the twists and turns of our everyday journeys.

Water, an essential element, is harnessed by the Japanese wooden water wheel, the oldest method of harnessing energy, and its turning is a symbol of the passing of time. Alongside this traditional equipment, repurposed wood has been put to contemporary use on the pergola roof and in creating the 'stone' walls. The planting incorporates herbs, wild grasses and vegetables, many with a practical application. Each plant colour represents the human emotions with green for healing, red for passion, yellow for warmth, white for purity and black for everyday troubles and worries. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/circle-of-life>

A REWILDING BRITAIN LANDSCAPE: REWILDING BRITAIN PROJECT GIVING BACK

The garden shows a rewilding landscape in South West England, after the reintroduction of a native, keystone species – the beaver.

A brook flows beneath a glade of hawthorn, hazel and field maple and through a winding old West Country stone wall. Below is a pool dammed by beavers and the beaver's lodge, built around a large crack willow. Evidence of their food and dam supplies – wood-sticks, woodchip and tree debris – are scattered around. Rivulets of water trickle through the dam and spread out across a riparian meadow through rejuvenating alder trees. An old timber walkway, inspired by the Neolithic Sweet Track from the Somerset Levels, leads across the wetland meadow to a viewing hide at the side of the pool. Native wildflowers mingle with grasses in the varied planting zones, while marginal plants throng the edges of the pool and stream. The garden reflects the amazingly rich landscape that evolves when nature's eco-engineers, such as beavers, are able to flourish.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/a-rewilding-britain-landscape>

TEACHING SEWING SKILLS TO PRISONERS: THE STITCHERS' GARDEN

The garden celebrates Fine Cell Work, a charity teaching prisoners needlework, a skill that nurtures their self-worth, instils self-discipline, fosters hope and encourages them to lead independent and crime-free lives upon release.

Fine Cell Work is a charity which makes beautiful handmade products in British prisons. <https://finecellwork.co.uk>

Visitors will see into the garden through a 'cell'. This simple structure, made of steel, with contemporary woven willow panels replicates the dimensions of their prison space. Opposite, a larger pavilion echoes the form of the cell. It is also constructed of steel, with more open woven willow panels. It is a metaphor for the space in which the creative exchange between prisoners, designers and Fine Cell Work takes place. Between these two structures is a pool with fountain jets. The pool sits in a herbaceous parterre, harmoniously filled with planting combinations in pale yellow, soft pinks and cream. The garden feels restful and inspiring. It is reflective and uplifting, expansive and optimistic, solitary and celebratory, calming but colourful.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show/Gardens/2022/the-stitchers-garden>

Podcast host Dame Deborah James has visited the Chelsea Flower Show to see a rose which has been named after her. The 40-year-old host of the BBC's You, Me and the Big C podcast revealed earlier this month she is receiving end of life care after being diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2016. Dame Deborah, who has said roses are her favourite flower, visited Chelsea on Tuesday evening with her husband for a private tour lasting around an hour. "Flowers are a reminder of our future," Dame Deborah said. "We plant the seed not knowing what we might see grow. Being around nature gives us a lift and it is a reminder that life continues to blossom, even in some of the hardest places, and brings a smile to all of our faces, even in the hardest of times - particularly mine."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61587714>

Many of the gardens displayed at Chelsea will be moved to permanent locations after the show for others to enjoy.

ST ANTONY'S CENTRE NEWSLETTER

Directors Comments: The Pain We Feel

Kevin Flanagan writes: Dear Friends and Supporters, it is difficult writing this in the context of the human suffering taking place in the Ukraine and the displacement of people into countries across Europe.

Our Centre welcome and solidarity stretches beyond the immediate boundaries of the North West through EZA our partners in Europe. Our friends in Poland are sheltering many people fleeing from conflict on the frontline. The Dom Spotkań-Fundacja Nowy Staw from Lublin are taking refugees from Ukraine into their education house in Nasuttow. Support has been co-ordinated by EZA, of which we are members, to help fund the cost of this vital work along with other partners.

Despite Brexit it is vital we continue to build meaningful levels of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Europe and across the globe. Due to social media the world is more like a global village where we not only hear about their suffering but can witness it, at times in all too graphic detail as videos are transmitted on applications like Tik Tok.

The Centre has seen in recent times more and more people who need help and support with their functional skills and ICT as they start to make a new life for themselves and their families in the UK.

We witness the great goodness of people as they welcome the stranger into their homes and lives, true

• St Antony's Centre was established in 1979 the Centre boasts unique conference and hire facilities, training, spirituality and community support programmes. From a small acorn planted over 40 years ago supporting the Trafford Park community, the Centre has evolved and widened its reach working with partners and friends across the UK and Europe. A person-centred approach remains at the heart of all we do from greeting visitors to one of our centres to a helping hand to those at times of crisis. <https://www.stantonyscentre.org.uk/>

ST. ANTONY'S REACHOUT – SUPPORTING ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

During the spring the Reachout team have been working alongside Mencap, (Liverpool and Sefton), to develop a programme of support for their members to improve their skills and ultimately find meaningful work. Mencap have a long and successful history of helping people with learning disabilities to access specialist support and help their members develop the essential skills and confidence to thrive and feel equal in society so when the opportunity came to work alongside them, we did everything we could.

As a result, we are excited to announce that the St Antony's team will be starting a programme of workshops over 5 weeks with a cohort of Mencap members in Liverpool starting in the summer, this will then be followed by a 20-week programme of accredited Maths and English.

Dave Flanagan Senior Project worker said, "This is a really exciting opportunity and I know the team are looking forward to supporting the Mencap members

solidarity born out of our concerns for our brothers and sisters in their hour of need. We need the same heart and commitment from our Government, still slow in issuing visas to Ukrainians trying to join families here. I am deeply concerned and saddened about the proposal to send people seeking asylum to Rwanda as part of a new policy. This needs an urgent rethink as does the takeover of hotels at short notice under Government contracts to house refugees with little or no consultation with the locally elected councils and support agencies, and stress to hotel workers unsure of their own employment.

Let's pray the suffering in Ukraine and other areas of conflict will soon end. We all have a duty to renew efforts to build a lasting peace, born out of respect for our shared humanity. We can all do our bit locally and through our prayers and actions to be instruments of peace and hope.

The Easter season reminds us of the hope of resurrection and new birth, hope even after destruction and sadly human suffering that there can be a new way of mutual respect, dignity and love for each other.

Thank you for your support it means a lot to us and our clients, especially at a time when resources are stretched and costs are spiralling, leaving many struggling to meet basic needs.

and working alongside their staff and volunteers. St Antony's have a long history of supporting adults with learning disabilities and, coupled with the expertise at Mencap, know we will be able to provide a truly engaging and positive experience for their members as we work to empower them to live fulfilling and independent lives in the future both in their own communities and the workplace".

There are still significant barriers for people with learning difficulties in accessing employment opportunities and in addition to the practical hands-on support St. Antony's can offer, we give our full support to Mencap to bring about their vision in addressing the barriers faced by people with learning disabilities including: access to good quality support to get and maintain employment; support to build confidence and skills; addressing employer's attitudes. Our key aim is to address the lack of understanding as to what people with a learning disability can do with the right support".

ICN SUNDAY REFLECTION WITH FR ROBIN GIBBONS - 23 MAY 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 21, 2022

Recently I have become involved with an online group, who because of various disabilities feel unable to worship in a public space and throughout Covid have evolved into a real and very important online ministry of prayer, worship and sharing. This is something that many of us found a life line during that period of intense isolation, but now the fact that we can return, albeit with caution, to community worship, does not negate their ministry and mission, far from it, many of those who connect with this have also been badly hurt in their faith lives. Like many of you I was fine during Lockdown, but isolated from my own community of faith, so turning to the practices of monastic life I drew on them to give me the nourishment I needed. Yes, I felt sustained, but I also joined in on line worship.

I am a regular part of what Notre Dame cathedral calls its tele-spectateurs, and sees as their online parish, we are welcomed to get in touch and this in turn allows us to feel connected in different ways. I often 'attend' the daily sung vespers and can join in by means of their system of online files for the daily offices and masses! This discovery of the web, computer and media as a means of engagement for good and for faith cannot be dismissed. It does not in any sense take away that communal need for the 'Assembly' in Liturgy, but it calls out to us to rediscover ancient and forgotten aspects of our domestic Christian life, agape, blessings, house prayers, feasts celebrated by special meal and maybe a reading, the context of fast and feast and the love of Scripture! I just wonder as I sense a deeper movement in faith communities, and have to ask if this is not the real promptings of the Holy Spirit, she of whom John has Jesus tell us "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name-he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you." (Jn 14:26) To remind does not imply always in the same way?

In one sense I am a firm believer that Covid has and will have a transformative role in the world, it is still amongst us, Long Covid and its constant effects show this in many people's lives (I am still suffering from it), but as one extraordinary video in Italian called, a letter from Covid19 put it in the voice of Covid (I paraphrase here), "when I have gone you must not forget what I was here for, learn from me to enjoy the simple things of life, each, day, fresh air, friendship, nature, take nothing for granted, care for each other and your earth'. The hint there was and is that if we don't learn, go back to our bad old ways then other and worse things will come upon us. So for me Covid has been a wake-up call, a darkened angel calling us to radical change!

I know I cannot return to where I was before, for our world has changed and we can sense the instabilities and uncertainties of this fragility about us. Thus, as we move towards Pentecost it is imperative that the Church itself does not stifle the Spirit pulling, pushing and prodding us into new things. In a sense just as that first community had to make the momentous decision to deal with the gentiles and abandon deeply held portions of the Law, such as forbidden food now allowed, circumcision abandoned, blood sacrifice outlawed. These were not done lightly or without synodal debate and discernment but it was the Spirit they invoked for help and it is by the Spirit they made these decisions known: "It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities" (Acts 15: 28)

From where each one of us is, can we see a call to new things, new ways of doing things, old and loved ways renewed, upheld, and loved rather than being used as a rigid set of observances to be simply obeyed? Our second reading puts before us a new heaven and a new earth, but also that City of the New Jerusalem our destiny, our final home which must be the desire of each one of us. There worship has no need of temple or community space because all is holy and within that holiness the Glory of God shines: "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb." (Rev 21:23)

But we are people still on the journey and I commend any way forward that allows us to bridge the gaps between others, to heal the brokenness of this our earth and its people. Jesus again hands to us on the plate of the Gospel the way we are to go, the Advocate will help us, and that is my prayer for us all, that we really learn to love and ask that Spirit to enable us, for we do it for and with the love that is God: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid". (Jn14 :27)

Karl Rahner: 'The Shape of the Church to Come.'

"Our present situation is one of transition from a Church sustained by a homogeneously Christian society... to a Church made up of those who have struggled against their environment in order to reach a personally clearly and explicitly responsible decision of faith. This will be the Church of the future or there will be no Church at all."

'A call to declericalised Church.'

"A Church in which the office-holders in joyous humility allow for the fact that the Spirit breathes where he will and that he has not arranged an exclusive and permanent tenancy with them. They recognize that the charismatic element ... is just as necessary as office to the Church; that office is never simply identical with the Spirit and can never replace him; that office too is really effectively credible in the sight of men only when the presence of the Spirit is evident and not merely when formal mission and authority are involved".

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44730>

TEXAS SHOOTINGS: POPE CONDEMNS INDISCRIMINATE SALE OF GUNS

Source: Vatican News/Archdiocese of Chicago/USCCB May 25, 2022

Pope Francis has called for an end to the indiscriminate trafficking of arms on the day after 19 children and two teachers were killed in a mass shooting at a primary school in the US State of Texas. In an appeal during his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis said his heart was broken at the loss of innocent lives. He said: "I am praying for the children and adults who were killed, and for their families. It is time to say enough to the indiscriminate trafficking of arms. Let us all commit ourselves so that such tragedies can never happen again."

In a statement on the carnage, Cardinal Blase J Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, said: "We don't yet know whether the Uvalde gunman took advantage of 'permitless carry,' but we do know that America is awash in guns. We have more firearms than people," he said. "As I reflect on this latest American massacre, I keep returning to the questions: 'Who are we as a nation if we do not act to protect our children? What do we love more: our instruments of death or our future?'"

The Cardinal noted that mass shootings have become a daily reality in America today, recalling that just last week dozens of people fell victims to such events. "The size of the crisis, and its sheer horror, make it all too easy to toss up one's hands and declare: 'Nothing can be done.' But that is the counsel of despair, and we are a people of hope. What do we hope for our children?" he said.

"We must weep and soak in the grief that comes with the knowledge that these children of God were cut down by a man who was just a few years their senior," Cardinal Cupich continued. He issued an urgent appeal: "But then we must steel ourselves to act in the face of what seems like insurmountable despair."

The Cardinal pointed out that gun safety measures do make a difference, and that a 2021 Northwestern Medicine study found that the Federal Assault Weapons Ban prevented 10 mass shootings during the 10 years it was in effect. "Researchers also determined that if the ban had remained in place in the years since it was allowed to expire, it could have prevented another 30 public mass shootings that killed 339 people and injured 1139 more," he continued. "The Second Amendment did not come down from Sinai. The right to bear arms will never be more important than human life. Our children have rights too. And our elected officials have a moral duty to protect them."

President Joe Biden said: "How many scores of little children who witnessed what happened - see their friends die, as if they're in a battlefield, for God's sake," he said. "They'll live with it the rest of their lives."

The Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said: "There have been too many school shootings, too much killing of the innocent. Our Catholic faith calls us to pray for those who have died and to bind the wounds of others, and we join our prayers along with the community in Uvalde and Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. As we do so, each of us also needs to search our souls for ways that we can do more to understand this epidemic of evil and violence and implore our elected officials to help us take action."

Authorities said the suspect in Tuesday's killings acted alone. Texas Governor Greg Abbott said that the shooter was apparently killed by police who confronted him at the school, and that two officers were hit by gunfire, though the governor said their injuries were not serious. This latest mass shooting comes just 10 days after another 18-year-old opened fire at a grocery store in a predominantly black neighbourhood in Buffalo, New York. Tuesday's shooting was the worst at a US school since a gunman killed 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in December 2012. In 2018, a former student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killed 17 students and staff.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44765>

BIDEN BLAMES TEXAS SCHOOL SHOOTING ON 'GUN LOBBY,' DEMANDS NEW GUN LAWS

Steven Nelson May 24, 2022

President Biden on Tuesday night said the "gun lobby" is responsible for US mass shootings and called for new gun control laws after a gunman murdered 18 children and two adults at an elementary school in Texas.

"As a nation, we have to ask when in God's name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? When in God's name will we do what we all know in our gut needs to be done?" Biden said in remarks from the White House just before 9 p.m. Biden added, "The list grows when you include mass shootings at places like movie theatres, houses of worship and as we saw just 10 days ago, at a grocery store in Buffalo, New York. I am sick and tired of it. We have to act. And don't tell me we can't have an impact on this carnage."

Salvador Ramos, 18, allegedly shot his grandmother before arriving around noon local time at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, about 80 miles west of San Antonio. Texas State Sen. Roland Gutierrez said he was armed with two assault rifles that he bought on his 18th birthday. "We can't and won't prevent every tragedy, but we know [gun laws] work and have a positive impact. When we passed the Assault Weapons Ban [in 1994], mass shootings went down. When the law expired [in 2004], mass shootings tripled," Biden said.

“The idea that an 18-year-old kid can walk into a gun store and buy two assault weapons, it’s just wrong. What in God’s name do you need an assault weapon for except to kill someone? Deer aren’t running through the forest with Kevlar vests on for God’s sake,” Biden said. “It’s just sick. And the gun manufacturers have spent two decades aggressively marketing assault weapons, which make them the most and largest profit. For God’s sake, we have to have the courage to stand up to the industry.”

Biden concluded by noting the US has more mass shootings than other countries and calling for new gun control laws. “Why are we willing to live with this carnage? Why do we keep letting this happen? Where in God’s name is our backbone — to have the courage to deal with it and stand up the lobbies? It’s time to turn this pain into action. For every parent, for every citizen of this country, we have to make it clear to every elected official in this country, it’s time to act,” Biden said. “It’s time for those who obstruct or delay or block the common-sense gun laws we need to let you know that we will not forget. We can do so much more. We have to do more.”

Vice President Kamala Harris spoke about the tragedy about an hour before Biden, saying “enough is enough.” “As a nation, we have to have the courage to take action and understand the nexus between what makes reasonable and sensible public policy to ensure something like this never happens again,” Harris said at a DC gala for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

But any gun law reforms will remain a tough sell in Congress. Most bills require 60 votes in the Senate and Democrats control just 50 seats.

<https://nypost.com/2022/05/24/biden-blames-texas-school-shooting-on-gun-lobby/>

SEEING AMERICA, AGAIN, IN THE UVALDE ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL SHOOTING

Nineteen children and two adults were murdered in Texas. This is the country that gun-rights advocates have chosen.
Jessica Winter May 25, 2022

On Tuesday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released a report titled “Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2021,” which logged sixty-one mass shootings last year. The deadliest of these was at a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado, where ten people were killed, a death toll that was matched ten days ago, at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, and then exceeded, at Robb Elementary School, in Uvalde, Texas, where an eighteen-year-old shot and killed nineteen children and two adults. Early reports indicate that he used a handgun and a rifle. Families who gathered at the local civic centre, which was used as a reunification site, were asked for DNA swabs to assist investigators in identifying their loved ones. The shooting began around eleven-thirty in the morning; as darkness fell, many families were still waiting outside the civic centre, without word of their children.

This is the second-deadliest K-12 school shooting in U.S. history, after the December, 2012, massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Connecticut, where twenty children and six educators were killed. Eventually, Sandy Hook also came to be seen as the graveyard of the gun-control movement: in 2013, a new assault-weapons ban, and also a bill to require universal background checks for firearm sales, failed in the Senate. If an entire classroom of dead first-graders could not spur even remedial action in Congress on gun control, nothing would. And nothing has.

A few months after Sandy Hook, the agitprop-documentary-maker Michael Moore, writing in HuffPost, imagined a scenario in which the parents of the victims leaked photographs of the classroom crime scenes to the press. If that were to happen, Moore argued, the horrifying images would have the same galvanizing effect on activist movements and public opinion as those of Emmett Till, in 1955, or Phan Thi Kim Phúc, in 1972. “There will be nothing left to argue over,” Moore wrote. “It will just be over. And every sane American will demand action.” (Just like that!) Sandy Hook parents swiftly shut Moore down, but there was a kernel of sense in his proposal—he was grasping for some method of defibrillation for a movement in arrest. Published images that represent school shootings are always heartrending and always the same: the surviving children filing out, some in tears, others in shock and excitement; the desperate parents; the sorrowful reunions. One of the many unforgivable obscenities of America’s gun obsession is how it can render the image of an anguished child and her caregiver, captured in real time as they absorb a life-altering trauma, as commonplace, interchangeable, even banal. Wait, which one is this again?

On Tuesday night, the poet Jana Prikryl shared the “Alas, poor country” passage from “Macbeth,” in which Ross laments that Scotland has become not a place to live but merely a place to die: “Almost afraid to know itself. It cannot / Be call’d our mother, but our grave . . . where violent sorrow seems / A modern ecstasy.”

A modern ecstasy—and a habit, or a ritual, with its attendant ceremonies and scripts and rites. These always include cut-and-paste expressions of sympathy and concern from various bridesmaids of the National Rifle Association. Mitch McConnell, the Senate Minority Leader—who once said, following a school shooting in his home state of Kentucky, “I don’t think at the federal level there’s much that we can do other than appropriate funds” for school safety officers and counselling—tweeted that he was “horrified and heartbroken” by the tragedy at Robb Elementary School.

Ted Cruz, the junior senator for Texas—who once ran a campaign ad that boasted, “After Sandy Hook, Ted Cruz stopped Obama’s push for new gun-control laws”—tweeted that he and his wife were “fervently lifting up in prayer the children and families in the horrific shooting.” Governor Greg Abbott—who last year signed seven pieces of gun-rights legislation into law, including one that permitted Texans to carry handguns without a license and another exempting the state from future federal gun restrictions—said that he and his wife “mourn this horrific loss and we urge all Texans to come together to show our unwavering support to all who are suffering.”

Politicians like these are routinely criticized for their hypocrisy and empty gestures—their “thoughts and prayers.” But, if only for the sake of rhetorical hygiene, we should go a step further. Republicans, as we know, get what they want. It is their best feature. They have vacuumed up the state legislatures, gerrymandered much of the country, stacked the Supreme Court and the federal judgeships, turned back the clock on L.G.B.T.Q. rights, paralyzed entire school districts with engineered panics over critical race theory and “grooming,” ended (or so it seems) reproductive rights as a constitutionally guaranteed freedom, and blocked all attempts at gun-control legislation.

If the leaders of this political movement, which in Texas managed to ban most abortions and criminalize health care for trans kids in the space of a school year, took real offense to murdered children, they would never simply accept their deaths as the unfortunate cost of honouring the Founding Fathers’ right to take up muskets against hypothetical government tyranny. They would act. If America were not afraid to know itself, we could more readily accept that gun-rights advocates are enthralled with violent sorrow. This is the America they envisaged. It is what they worked so hard for. Their thoughts and prayers have been answered.

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/seeing-america-again-in-the-texas-elementary-school-shooting>

HOLY LAND: BISHOPS MEET FAMILY OF MURDERED CATHOLIC JOURNALIST

Source: CBCEW May 25, 2022

Bishops from across Europe have offered their condolences to the family of Christian Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh who was killed in Jenin on 11 May 2022. The Bishops, part of the Holy Land Coordination chaired by Bishop Declan Lang, met with Shireen’s family, local clergy, and Christian youth in Beit Hanina on Saturday, 21 May.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has paid tribute to the long-time Al Jazeera Arabic journalist and demanded that those responsible for her death are brought to justice. Patriarch Pizzaballa also joined with other Christian leaders in condemning the actions of Israeli police during her funeral.

The Holy Land Coordination, made up of bishops from across Europe, North America and South Africa, was set up at the end of the twentieth century at the invitation of the Holy See. The purpose was to visit and support the local Christian communities of the Holy Land.

The Coordination’s main remit has been expressed as the four Ps: Prayer, Pilgrimage, Pressure and Presence.

The bishops are present every year, and by their presence they hope, above all else, to remind the “living stones” of the Christian communities in the Holy Land that they are not forgotten by their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

In 2022, the bishops are in Jerusalem from 21 - 26 May. Pastoral visits of solidarity were made to parishes in Jerusalem and the West Bank on Sunday, 22 May. The Coordination group is also meeting with local church leaders including the Latin Patriarch, officials in the patriarchate, and Catholic charities serving people in Jerusalem.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44760>

PAX CHRISTI CONDEMNS KILLING OF SHIREEN ABU AKLEH

May 12, 2022 (Updated May 13, 2022): Pax Christi condemns the killing of the Palestinian Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh following credible eye-witness reports that she was shot by an Israeli military sniper whilst clearly identified as a member of the Press.

We extend our condolences to all Shireen’s family and friends and particularly to her cousin, our friend Elias AbouAkleh in the Arab Educational Institute, our Pax Christi partner in Bethlehem.

Journalists must be allowed to carry out their work safely but since 2000, 55 Palestinian journalists have been killed.

The UN envoy, Francesca Albanese, strongly condemns the killing, saying this may constitute a war crime and must be investigated independently. The US State Dept has called for an enquiry into her death, by both Palestine and Israel, but has not stated that this should be independent.

• A vigil to commemorate the life of Shireen Abu Akleh took place in London on Thursday evening (12 May) at BBC headquarters, Portland Place, London Q1A 1AA

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44668>

RIPPING UP THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROTOCOL IS THE BEHAVIOUR OF A PARIAS STATE

Jonathan Lis May 19, 2022

Perhaps we grew complacent. For months it seemed as though the government had stepped back from the brink. Its threats to trigger Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol, or otherwise unilaterally suspend parts of it, had subsided. Liz Truss, the negotiator replacing the bombastic and hot-headed David Frost, had cultivated a positive working relationship with her EU opposite number. And the small matters of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a generational cost of living crisis had seemed to place European co-operation and smooth relations at a higher value than any time since the Brexit referendum. For once, ministers were putting pragmatism and the national interest above Europhobia—and the people responsible for administering the protocol were allowed to get on with it.

Very quickly, that has changed. The government did not announce any new legislation on the issue in the Queen's Speech, nor has it triggered Article 16, but it has announced plans to override and disapply a part of the Protocol. In the Commons on Tuesday, Truss did not table the legislation—so we cannot be sure how far it will go—but she made plain the government's intentions. The UK is threatening, once again, to renege on its international commitments and break a treaty with its largest neighbour.

None of this is rational on any level. As everyone knows, Britain is currently grappling with the worst economic crisis in years. It could prove more damaging to ordinary people's living standards than the 2008 recession. Much of this is global, with factors as broad as the aftermath of Covid, rising energy prices and multiple shocks from the war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia. But economic experts point to the specific factor of Brexit. Even before the crisis took hold, the Office for Budget Responsibility was forecasting a 4 percent long-term hit to GDP as a result of our withdrawal from Europe. A report from the LSE showed that imports from the EU—our largest trade partner—had fallen by 25 percent relative to those from the rest of the world, and that UK businesses have been cut out of EU supply chains to a significant degree.

This matters because—contrary to everything the Brexiters always claimed—Britain does not hold all the cards. In economic as well as geopolitical terms, the UK is the junior partner to a colossus next door. For the last six years, Brussels has been clear that it does not want to “punish” the UK, but also that the UK cannot be given special favours and cannot cross its red lines. Key among those red lines are protecting the integrity of the EU's single market and abiding by any agreement both sides entered into. The UK's plans breach both.

The EU will retaliate. Brussels long ago decided that it could withstand economic pain in order to uphold basic principles, and there is no doubt that it will apply measures to the UK if the government breaks its treaty. Not to do so would show the world that any agreement can be unilaterally amended or binned; that the EU can be pushed around by its international partners and needn't be taken seriously. It would moreover show the EU's own member states that cake-ism and cherry-picking, those dreaded bits of terminology from the negotiations, are alive and well: that you can take the bits you like from membership and scrap the parts that do not suit you.

We do not, of course, know the form that retaliation might take. But it could, in extremis, involve the EU disapplying the entire trade agreement or applying trade sanctions to the UK—that is, beginning a full-on trade war. Every trade expert has warned of the potential implications. Given the Bank of England's governor has already warned of “apocalyptic” food prices, he may have to scour the dictionary to find something stronger. It would, quite simply, be catastrophic.

Then the reputational damage. What sign does it send if Britain feels free to scrap parts of deals it has supposedly signed in good faith? The rules-based order has been the cornerstone of modern international diplomacy. The west has deployed it as the basis of its sanctions against Russia. All states agree to abide by basic laws and principles, with consequences if they break them. It is difficult for the UK to wring its hands about other countries' breaches while indulging so freely in its own. The risk here is not theoretical. It has direct implications for the government's policies right now. The European response to Ukraine has proved so effective because it is streamlined and united. In contrast to the Covid vaccination process, the UK and EU have acted not as rivals but allies. It defies all logic to sour that relationship while the war is still ongoing and Europe needs to present a united front. The only people to celebrate a rupture would be in the Kremlin.

The government's tantrum doesn't even make sense on its own terms. In the Commons, Truss cited the imposition of veterinary checks between Great Britain and Northern Ireland as being unacceptable, but the EU offered a veterinary agreement to obviate them. Boris Johnson talks of the need to uphold the Good Friday Agreement, but Sinn Féin, now the largest party in the Northern Ireland Assembly, has furiously condemned the plans. Its president Mary Lou McDonald described the move as “the stuff of a rogue state.” How is it “upholding” the Agreement, as the government solemnly vows, to infuriate one of the two main communities while trying to appease the other? Moreover, the Democratic Unionist Party has only committed to forming an executive in Northern Ireland once legislation has been enacted, not just tabled—a process likely to take several months.

But of course the worst part is that nothing and nobody forced this protocol on the government. It actively negotiated, signed and championed it. Johnson was so pleased that he quite literally based an entire election campaign on it. No other element of the deal was responsible for “getting Brexit done”—only this. The deal for Northern Ireland was what made Brexit “oven-ready.”

Johnson never once told the truth about what that protocol meant. He repeatedly denied that it would involve a border in the Irish Sea. The fact he either lied or failed to understand it offers neither comfort nor excuse—and certainly doesn't justify an attempt to erase that border now.

The government is in trouble. It needs a new wedge for its culture war; a new way to embarrass the opposition; a new excuse to “save” Northern Ireland; and a new way to satisfy its extremist backbenchers.

With this course of action, it has signalled that it is prepared not simply to bring more economic harm to its people, more bruising to its reputation, more wreckage to its most important geopolitical relationship—but that it is willing, once again, to destabilise a precarious equilibrium in a part of the country that only emerged from civil war in the last 25 years. The protocol may yet be saved, but the government's honour will never be.

<https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/politics/ripping-up-the-northern-ireland-protocol-is-the-behaviour-of-a-pariah-state>

PUTIN, WAR CRIMES AND HATE SPEECH

Ian Linden May 23, 2022

In a recent interview Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky asked a simple yet profound question: Why this cruelty? Are Russian war crimes in Ukraine simply a further illustration of the inevitable barbarism of warfare? Only what might be expected from past experience of Russian army brutality? Yet there was something pathetic in the sight of a downcast young Russian soldier on trial last week, the first no doubt of many, pleading guilty to murdering a Ukrainian civilian. Even the mother of the victim felt sorry for the young man though said she could never forgive him.

We have become accustomed to hearing Zelensky's voice from war-torn Ukraine, the consistency of his appeals for help and his defiant courage. So listening to him in translation when he was beamed into Chatham House, the international affairs think-tank, seemed nothing unusual. Though Zelensky's reflections on the reason for the war crimes committed by Russian troops against Ukrainian civilians were unexpected.

Zelensky believes that Putin's flood of propaganda during the eight years since the annexation of Crimea and the beginning of the war in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk region has had a profound effect. Russian war crimes were both “a victory” and a “collective witness” for the success of Russian propaganda and psyops. Many of the soldiers committing the atrocities would have been 10-12 year old in 2014 and since then exposed to unremitting lies and hate speech. The problem was getting hateful ideas out of soldiers' minds, ‘cleansing this propaganda’ once it was implanted. “Goebbels is a child compared to the adults in the Kremlin machine hunting a whole nation”, was his well-chosen comparison. That Zelensky is Jewish himself made his reflections all the more powerful.

Zelensky's sense of the power of propaganda can be applied to other mass crimes in other countries. The vicious anti-Tutsi propaganda in the months leading up to the by Radio Libre des Mille Collines controlled by Hutu extremists contributed significantly to the Rwandan genocide. The Tutsi were dehumanised, called inyenzi, cockroaches, as, of course, were Jews during the build up to the Holocaust. Unlike, for example, in many Latin American countries, the Catholic Church in Rwanda did not have a radio station able to combat the poisonous ethnic propaganda.

The active promotion of hate-speech and falsehood by governments, authoritarian or racist, is one thing. That by non-state actors is another. In liberal democratic States, the State has the apparatus to counter extremist hate-speech whether white supremacist or tending towards jihadism. Whether or not it is used effectively, and dog-whistle ‘othering’ of minority ethnic groups or migrants for political purposes outlawed, is another matter. And Zelensky's reflections raise the question of how a political culture of lies can be combatted, the role of journalists and social media, at what point cracks appear and the public realise they have been taken for fools?

The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, a client State, suggests some answers. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979, it claimed that it was defending the 1978 April Afghan revolution to bring ‘liberty, fraternity and equality’ [sic] to the Afghan people who needed the support of ‘warrior-internationalist’ Soviet troops and air-power. Thanks to the CIA's Operation Cyclone providing the Afghan mujahideen via Pakistan with increasingly sophisticated weaponry (from September 1986 onwards the US delivered 2,300 Stinger surface to air missiles - shades of the future Ukraine) the war dragged on until the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. While the probable number of Afghan deaths was between 600,000 and 1.5 million, crucially some 15,000 Soviet troops had died. Within four years of the invasion public opinion was turning against the war. Pre-Putin Russia was getting uncensored reports from bereaved mothers and news media, domestic and international.

In his book *Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979-1989*, Sir Rodric Braithwaite, a former ambassador, estimates that Soviet Russia made 6,412 criminal charges against its own troops, including 714 of murdering civilians and the rest related to drugs and weapons sales. (There was also much cover-up). The common excuse for these war crimes was retaliation for the mujahideen's own use of torture and their violation of the rules of war. Captured Soviet troops sometimes killed themselves rather than fall into mujahideen hands. "Even senior officers could be punished for allowing their troops to commit excesses", Braithwaite claims. For example, the commander of the 191st. Independent Motor-rifle Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Kravchenko, was court-martialed and sentenced to ten years after Afghan prisoners were shot.

Orchestrated hate requires a conductor of the orchestra. Enter President Vladimir Putin. Prime Minister 1999, President 2000-2008, Prime Minister again from 2008-2012, and then again President, Putin's influence soon became apparent. During the war in Chechnya 1999-2009, Amnesty, Human Rights Watch and the European Court of Human Rights all found that no official had ever been tried for the enforced disappearance of from between 3,000 and 5,000 Chechens, or charged with any of the 60,000 Chechens deaths. Grozny, Chechnya's main city, had been flattened like Aleppo and Mariupol.

There are no signs that Putin will be submitting troops who have committed war crimes to court-martial or punishment in Ukraine. On the contrary the Russian Parliament is talking about trying Ukrainian troops surrendering from Mariupol for war crimes labelling them as Nazis. Putin and his coterie deny and condone Russian military atrocities.

"They hate life", Zelensky told Chatham House. And hate, history tells us, is easier to conjure up than love. Soldiers sometimes talk of an overwhelming blood-lust after comrades-in-arms have been killed or tortured (there were notable US examples in Vietnam). Add the ruthless brutality of a leader whose sensibilities have been honed in the old KGB. Add years of conditioning Russian society for hate, shutting down all uncensored sources of news, and you have mass graves again. With perhaps worse to follow.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44746>

Professor Ian Linden is Visiting Professor at St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill, London. A past director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations, he was awarded a CMG for his work for human rights in 2000. He has also been an adviser on Europe and Justice and Peace issues to the Department of International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. Ian chairs a new charity for After-school schooling in Beirut for Syrian refugees and Lebanese kids in danger of dropping out partnering with CARITAS Lebanon and work on board of Las Casas Institute in Oxford with Richard Finn OP. His latest book was *Global Catholicism* published by Hurst in 2009.

Visit his website here: www.ianlinden.com

POPE THANKS SANTA MARTA GROUP FOR THEIR WORK FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY

Source: CBCEW May 22, 2022

Pope Francis granted an audience to the Santa Marta Group, an alliance of international police chiefs and bishops from around the world working together with civil society, on the last day of their conference in Rome from 17th to 19th May. During the audience, he thanked them for their commitment to combatting human trafficking and modern slavery. He encouraged them to continue to work towards this goal, with a particular emphasis on the "responsible use of technology and social media, as well as the need for a renewed ethical vision of our political, economic and social life, one centred not on profit but on persons."

He also spoke about "the essential need to support, accompany and reintegrate the victims of human trafficking into our communities and assist them in the process of healing and the recovery of their self-esteem."

Responding to the Holy Father, Cardinal Vincent, as President of the Santa Marta Group, thanked Pope Francis for his leadership in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery, and expressed the commitments that the Santa Marta Group had agreed at this latest conference.

Among these is strengthening 'every effort at education,' raising awareness of the reality of modern slavery, and 'increasing the capacity of all faith communities to work together' against this 'abhorrent' crime. The efforts will include drawing attention to modern slavery in all its forms, including that which is hidden in supply chains. They will also highlight the uses of social media, in an effort to defend children from harmful messages on social media and strengthening their consciences.

The Group committed to supporting victims of human trafficking and slavery, breaking the financial model of 'this monstrous trade' and to using confiscated assets for the benefit of victims. "Our shared conviction is that this international network of evil can only be beaten by an international network of principled good intent and concerted action," said the Cardinal, adding "our desire is to contribute to the establishing of a new moral compass in our societies, one oriented to the healing of this wound in the body of humanity and to the defence of human dignity."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44737>

COULD YOUR CHURCH SET UP A LOCAL PANTRY? JOIN US ONLINE TO FIND OUT MORE

Liam Purcell Church Action on Poverty writes:

Find out how your church could build community and soften the blow of high living costs, by setting up a Local Pantry.

Join us on Zoom to find out more: Wednesday 15 June, 7pm

Everybody should have access to good food. Everybody values community. Your Local Pantries provide both – and more. Across the UK, 60,000 people are finding friendship, food and freedom through Pantry membership.

Pantries are all about dignity, choice and hope. Each one operates as a member-led neighbourhood hub, often serving as a springboard to other community initiatives, opportunities and ideas. As we all strive for a brighter future,

Pantries are an immediate big step in the right direction, loosening poverty's grip and creating the breathing space for communities to pursue ambitious goals.

Over half of the Pantries in the network are run by churches. If your church wants to build community and connection while tackling food poverty, perhaps you could open a Pantry too!

Church Action on Poverty supports the network, which is run as a social franchise. We offer a range of practical support to help you set up and run your Pantry - and you get the benefits of being part of a UK-wide movement.

You'll hear from churches in the network about how and why they set up their Pantries. Our Pantry team will explain how you can get involved and take the first steps towards setting up a Pantry in your own church.

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/setting-up-a-local-pantry-an-introduction-for-churches-tickets-347944610697>

PS Don't forget, we're also launching our exciting new publication *Dignity, Agency, Power* with an online event on 8 June. If you haven't already booked your place, click here to book now: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dignity-agency-power-online-launch-event-tickets-334559605787>

DIARY

MAY

28 Peace Vigil at The Cross, Chester, 12-1pm. This will be the fourth of the Peace Vigils at The Cross held on the last Saturday of the month. The silent vigil will be held between 12 and 1 pm, and we will wear black, or dark, clothing if possible. The general theme will be Peace, with a decision to be taken in advance of each vigil as to what the focus will be for the next one, such as Ukraine, Myanmar, arms sales, etc.

29 Gathered Voices Choir concert – free concert, all donations to CAFOD Ukraine Appeal) 2pm St Anthony's Catholic Church, Cadley Causeway, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RX. All donations to go to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal via CAFOD. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the Padua Room next to the church. Gathered Voices are an a cappella choir under the musical direction of Jeff Borrowdale.

JUNE

4 'Finding Jesus in the Eucharist, the Poor and Creation.' With keynote speaker **Fr Eamonn Mulcahy** at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Chapel Street, Preston PR1 8BU 10am – 3.30pm Diocese of Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission. To book the event please use the following links. Event link: Book via - Eventbrite - Finding Jesus in the Eucharist <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/finding-jesus-in-the-eucharist-tickets-314503748177?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> or, alternatively, through the Lancashire Faith & Justice website: <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/> (first page). Any queries, please contact Sue Grubic, Faith & Justice Worker (Diocese of Lancaster), at ldfjsue@gmail.com

5 World Environment Day www.worldenvironmentday.global

10 St Anthony's Centre will be celebrating the Feast of St Anthony with Mass, 7.00pm at St Antony's Church, Eleventh Street, Trafford Park. Why not join us for the Service and a buffet for staff, family and friends in the Centre following the Mass at about 8pm. Please contact the Centre to let us know if you are attending for catering purposes and if you have any dietary requirements. t: 0161 848 9173 w: www.stantonyscentre.org.uk

16-19 Green Expo 2022 from 10am to 6pm daily at the Riverside, Castle Drive, Chester. There will be displays, demonstrations, exhibits, and presentations on the latest sustainable technologies for powering future homes and transport. Learn how these technologies will impact our lives and potentially could create large numbers of skilled jobs locally and across the country. Admission is free. More information will be available from @greenexpochester and www.GreenExpo.uk nearer the time.

18 Liverpool Archdiocese J&P Commission Annual Assembly <https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

19 Day for Life+ www.dayforlife.org

26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: www.acatuk.org.uk 01395 577 669 and <https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day/>

JULY

19 Chester World Development Forum meeting at The Unity Centre, 7pm. CWDF members Linda & Stewart Shuttleworth will give us an update on their ongoing work in Uganda to improve mental health services in this large developing country.

22-24 44th Annual Justice and Peace Conference at the Hayes Centre Swanwick.

'HOPE! A VERB WITH ITS SLEEVES ROLLED UP'

Our Hope is you will return to your communities from our Conference with enthusiasm and commitment. This year commitment is so important, a commitment to new things, with new time and energy, in the post emergency time, enabling people in our country and beyond to go forward with Hope in everything they do.

How as Activists and People of Faith can we help those in need to find Hope?
Over the weekend we will be looking at Signs of Hope in Our World.

Part of the weekend will look at the Signs of Hope following last year's NJPN Environmental Conference and COP 26

As a sign of Hope in Our Future NJPN is encouraged that the following Faith Organisations have agreed to partner together to present this Conference: NJPN, Christians Aware, Stella Maris, ACTA and The Joint Public Issues Team.

Booking form on <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

NB. Bookings made after Friday 20th May 2022 incur a late booking charge of £10 per adult

- **Read The Spring issue of *MouthPeace* the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Mouthpeace-Spring-22..pdf>
- **Read NJPN's weekly column** online on Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com or find articles be uploaded onto our website at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk
- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.
- **Sign up** for regular news and information from NJPN including a **new fortnightly e-bulletin with a comprehensive round-up of current events, campaigns, e-petitions and resources** (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or contact ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org or admin@justice-and-peace.org 020 7901 4864

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN