



Justice and Peace Spring 2022

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FEBRUARY 24TH 2022

A DARK DAY FOR UKRAINE

FOR EUROPE

FOR THE WORLD

AND

FOR ALL WHO WORK & PRAY

FOR

PEACE, JUSTICE AND TRUTH



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

www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk

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

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

Liverpool Pax Christi invite you to take part in the ASH WEDNESDAY WALK OF WITNESS ON MARCH 2ND 2022

Assemble 11.45 - 12.00 at St Luke's Church at top of Bold St

We will walk from St Luke's, stopping for prayers and music at: the Statue of Reconciliation in Bold St, Church St, the Law Courts and ending at the Town Hall. Ashes will be distributed in Church St.

The walk is an act of repentance for war, and for the UK's possession and expansion of the Trident nuclear weapons programme. We witness and pray for peace, nonviolence, the victims of war and violence and for our country to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

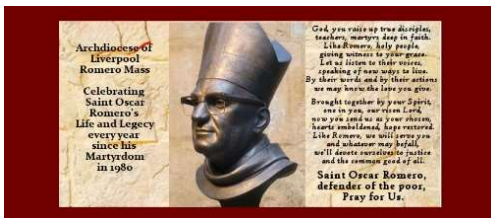
"The Catholic Church has a long history of speaking out against nuclear weapons. The Vatican was the first nation state to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As Pope Francis declared, "We must never grow weary of working to support the principal international legal instruments of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation." (Archbishop Wester of Santa Fe Pastoral Letter 'Living in the Light of Christ's Peace') Contact: sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

"Daring to Hope: Faith and the Struggle for Climate Justice" a talk by with Dr Lorna Gold

The Annual Memorial Lecture was held on Sunday 16 January 2022 on zoom.

If you missed this or would like to hear Lorna again it is available on <https://youtu.be/B22U2KTQzhw>



ST. OSCAR ROMERO A WEEK OF CELEBRATION

at the newly (Autumn 2020) formed Parish of St Oscar Romero arranged in conjunction with the Romero Trust, to celebrate both the inauguration of the parish and also to help to make Romero known in the parish, locality and beyond. **Beginning on March 16th with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Thomas and ending on March 23rd with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Malcolm at 7 pm – this Mass will also be the annual Archdiocesan Mass for St Oscar Romero**

It will also be live streamed. To access the live stream please visit <https://www.facebook.com/RomeroMassLiverpool> .

You may also access it at the Romero Trust Website: www.romerotrust.org.uk .

The full details of all the activities planned for the week will be on our J&P website once they are all finalised but it is hoped to include Romero Stations of the Cross at the two churches and primary schools, the showing of a play about Romero and also an ecumenical Evensong and more.

We have also set a provisional date of June 18th for our Annual Assembly – but have no more details on that yet.

NEWS FROM LANCASTER DIOCESE

Sue Gubric writes:



The Diocese is thrilled to welcome Stephen Garsed to the position of Environmental Lead. Stephen, together with a small support team, will be looking at delivering the vision outlined in Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si' by looking at ways we can work together to protect our common home and actively respond to 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor'.

Churches Together in Lancashire are planning a Social Justice Workshop for representatives from local churches on 26th May 2022. The day will focus on the contribution which local churches can make to improving mental health and well-being in

their communities. For more information or if you would like to attend the event please contact Mike Hart (mikehart@gmail.com) or Peter Lumsden (pjlumsden58@gmail.com)

CAFOD are asking us to do something different to fight poverty! Walk 5km every day throughout Lent - go the distance to help end malnutrition.

Fairtrade Fortnight Fayre Saturday March 5th 10 am - 4 pm

The Cornerstone, Sulyard Street Lancaster LA1 1PX .

Fairtrade arts and crafts, information and foods: other local crafts & upcycled goods.

More information Simon Stewart 01 524 840027 simoncornerstonecafe@gmail.co



Fairtrade Crafts & Food



Every Thursday 10-12noon

@ The Cornerstone, Sulyard Street LA1 1PX

MORE SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT 2022

CAFOD'S 2022 ONLINE LENT CALENDAR of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Easter. Join us as we journey through the season of Lent with our global family. Sign up for daily reflections straight to your inbox

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-calendar>



FOLLOWING CHRIST IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SAINTS – SAINT WINEFRIDE.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have produced a course based around a 70-mile pilgrimage from Holywell, Wales to Shrewsbury to be led by Bishop Sarah Bullock from the Anglican Diocese of Lichfield in April and May 2022. You can use the course without going on the pilgrimage! <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2022/>

A pack of extra resources will help you follow the St Winefride 'thread' which runs through this Lent material. These resources take you more deeply into the traditional accounts of St Winefride, whose story has many touchpoints with our modern world – sexual harassment and coercion, misuse of power, the place of faith and the right to follow Jesus, and the contemporary need for healing and hope. See [https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourfaith/pilgrimage/under 'St Winefride Pilgrim Trail'](https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/ourfaith/pilgrimage/under%20'St%20Winefride%20Pilgrim%20Trail').

CHESTER WDF:

SANCTUARY SEEKERS March 11th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

with Inderjit Bhogal, leading theologian, Methodist minister and founder and president of City of Sanctuary.

Part of the University of Chester's Diversity Festival and open to the public, Dr Bhogal will focus on how he came to found the City of Sanctuary movement. He will also talk about his "wider work on citizenship, of rights and much more". He will be supported by Robert Gillespie sharing his experiences from the local group. You should register beforehand to attend (free) in person or online.

For in person attendance: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sanctuary-seekers-with-dr-rev-inderjit-bhogal-in-person-attendance-tickets-229310964267>

For on-line attendance: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sanctuary-seekers-with-dr-rev-inderjit-bhogal-online-attendancetickets-229313351407>

Inquiries: Kathryn Leighton at the University k.leighton@chester.ac.uk

PEACE VIGILS

Monthly vigils will commence at The Cross on the last Saturday of the month, commencing on **Saturday, 26 February**. 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 eg Ukraine, Myanmar, arms sales, etc.

Please contact Dai or Margaret Owen dai.owen.art@gmail.com or tel 01244 679051) or Annie Bellinger annie.bellinger@gmail.com or mobile 07821 192755 for more information.

It is possible that other peace vigils might be held at short notice, if there were situations that we wanted to respond to quickly. Please let us know if you would like to be on a Contact List in order to be advised if any were arranged.



44th Annual Justice and Peace Conference July 22-24th at 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

A JOURNEY TO THE 'LIVE SIMPLY' AWARD

Anne Litherland writes: HAM Walking for Water and an eco-conscience....

During Lent 2021 over 50 parishioners from Holy Apostles and Martyrs (HAM) parish reached this incredible total of 19,730,526 steps or 9,300 miles. We pledged to walk every day in solidarity with the CAFOD Walk for Water campaign to raise awareness and funds for water projects, especially in Ethiopia. We went on special walks, walked to the shops, to church, around the block, regardless of our levels of fitness and ability we were united in faith through our actions. Over £3,160 was raised by the parish but it was also important in raising our awareness of the issues and in encouraging us to walk more and use the car less.

Walking for water was one action in our journey towards our #LiveSimply award with CAFOD and reducing our carbon footprint is part of the action we all need to take. Just switching to walking instead of using the car can really help. We started on this journey in June 2019 when a parish group went on the Time is Now lobby of Parliament to speak to our MPs about the climate emergency. This was our 'ecological conversion', the realisation that there is truly little time left to act to avoid the worst effects of climate change on the planet and the poor.

Returning to our parish, how could we act? What could we do? We began by showing, on several occasions, the Global Healing videos and discussed afterwards what we could do. Our PP, Fr Phil Moor, who has always been supportive, experienced an 'ecological conversion' at one of these showings. The CAFOD #LiveSimply programme was our solution as we could make an action plan with support from Ciara, CAFOD Community Participation Coordinator for Shrewsbury and Maria Elena Arana from CAFOD head office. The plan has 3 themes: Living Simply; Living Sustainably and Living in Solidarity with the Poor. Worship and reflection must be part of the plan as is working with the wider community. Ongoing actions in the parish are also evidence and these were audited before we started producing the plan e.g. support for Food Bank; SVP; Friends of the Holy Land; Fairtrade.

The plan was launched at Masses in February 2020 with suggestions for Lenten actions. These were amended in the light of Covid restrictions and lockdown but we have remained active throughout with the help of parish newsletters by email; hand deliveries to those shielding, creating an Our Common Home Facebook page, parish website and Zoom meetings! Communication is the key and as restrictions ease, our next challenge will be to see how the ecological virtues of sustainability, frugality, interdependence, equity, solidarity, adaptability, biodiversity, sufficiency and humility can be incorporated going forward.

Our next initiative was to celebrate Laudato Si' week in 2020 and so we produced an amazing parish video with over 70 contributors. It was such a delight to see and hear one another during lockdown! This action was written up and presented to the Bishops Low Week conference in 2021 by the Guardians of Creation. Then in September we celebrated the Season of Creation with the first ever service held in the church garden!

We continued in March 2021 when we started an ambitious community garden project, with funding from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to revamp an underused side garden into an Apostles, Martyrs and Believers garden with training sessions for the local community, growing vegetables, fruit and herbs, in cooperation with the Social Supermarket run by our local Methodist Church. To date, 20 people have been involved and the Mayor of Wirral attended our final celebration in October 2021. He also signed the CAFOD petition and wrote prayer boat for COP26!



Left: Church garden tours in Season of Creation

Right: Tree planting in the local park



In addition to the garden, concern about transport and its effect on the environment has turned into a campaign with our neighbouring schools, St Mary's College and St George's Primary to reduce car idling. 1,000 leaflets have been handed out and our local schoolchildren have taken part in monitoring air pollution levels. This has spread to other parishes and schools and involved leafletting local shops and businesses. This action was shortlisted for the Green Showcase at Cop26 and mentioned in the Church Times.

A JOURNEY TO THE 'LIVE SIMPLY' AWARD continued:



Right: Car idling display in St Mary's College

Left: Anna monitoring air quality



Other LiveSimply actions have included actions individuals can take at home-linked to New

Year's Resolutions and Lent; reducing the number of newsletters printed from 240 before lockdown to about 70 now; using recycled paper; and sharing opportunities with local churches and networks. Faiths4Change, a Merseyside charity, through Wirral Council, work with us and other Wirral faith groups to promote sustainability and share ideas. They helped us align our plan with Wirral Climate Plan. In Holy Week, with local churches, we planted trees in the park.

We are taking part in Carbon Literacy training workshops; we had an online tour of our recycling facilities and distributed information about what can and can't be recycled through the kerbside collections. We are a Fairtrade parish and continued to order and deliver goods during lockdown. Even providing an alternative 'selection box' of beautifully and sustainable wrapped Fairtrade Divine chocolate at Christmas! We now collect used postage stamps for the charity Reaching the Unreached; we have moved to online donations for Missio, where possible; we have increased cash and food donations to our local food bank and started collecting used medicine blister packs to be recycled. All these small actions mean that everybody in the parish can be involved in one way or another in our desire to Live Simply as Laudato Si' tells us 'all is not lost'.

Our MP, Dame Angela Eagle is very supportive and when she visited the church garden in April, we presented her with a copy of Laudato Si'. We met her twice on Zoom pressing for action on Green Recovery and Cop26, particularly on transport and debt relief, through the CAFOD Parliament in Your Parish campaign. We are part of MakeCop26 Count and benefitted from networking with Christian parishes around the country. In February 2021 we held a Climate Sunday with the prayers and the homily based on our need for urgent action 'to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' Laudato Si' 49. As the climate emergency is affecting the poor now, and they have the least responsibility for creating it, solidarity is an important part of the #LiveSimply plan.



We followed the Young Christian Climate Movement relay from G7 in Cornwall to Cop26 with two members taking part in the relay in Manchester in September. Following this a local relay was held in Merseyside.



Walkers outside St Peter and St Paul's school having collected a lot of prayers

Top: Sue and Frank on the ferry to Liverpool for even song at the Anglican Cathedral

Below: the prayer boats on the altar at Liverpool Cathedral Christian Aid took them to COP 26

In Wirral, over 500 prayers, folded in the shape of boats, written by schools and faith groups, were collected and taken to Evensong at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 9th October from where they were taken to Cop26 in Glasgow by Christian Aid. In Liverpool, we were joined by walkers on routes from Southport, St Helens, Ormskirk, Walton and Speke organised by Eirlys Jessop and Together Liverpool.

The effects of climate change are being felt by communities throughout the world, particularly those who have done the least to cause it, whose carbon footprint is low. In this way we acknowledge the words of Pope Francis, in Laudato Si', 'that we are in the same storm but not in the same boat'. For this reason, it was particularly apt that those of us from Wirral should take the ferry to Liverpool.

A JOURNEY TO THE LIVE SIMPLY AWARD continued :

On the ferry and the walk up to the Cathedral, we were joined by walkers from Heswall, Birkenhead and Bebington. Margaret Greenwood, MP for Wirral West joined the walkers and pledged her support for climate justice.

During Cop26 a special prayer was said at all our services and a prayer card was available to take away. We had additional daily prayer times and Adoration of Blessed Sacrament during the Cop26 dates. All services had an additional prayer of intercession for the leaders at Cop26 and those suffering the effects of climate change now.

In November 2021 we informed CAFOD that we were ready to be assessed for the award and on 23rd January Eileen and Vin Brennan, from CAFOD visited to meet us and view the evidence. They were delighted to meet so many parishioners and hear how they had been involved. The evidence we presented was such that they were able to confirm we had achieved the award there and then. We are only the second parish in Shrewsbury Diocese to do so. We celebrated the award on Sunday 20th February 2022 at 11am mass and afterwards with a special cake which the Mayor cut.



Left: Mayor and Mayoress with Eileen and Vin Brennan (CAFOD assessors), Canon Phil Moor (PP) and some of the OUR COMMON HOME Group. Anne is holding the plaque.

Right: The Celebration Cake

We now have the plaque to display in church and will continue in our work to protect Our Common Home. We are working with Faiths4Change and the Cool Wirral partnership to reduce our individual Carbon footprints and will join in CAFOD's Walk against Hunger during Lent.

As Pope Francis reiterates in *Laudato Si'*, 'everything is connected'. Until working on our plan, I had little understanding of how the climate crisis affects the poor and excluded, who are the majority of the world's population, yet who have the least responsibility for it. The plan has given our parish a means to tackle these issues within the context of our faith and Catholic social teaching. It is a great privilege to work with other faith groups and the local community. There is lots of support so we hope you may be inspired to #LiveSimply in your community.

Editor: Congratulations to Holy Apostles and Martyrs Parish Wallasey, Wirral for achieving the Live Simply Award...the second parish in Shrewsbury Diocese to do so. Thank you to Anne for the article and all the photos which show how much was involved and how enthusiastically people worked for this. Well done !

THE HOPES OF MILLIONS

My Reflections on COP 26

I am Declan O'Brien, and I am taking part in CAFOD's "Step into the gap" programme and am living and working in Lancaster Diocese. As part of that program, myself and the other participants were part of the CAFOD youth delegation on the central weekend of the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

Travel to COP was a tense experience. I was anxious with nerves and excited for what was to come. Upon arrival I could feel the air of the city, like the City was holding its breath until the climate pact was complete. We went directly to St. Aluishous's church to join in a part of the 24 hour prayer service. The stations of the cross were being prayed there by the Jesuit mission team and we were invited to join them. The atmosphere was poignantly hopeful and helped immensely with preparing ourselves for the rest of the weekend.



The Hopes of Millions continued:

The next day we rose early, had breakfast and then got ready for the march led by Greta Thunberg which took place over most of the day. We gathered to march in Kelvingrove Park before it started properly, rallying our spirits and practising chants. We did this despite the heavy rainfall, and strong winds.

On my third and final day of being at COP26, I was able to visit the green zone in the morning. The stalls, booths and displays of green technological advancements were a beacon of hope to myself and I imagine most others who visited. This new tech, or new implementations of existing technology showed just how achievable a net 0 world can be with the proper funding and infrastructure.

The final activity of our visit to Glasgow was a Mass said by the Bishops of Scotland, which all the CAFOD and Jesuit missions team members attended. The Mass felt like the perfect conclusion of our time there, finishing on a high and with big hopes for the future.

After the positivity of our trip and the optimism that the delegates spoke of at the event, I can only express disappointment in the actual results. Many key countries failed to live up to expectations, be it countries like India and China not rolling back fossil fuel usage to the degree needed, or historically high polluters like the UK, Germany, France and the US not committing to the concept of paying reparations to the countries most affected by the climate crisis. I think I speak for my generation when I say that I am disappointed at how little was achieved at COP26 compared with what we had hoped for. While the COP was a partial success, it will take a lot more work from my generation and those to follow to live up to the goals laid out during this conference. I am confident we will rise to that challenge and lead the way into a brighter future.

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY

40TH ANNIVERSARY

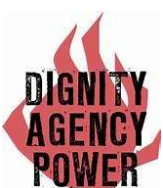
Since 1982, Church Action on Poverty has been working to end UK poverty, led by the real experts – people who have experienced poverty themselves. We together have challenged the unjust treatment of people seeking sanctuary, tackled irresponsible lending practices, and given thousands of poor and marginalised people the confidence and opportunity to influence decisions that affect their communities. We have all influenced government policies on Universal Credit, holiday hunger, the Minimum Wage and financial inclusion, and made sure the voices of people in poverty are heard at Westminster. Together, we have loosened the grip of poverty for hundreds of thousands across the UK. In 2022, join us on the next stage of the journey. By building a stronger movement, we can do even more to reclaim dignity, agency and power.

PILGRIMAGE To mark Church Action on Poverty's 40th anniversary, we are re-imagining what Pilgrimage means in 2022. Through a series of Pilgrimage on the Margins events we will be journeying to and with forgotten or economically marginalised communities as sites of pilgrimage, encounter, hope and transformation.



The first of these Pilgrimages will be hosted by the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe on **Saturday March 5 from 10am to 3pm**. Come for the whole day, or drop in for an hour or two. Spend time with 'fellow travellers' listening, reflecting, and sharing dreams, hopes and aspirations for ourselves, our communities and wider society. Reserve a place <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pilgrimage-on-the-margins-wythenshawe-tickets-228843556237>

If you can't join us on the day, you can visit our website to read more about our 40th anniversary celebrations – and the new 'Dignity, agency and power' movement which was launched on 27 February, Poverty Action Sunday, by Niall Cooper, The National Co-Ordinator of Church Action on Poverty at Waddington St URC Church in Durham.



UPHOLDING THE DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON As Christians, we must hold onto our belief that every person is a unique human being, created in the image and likeness of God. We must never forget Jesus' second great commandment: we must treat our neighbour as we ourselves would wish to be treated. Sadly, even those with good intentions can sometimes treat people in poverty as a problem to be solved. But Church Action on Poverty sees the face of Christ in every person. Our programmes and campaigns involve people who are struggling against poverty, in ways which build dignity.

More details on <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/40years/>



YOUR LOCAL PANTRY is a sustainable way of tackling food poverty which builds community and offers dignity, choice and hope. Church Action has helped to rapidly grow the network of over 60 member-run food clubs across the UK. In return for a small weekly fee, members can choose a basket of food, saving over £780 on their annual shopping bill. Over 11,000 families now get access to good food by being members of Your Local Pantry. Our goal is to grow Your Local Pantry into a national member-led movement of at least 200 Pantries and 30,000 members across the UK by 2025.

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/what-we-do/pantry/>

Church Action on Poverty is encouraging Christian Communities to be attentive to the voices of poverty. With increasing food costs, a huge rise in energy prices on its way and tax rises, the need to be attentive to these voices has never been greater.



THE REAL LIVING WAGE An important tool in fighting poverty and giving people a life where they are included in society and able to spend time with loved ones and family, has been the Real Living Wage. The campaign for people to have an income that pays the bills and enables them to have time for the people and activities that are important to them came from East London Citizens, as part of Citizens UK alliance. In the process of listening to people's needs in the early nineties, people in their institutions, such as local churches and mosques, many working as low-paid workers in Canary Wharf, said that they were working so hard with a number of jobs or having a lot of overtime, that they did not have the time to be with their families.

It was from their experiences that they realised that there was a grave need to have an assessed income level. The aim of this Living Wage was not only that people could pay their bills but to enable them to have the time for the dimensions of life that really matter. So began the Campaign for what is now called the Real Living Wage. This is different to the Government's notion of the National Living Wage, the Government's successor to the National Minimum Wage. They say imitation is flattery, but the National Living Wage is literally a poorer imitation!

From 1 April the Real Living Wage will be £9.90 an hour outside London and in London £11.05 an hour. For more information, go to: www.livingwage.org.uk/



WORLD WATER DAY MARCH 22nd GROUNDWATER - MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

Groundwater is invisible, but its impact is visible everywhere. Out of sight, under our feet, groundwater is a hidden treasure that enriches our lives. Almost all of the liquid freshwater in the world is groundwater. As climate change gets worse, groundwater will become more and more critical.

The UN-Water Summit on Groundwater 2022 to be held in Paris in December 2022 aims to bring attention to groundwater at the highest international level. The Summit will use the UN World Water Development Report 2022 as a baseline and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to define actions towards more responsible and sustainable use and protection of this vital natural resource.

The Summit will unify the statements from all major water-related events in 2021 and 2022 into one comprehensive groundwater message for the UN 2023 Water Conference. We need to work together to sustainably manage this precious resource.

TAKE THE ONE MINUTE CHALLENGE!

Shoot a 60 second video and tell us... How does groundwater affect your life? Is there enough? Is it safe? What needs to be done to protect groundwater? Share your groundwater story!

Make your film... One minute max. Landscape orientation. Civil and truthful.

In English or with English subtitles. Don't forget to include the hashtags #MyGroundwaterStory & #WorldWaterDay, upload to YouTube or Vimeo, and send us the link at mygroundwaterstory@un-igrac.org.

Groundwater may be out of sight, but it must not be out of mind.

A YEAR IN BURMA (MYANMAR)



February 2021 the Burmese military seized control on the government in a brutal coup using violence to crush all opposition.

In the past year the military have killed more than 1,400 people and have arrested over 11,300. There are more than 8,400 political prisoners in jail and over 500 have been sentenced including Aung San Suu Kyi. On December 6 she was sentenced to 4 years in prison (later changed to 2 years) and on January 10 a further 4 years were added. She faces an number of criminal charges

so could spend the rest of her life in prison. Over 300,000 have fled their home because of threats and attacks from the military. Many have fled across the border to Thailand leaving everything behind.

A YEAR IN BURMA (MYAMAR) continued: It could perhaps be assumed that after the coup Burma returned to the same situation as it was under previous military dictatorships. But nothing could be further from the truth. The military face unprecedented resistance from the people; their courage and determination to bring down military rule is astounding. Mass protests are no longer possible but the people are finding different ways to show their resistance. There are flash mob demonstrations in towns and cities. On Dec 10 Human Rights Day there was a nationwide Silent Strike when markets and businesses closed and people stayed at home leaving the streets empty. People are boycotting the national lottery, refusing to pay electricity bills and finding anyway they can to deprive the military of funds. As well many communities have set up armed resistance groups known as the People's Defence Force (PDF) . They have for instance targeted military owned businesses such as the telecommunications towers used by Mytel, the military owned telecommunication company and attacked military personnel, equipment, infrastructure and military bases.

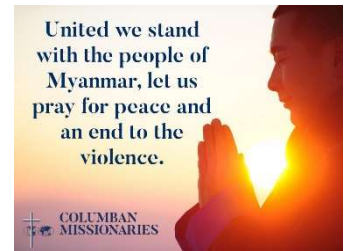
The violence, brutality and mass arrests by the military show they are getting desperate to crush resistance against a coup that is not succeeding. The military are vulnerable and more international pressure is needed to weaken them further.

In December Anna Roberts the Executive Director of the Burma Campaign UK wrote to Liz Truss enclosing 660 letters from supporters. <https://burmacampaign.org.uk/truss-must-act-to-ensure-accountability-for-burmese-military-crimes/>

You can support the people of Burma by taking various actions: stop arms, stop funds, deny legitimacy, ensure justice and offer aid. See <https://action.burmacampaign.org.uk/>

Thank you to the Burma Campaign UK for the information in this article.

See also <https://columbans.co.uk/reflection/9422/myanmar-life-light-and-truth/>



SUGGESTIONS FOR SPRING READING

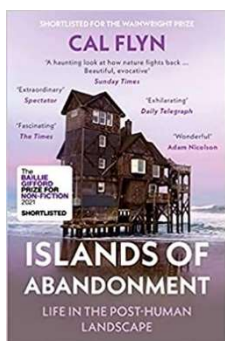


Annie O'Connor was only 41 when she died suddenly of natural causes on 12 June 2020. That day her family found a small notebook on her desk with just one entry which said, "Don't just live the length of life: live the breadth of it as well."

A DARING ADVENTURE tells Annie's story, written by her mother Anne who herself has worked for many years for Justice and Peace in her parish, on the former Shrewsbury Diocese J & P Commission and recently producing the NW NJPN e- bulletin. The book tells of Annie's life and also of her insights into prayer, compassion and loss. Together with the comments of her friends plus photos it provides inspiration and encouragement for us all.

To obtain a copy send your postal address to Anne O'Connor at adaringadventure@hotmail.com.

There is no charge but donations to support the work of Church Army can be made at www.churcharmy.org/donate.



ISLANDS OF ABANDONMENT by Cal Flynn

We tend to think our planet is overcrowded and assume we, humans, are causing damage and destruction just by our presence. But what happens if, for whatever reason, humans leave an area and 'nature' takes over. Cal Flynn visited some of these areas, both well known ...the town of Pripyat near Chernobyl, the Zone Rouge in Verdun and the buffer zone Varosha in Cyprus and lesser known such as the 'blaes' spoil heaps in West Lothian and Swona, the Scottish island, where domestic cattle have fended for themselves for many years. She asks if it is always our responsibility to repair the damage we as humans have done or can we trust the land itself to regenerate? She quotes the biologist E O Wilson who proposes we might surrender half of the world's surface to nature as a bulwark against future disaster, as a storehouse of biodiversity. This book reminds us that it is not only big structured

conservation projects that offer hope for the future but small scrappy areas also have an important role to play.



ISRAEL'S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS : Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity

Amnesty International's new comprehensive 280-page report new report released on February 1st suggests the Israeli authorities must be held accountable for committing the crime of apartheid against

Palestinians. Amnesty documents how massive seizures of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, the forcible transfer of Palestinian people from their land, drastic movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians are all components of a system amounting to apartheid under international law. The full report can be read here:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/e>



The Countryside Charity (previously 'The Campaign to Protect Rural England')
LOCAL GREEN SPACES: new research proves their value to people and nature.

New CPRE research has found that a total of 6,515 Local Green Spaces have been designated since their introduction in 2012. Combined, they total 30,000 acres of protected green space – an area greater than the city of Manchester. The majority of these spaces are not open countryside, but the small, undeveloped patches that provide millions of appreciative people with a daily dose of nature. That's why CPRE has conducted the first ever study of the impact of the Local Green Space designation, which allows local people to protect places of special value to the community.

Our analysis estimates that over 80% of Local Green Spaces have been designated partly for their recreational value – highlighting their importance for people seeking the outdoor exercise that is so vital to our health and wellbeing. Meanwhile, the richness of their wildlife was a factor in over a third of designations, suggesting that Local Green Spaces can play a major role in reviving the UK's biodiversity. Our new research has revealed that there is considerable scope for greater take-up. The north of England, for instance, has half as many designated Local Green Spaces as the south, and third of those found in the midlands. And while it's promising that 38 of the 100 urban councils with the most nature-deprived neighbourhoods have at least one designated Local Green Space, it's a travesty that the other 62 are not taking advantage of the opportunity to protect their precious green oases. Read more <https://www.cpre.org.uk/news/local-green-spaces-new-research-proves-their-value-to-people-and-nature/>? See the full report published February 2022 <https://www.cpre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/February-2022-CPRE-Local-Green-Spaces-full-report-1.pdf>

CPRE STAR COUNT 26 February and 6 March 2022

Whether you're taking part from home or in an open space our six tips will give you all the information you need to locate Orion and count the stars within its four corners. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1357022454720523>



LOST AND DAMAGED : A study of the economic impact of climate change on vulnerable countries A Christian Aid report November 2021 produced for COP 26

Developing countries are bearing the brunt of climate change even though they have contributed least to the problem - making loss and damage a matter of justice. Extreme weather events and slow onset events are already resulting in loss and damage, both economic and non-economic. These are certain to increase as the climate changes further; but the extent of the increase will be determined by decisions taken now on mitigation. Put simply: the more developed nations do now to cut their own emissions and support the developing world to do the same, the lower the bill they will eventually face for loss and damage. Download the full report here <https://mediacentre.christianaid.org.uk/climate-change-could-cause-64-gdp-hit-to-worlds-vulnerable-countries/>

February 22nd 2022 Loss and Damage must not be watered down by rich nations in IPCC report says Christian Aid.

Reports are surfacing that rich countries are trying to omit references to the permanent loss and damage caused by the climate crisis in the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The major study, focusses on the impacts of climate change and the adaptation countries will need to cope with them. Nations are currently negotiating what will be included in the final report with rich countries seeking to downplay language on Loss and Damage. Loss and Damage funding is a much needed source of financial support to help the poorest communities deal with devastating climate impacts caused primarily by the emissions of the global north.

Christian Aid's Climate Justice Advisor, Nushrat Chowdhury, said: "We made real progress at the COP26 climate summit, getting Loss and Damage on the global agenda. Wealthy countries refused to create a fund for dealing with these impacts but it left us close to a breakthrough at COP27 in Egypt later this year. However it seems rich nations are trying to undermine this progress by attacking the reality of Loss and Damage through the IPCC process, led by countries which claim to be climate leaders like the US and UK. It is shameful to see them boasting about their climate achievements in public yet behind closed doors they are doing everything they can to prevent support reaching the most vulnerable

EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

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

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

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

DIARY DATES

MARCH

2 ASH WEDNESDAY WITNESS Pax Christi Members and friends will meet at 11.45 for 12.00 noon at St Luke's Bombed Out Church for the Ash Wednesday Witness see page 2

THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES has issued an invitation to an online prayer service at 17.00 (CET). The service will bring together Christians from Ukraine and other parts of the world, seeking peace and an end to the ongoing conflict https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d04eX7I4S_WEmFBXIV17wQ

NB CET time is an hour ahead of our time so the service will be at 16.00 GMT

PAX CHRISTI on line service 7 – 8 pm - with our friends from Christian CND. Register here. https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqceyhpzwtHtWY9Vn1yD9bJ8CqeTCTZ_mHlog

4 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER "I know the plans I have for you" prepared by the women of England, Wales and N. Ireland. Find a service near you on <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

4 CAFOD QUIZ NIGHT at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm with different quizmasters (sadly our long serving quizmaster Mike Ives died last year). Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children and the usual raffle will take place with good prizes. Refreshments will be available at the interval. All proceeds will go towards Cafod's latest development project. Contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419

5 CAP PILGRIMAGE ON THE MARGINS hosted by the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe, from 10am to 3pm see page 8

5 FAIRTRADE FAYRE 10 am – 4 pm The Cornerstone, Lancaster see page 2

7 PAX CHRISTI online event 7 pm Celebrating Nonviolence and Women Peacemakers see page 3

8 WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOUR? Speaker. Nicky Campbell the Chair of the Trustees of Refugees Welcome in Cheshire East St Alban's J & P group zoom meeting 7.30 pm see page 3

11 CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

11 CHESTER WDF Sanctuary Seekers – talk see page 4

22 WORLD WATER DAY <https://www.worldwaterday.org/> see page for details of the one minute challenge p.9

APRIL

1 CAFOD QUIZ NIGHT see March 4th

16 EASTER SUNDAY

UN SPONSORED CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY 25 April – 8 May

MAY

15 International Conscientious Objectors' Day ceremony at 1pm. Tavistock Square, WC1. The event will be livestreamed. <http://www.co-day.org>

15 – 21 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

26 SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP Churches Together in Lancashire are planning a Social Justice Workshop for representatives from local churches for representatives from local churches see page 2

Advance Notice: June 18th Liverpool Archdiocese J & P Commission Annual Assembly

July 22-24th 44th Annual Justice and Peace Conference at Hayes Centre Swanwick 'Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up' see page 4

NEW BEGINNINGS – A JOURNEY FROM LENT TO EASTER

For the past few years I've produced a Lent reflection leaflet continuing a format started by my colleague Bryan Halson during our time together on the former Shrewsbury Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission. Bryan died just before Christmas 2021. He will be remembered fondly by those in Shrewsbury diocese and beyond. For Advent 2020 I put together a series of weekly reflections based on the writings of my elder daughter Annie, a scripture scholar, teacher and evangelist who died of natural causes in June 2020. For Lent 2021 I shared some more of her material for the journey from Lent to Easter. This year I'm using Annie's words once again as many readers have said they found them helpful.

Lent is an opportunity to prepare, to take time out and quieten ourselves, to listen to God, to examine our lives and reassess our priorities. This is a chance to focus on what really matters and to journey in faith, hope and love.

NOTE: The Scripture verses are from each day's readings using the 2022 St Paul Liturgical Calendar, the reflections from Annie's writings.

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Be reconciled to God ... now is the favourable time. 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2
"The journey with the Lord is a journey into love."

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Anyone who loses his life for my sake will save it. Lk 9:22-25
"You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you."

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me: to break unjust fetters ... to let the oppressed go free. Is 58: 1-9
"We can bring release to captives by offering a place of welcome to the lonely and the marginalised."

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.
Ps 85: 1-6
"Lord, may your spirit reveal to me the right path and give me the strength, consolation and determination to walk it."

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 LENT 1

The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.
Romans 10:8-13
"God speaks in all sorts of ways – through scripture, through nature, through other people. However, unless we slow down and listen, we miss his promptings and his voice."

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life. Ps 18: 8-10,15
"Before entering a place of prayer, a room or before beginning the day pause at the threshold for the length of an 'Our Father' and become aware of God gazing on you in love."

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

The Lord rescues the just in all their distress. Ps 33: 4-7, 16-19
"Kindness always starts with noticing the needs of others. Everyone needs kindness – everyone is hurting somewhere."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.
Ps 50: 3-4, 12-13, 18-19
"Don't wait to show a kindness. Do it while you have the opportunity. Do it now."

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord. Ps 137: 1-3, 7-8
"In telling our own stories we were able to invite God into our lives anew and to recognise his powerful presence among us."

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Go and be reconciled with your brother first. Mt 5: 20-26
"It is impossible to love anyone fully and at the same time to resent someone else. You cannot give total love when your heart is divided – and a bitter heart is a divided heart."

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

They are happy who follow God's law! Ps 118: 11-2, 44-5, 7-8
"We are called as the people of God to serve the communities in whose lives we share and to be people of vision."

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 LENT 2

The Lord is my light and my help. Ps 26: 1, 7-9, 13-14
"By slowing down, and being more present to each moment, all sorts of lessons are learned. For me, it is an invitation to a whole way of being – one that recognises that God is not 'out there' to be sought, but already 'in here' to be found."

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.
Lk 6: 36-38
"Sometimes a touch on the shoulder, a tear, a hug, a grasp of the hand is all a hurting person needs."

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Learn to do good, search for justice. Isaiah 1:10, 16-20
"The letter of St. James teaches us that genuine faith must be expressed in action. We must use our riches to serve others."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised up again. Mt 20: 17-28
"I thought about the things in my backpack that I didn't really need for the journey that were weighing me down and restricting my movement. I thought about things in my life that need to move. I thought about things in my heart that need to move."

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.
"I believe that true evangelisation is born of love and desire: a love for people and a desire that everyone on earth come to know the love of Christ and the blessings of living in his kingdom."

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Remember the wonders the Lord has done. Ps 104:16-21
"When the going is heavy and all uphill, God sends me his breeze; when the going is easy, he warms me with his sun."

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

You have said: love is built to last forever, you have fixed your constancy firm in the heavens. Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29
"Saturday morning began in prayer, contemplating God's unconditional love for us and his willingness to reform us when we fail."

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 LENT 3

The Lord is compassion and love. Ps 102: 1-4, 6-8, 11
"Before we can love others, we must feel and understand how deeply God loves us. We need to feel God's love – unloved people are unloving people."

MONDAY, MARCH 21

My soul is thirsting for the Lord, the Lord of my life. When shall I see the face of God? Ps 41: 2-3, 42: 3-4

"As we sought the face of the Lord we were filled with light, joy, peace and love."

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Your Father will not forgive you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart. Mt 18: 21-35

"We need to build people up rather than tear them down."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! Ps 147: 12-13, 15-16

"Don't just live the length of life: live the breadth of it as well."

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Anyone who is not with me is against me. Lk 11: 14-23

"Sometimes my path is blocked and I cannot go the way I choose."

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will. Ps 39:7-11

"Walking long distances forces me to slow down. It helps me to be still and to practice being fully present to each particular moment."

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

What I want is love, not sacrifice. Hos 5:15 - 6:6

'We are all called to speak, live and act in ways that bring the good news of God-with-us to those we meet.'

SUNDAY, MARCH 27 LENT 4

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

"Without God, there is no life, no movement, no change."

MONDAY, MARCH 28

No more will the sound of weeping or the sound of cries be heard.

Is 65:17-21

"Sometimes the days are all uphill - sometimes I can't see round the next corner, but I have to trust that the path is still there."

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

The man was cured at once. John 5:1-3, 5-16

"In this time of prayer, as we searched in the silence, we put aside all distractions to seek God's face."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

The Lord is kind and full of compassion. Ps 144:8-9, 13-14, 17-18

"Kindness is love in action – a practical expression of love. It is visible and active."

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

O Lord, remember me out of the love you have for your people.

Ps 105: 19-23

"Giving ourselves to others in love takes courage. We can only do this knowing that we possess God's indestructible love."

FRIDAY APRIL 1

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted Ps 33: 16, 18-21, 23

"When someone is grieving, just being there is an expression of kindness – we don't need to know what to say."

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Lord God, I take refuge in you Ps 7: 2-3, 9-12

"Remember to seek moments of peace and tranquility."

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 LENT 5

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

Ps 125

"To experience God's presence is to experience the light in God's shining face."

MONDAY, APRIL 4

If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Jn 8:12-20

"It's easy to love people who are kind and lovely, but if God is going to teach us to love, he will bring some hard-to-love people into our lives."

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

O Lord, listen to my prayer and let my cry for help reach you.

Ps 101:2-3, 16-21

"The sharp points on my journey are the growth points."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

He has sent his angel to rescue his servants. Dan 3:14-20, 24-25, 28

"The message of the angels is nothing less than the infinite God of love come down, God-with-us, reconciliation, new life."

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

The Lord remembers his covenant forever. Ps 104: 4-9

"Prayer is just being with God, being before God, trying just to sit with God. It's about the journey from the head to the heart."

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard my voice. Jer 20:10-13

"So often we hurry through life, rushing from one task to the next, barely pausing to reflect or listen to the voice of the Lord."

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

I will make them into one nation. Ezek 37:21-28

"Our mission to serve cannot be restricted in terms of nationality, social group or religious affiliation."

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10, HOLY WEEK

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Ps 21: 8-9,17-20,23-24

"Sometimes we have to suffer pain and bereavement."

MONDAY, APRIL 11

He does not cry or shout aloud. Is 42:1-7

"In our busy stressful world we have to consciously find silence."

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

My lips will tell of your help. Ps 70: 1-6, 15, 17

"We sat by the fire and shared laughter and companionship."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. Is 50:4-9

"Instead of rehearsing hurts over and over, release them."

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 14

If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you

should wash each other's feet. Jn 13: 1-15

"We can choose to put on love. If it were a feeling, we couldn't control or command it, but it's not a feeling – it's a choice."

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15

After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, "It is accomplished,"

and bowing his head he gave up his spirit. Jn 18: 1-19,42

"God's love for us and the kind of love we are to have for him and for others is *agape* – unconditional, giving, sacrificial love."

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 16

He is not here; he has risen. Lk 24: 1-12

"The best use of life is love; the best expression of love is time; the best time to love is now."

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

We are witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name. Acts 10: 34, 37-43

"We are called to live out our baptismal anointing: to be a light in the world, to bring joy to others through the message we proclaim."

Actions and Reflection Suggestions for a Livesimply

Lent 2022



Livesimply challenges us to respond to God's call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

St. Alban's Justice and Peace Group invite you to join in of this period of daily reflection and action. This is especially relevant this year as we are working towards becoming a Livesimply Parish.

J/P



Livesimply Prayer

Compassionate and loving God,
you created the world for us to share,
a world of beauty and plenty.
Create in us a desire to live simply,
so that our lives may reflect your
generosity.

Creator God,
you gave us responsibility for the earth,
a world of riches and delight.
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,
so that those who follow us
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice,
you give us the capacity to change,
to bring about a world that mirrors your
wisdom.

Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,
so that the pillars of injustice crumble
and those now crushed are set free,
Amen.

@Linda Jones/CAFOD



Art work by Patty Callaghan

If you want to find out more contact:
Bernadette Bailey — dwbailey@btopenworld.com

What is CAFOD?

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development is the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. With the purpose of reaching out to people living in hard-to-reach places, in war zones and those who are discriminated against.

With the belief that if one of us is hurt, hungry or abandoned, we all are hurt, hungry and abandoned. No one should be beyond the love and support they need to live a dignified life.

CAFOD are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world and a member of a global Church network with a presence in 165 countries. The local Church is trusted even in the most dangerous countries, regions and communities regardless of religion. This means that your support will help those who are truly in need. The local experts help some of the most difficult-to-reach people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. They help anyone regardless of faith, gender and ethnicity.

Through a local priest, a midwife or a water engineer – the global reach is present in the lived experience of local communities. These skilled women and men understand what people need because they are part of the communities they work in. Their commitment, passion and knowledge reach people other organisations cannot.

Your donations support this essential work.

Livesimply Actions and Reflections Lent 2022 prepared by St Alban's J & P Group Macclesfield

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <p>7 Fairtrade Fortnight Learn why St Alban's is a Fairtrade church and how it ensures producers get a fair wage at: Fairtrade Church</p> | <p>8 Solidarity Refugees Welcome —Who is our neighbour? 7:30pm Zoom Talk Zoom link available from: skeithav12@outlook.com</p> | <p>2 March Ash Wednesday Decide what you will do for Lent. How might you Livesimply this Lent in how you act, give and pray?</p> | <p>3 Solidarity Who comes to mind when you hear the word poor? Is your road a good place to live? What makes it so? What is life like on the other side of town?</p> | <p>4 Solidarity Attend Mass at 12 noon followed by a Soup Lunch in the Parish Centre with savings to be donated to CAFOD. These take place each Friday during Lent.</p> | <p>5 Solidarity International Women's Day on 8th March Prepare by saying thank you to one of the women who has helped you in your life and pray for women around the world. Find out more</p> | <p>6 1st Sunday of Lent Fast from technology. Take some time off the internet or TV today and spend it with God instead.</p> |
| <p>14 Sustainably Look for a place to buy Fairtrade Easter eggs. You can order them from Jane and Steve Clare who will deliver. Phone 01625 422939 or email: clare05@ntlworld.com</p> | <p>15 Sustainably Reduce food waste by planning your meals and buying just what you need. You could buy surplus food donated from retailers from the: Surplus Food Grocery</p> | <p>9 Solidarity Pray for your neighbours (by name, if you can) who are struggling with debt, homelessness, unemployment.....</p> | <p>10 Solidarity Find something at home that you could swap for Fairtrade in future, like tea, coffee, sugar, bananas.</p> | <p>11 CAFOD Lent Fast Day Give up a treat or a meal today, pray for people who are hungry or thirsty and donate to CAFOD at: CAFOD Lent Appeal</p> | <p>12 Solidarity Collect some non-perishable food items and bring them to church with you. St. Alban's are collecting for the Silklife Food Bank this weekend. Find out how out more at: Foodbank - Silklife Church — Silklife Church</p> | <p>13 2nd Sunday of Lent Join in the Livesimply Pledge at Mass as we renew the Parish commitment to Livesimply. Find it at: Livesimply Commitment</p> |
| <p>21 Solidarity Remember to say Grace before eating your meals today, and throughout Lent thanking God for creating the food and for the people who have helped produce it.</p> | <p>22 World Water Day Save water—turn the tap off while you brush your teeth, take a shorter shower or a shower instead of a bath, and remember communities who do not have clean water. World Water Day</p> | <p>16 Sustainably One of the biggest changes we can make to support climate change is to make sure our money is not contributing. Check out your bank Also consider the impact of any pension or savings investments.</p> | <p>17 Sustainably Shop more locally, e.g. green grocers, butchers, bakers to reduce the food miles and plastic packaging. You could join Scoop and Scales - find out more at: Scoop and Scales</p> | <p>18 Sustainably Have a meatless or vegan meal, if possible shared with others. Meat and cheese both have a large carbon footprint. Could you do this more often during the Lent?</p> | <p>20 3rd Sunday of Lent Join in the CAFOD Community Walk Against Hunger - short sponsored walk at 1.00pm or sponsor another parishioner. Details: jeromejohnston@yahoo.co.uk and Join the Walk Against Hunger! CAFOD</p> | <p>20 3rd Sunday of Lent Join in the CAFOD Community Walk Against Hunger - short sponsored walk at 1.00pm or sponsor another parishioner. Details: jeromejohnston@yahoo.co.uk and Join the Walk Against Hunger! CAFOD</p> |
| <p>28 Livesimply Take a break from consuming and buy nothing today.</p> | <p>29 Livesimply Drink only water today—no tea, coffee or fizzy drinks—and thank God for such a wonderful gift.</p> | <p>23 Solidarity Buy something extra each time you shop and place it in the collection box at the supermarket or church collection point for local people who would otherwise go hungry. Sainsbury's and the Co-op supermarkets in Macclesfield have collection boxes for the Silklife Food Bank.</p> | <p>24 St. Oscar Romero's Day Reflect on Romero's words: Aspire not to have more but to be more. What more can you do to Livesimply, doing more for others and God's creation?</p> | <p>25 The Annunciation Listen—really listen—to someone today. Give your time generously so that they know they are being heard.</p> | <p>26 Solidarity Write to your MP about a local issue that you feel strongly about, e.g. people struggling with debt, unemployment, homelessness....</p> | <p>27 4th Sunday of Lent Mother's Day Pray for all the mothers in the world. Do something kind for your mum or another special woman.</p> |
| <p>4 Sustainably Review your use of electricity at home. Are all your light bulbs LED or energy saving? Turn off some of your electrical items more often or overnight.</p> | <p>5 Sustainably Take responsibility for your neighbourhood and pick up litter on your own or get family, neighbours or friends to help.</p> | <p>6 Sustainably Look at the labels on your clothes. Where were they made? Why were they made there? Who made them and did they get a fair wage?</p> | <p>7 Livesimply Tell someone about your Lent activities, share them on the Parish Facebook, Twitter, website, Monthly Newsletter or even contact the local press!</p> | <p>1 April St Joseph's Day In this year of St Joseph the patron saint of workers, pray for workers who are not paid a fair wage.</p> | <p>2 Livesimply Take stock of what you've done so far in Lent to Livesimply. How are you getting on with responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor? What more could you do?</p> | <p>3 5th Sunday of Lent Take time to listen to the cry of the poor with your heart. Pray for those "Forgotten People" who share our common home, e.g. those who are living in poverty, homeless, refugees, migrants.</p> |
| <p>11 Solidarity As we uphold the human right to food, clean drinking water and safe sanitation for all. Pray today for the people in the world who don't have access to these.</p> | <p>12 Solidarity Send an Easter card or message to thank someone who has helped you this Lent.</p> | <p>13 Livesimply Have a quiet and reflective day; give up some TV, phone or computer time.</p> | <p>14 Maundy Thursday Jesus washed his friends' feet. How can you serve others today?</p> | <p>8 Solidarity Work out how much cash you save by eating less meat and give that money to a charity. Many charities have suffered devastating reductions in their income during Covid-19. Could you make a regular donation?</p> | <p>9 Solidarity Make some biscuits or cakes with Fairtrade products and share them with a neighbour, friend or colleague. Also don't forget the Repair Cafe 10 -2.00pm at the Senior Citizens Hall.</p> | <p>10 Palm Sunday Celebrate your faith Journey, those who have journeyed with you and spend time with the Lord.</p> |
| <p>11 Solidarity Happy Easter! Alleluia! Take time to reflect on where you have you found Jesus this Lent?</p> | <p>15 Good Friday As you pray before the cross, bring with you the poor of the world and the brokenness of our planet.</p> | <p>15 Good Friday As you pray before the cross, bring with you the poor of the world and the brokenness of our planet.</p> | <p>16 Holy Saturday As we watch and wait for Easter review your Livesimply reflections and actions during Lent. What changes do you want to make part of your life?</p> | <p>16 Holy Saturday As we watch and wait for Easter review your Livesimply reflections and actions during Lent. What changes do you want to make part of your life?</p> | <p>17 Easter Sunday Happy Easter! Alleluia! Take time to reflect on where you have you found Jesus this Lent?</p> | <p>17 Easter Sunday Happy Easter! Alleluia! Take time to reflect on where you have you found Jesus this Lent?</p> |

AN ECOLOGICAL WAY OF THE CROSS – Remembering the Passion of our Lord and the suffering of Mother Earth

OPENING PRAYER

L: Lord, Jesus Christ, You are the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creatures. You rose from the dead, saving us and enabling all things to be reconciled to God through you. Yet due to the sin of greed, we rob from the earth, resulting in environmental disaster.

All: Lord, when we try to follow your footsteps, give us the courage and strength to safeguard the integrity of creation.

I. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

(At every station)

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pilate went back to the Praetorium and called Jesus to him. 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord or have others said it to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me; what have you done?' (John 18:33-35)

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent but he would not uphold justice and so he condemned him. The earth, the sky, the sea - all are innocent too. They have been polluted by our foolishness and selfishness, they too have been condemned.

Our destruction of the environment is a sin against you, for we are condemning what you have created for us in love.

A: Lord, we confess our wrongdoing and we ask you to help us, to know, honour and love you through all your creation.

II. JESUS IS MADE TO BEAR THE CROSS

Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after having Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. (Mark 15:15)

With this tree, Jesus revealed his overwhelming love for us. Through Jesus, the wood of the Cross in the fullness of creation has brought us salvation. But we are drowning in the tide of consumerism, buying that which is useless and rejecting that which is useful.

A: Lord, help us to understand that what we eat, what we drink, what we wear, and what we use are all from the sacrifice of Mother Earth. Teach us to treasure them all.

III. JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Remember, O Lord, how your servant is taunted; how I bear in my bosom the insults of the peoples, with which your enemies taunt, O Lord, with which they taunted the footsteps of your anointed. (Ps 89:50, 51)

God saw his creation and He said that it was good. But now, all this has been trampled and the ecological balance so upset that, with the ever-increasing amount of waste, Mother Earth is facing a breakdown.

A: Lord, you have trusted us to be stewards of the earth. Grant us the courage to change so that our polluted hearts may be cleansed. Help us restore the original goodness of the beautiful world you have created.

IV. JESUS MEETS HIS AFFLICTED MOTHER

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Look, he is destined for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, destined to be the sign that is opposed – and a sword will pierce your soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare." (Luke 2:34-35)

Mary carried out God's command by sharing the passion of her own Son. Mother Earth too is sharing the suffering which we have caused. How long will it take for us to respond to her cry?

In pursuit of the convenience of a mere moment, we have become accustomed to a throw-away lifestyle.

A: Lord, grant us ears of understanding and hearts of charity that we may hear the lament of Mother Earth, and be reconciled with her.

V. JESUS IS HELPED TO CARRY HIS CROSS

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene called Simon, and enlisted him to carry his Cross. (Mt. 27:32)

The environment, as polluted as it is, cannot withstand further contamination. Can we be Simon for her? Each little act of reducing waste, each little act of recycling, and each act of recovering the useful are all ways to lighten the cross carried by Mother Earth.

A heart of greed has bred a lifestyle of greed. A polluted heart has polluted the environment.

A: Lord, enlighten us to know that environmental protection is not the sole responsibility of governments but of us all. Help us rebuild our mindscapes by a change in how we live, so as to rebuild the damaged landscape.

VI. JESUS LETS VERONICA WIPE HIS FACE

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. (Ps 22:7)

For the love of Christ, Veronica bravely stood up amidst the crowd to wipe the blood stain on his face. Countless creatures today are struggling to survive, threatened with annihilation in the name of development and modernization. Who will stand up today for eco-justice?

A: Lord, give us the courage to challenge the constant thirst for more, to respect all creatures, doing our utmost to protect their right to survive.

VII. JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

Will no one hear my prayer, will not God himself grant my hope? May it please God to crush me, to give his hand free play and to do away with sin. This insight, at least, would give me comfort – a thrill of joy in unrelenting pain, that I never rebelled against the Holy One's decrees. (Job 6:8-10)

We repent the careless destruction of Mother Earth and our failure to conserve her natural resources. Although we do not wish for polluted air or water, we lack the will power to solve environmental problems.

A: Lord, in the struggle to protect the environment, we pray that we may not be apathetic, nor merely paying lip service but strive instead to renew the earth.

VIII. JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WEEPING WOMEN

Large numbers of people followed him, and women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children.' (Luke, 23:27-28)

Reduction in biodiversity and the extinction of species are causes for our sorrow. The pain of the earth is our pain. The earth's resources are limited and economic development cannot be boundless.

A: Lord, may our industrial and economic development be sustainable for the environment, so that Mother Earth has a chance to rest and be healed, so that we do not weep for future generations.

IX. JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight. Surely everyone stands as a mere breath. Surely everyone goes about like a shadow. Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; they heap up, and do not know who will gather. "And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you." (Ps 39:5-7)

Christ has fallen three times but what makes him rise again and again? It is love, His love for the Father and all humankind. Do we show our love for the birds of heaven, the fish in the sea, the beasts in the wilderness and flowers in the meadows?

A: Lord, please transform our appreciation of the beauty of nature into a commitment to respect and protect her.

X. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots. (Mt 25:35)

In his poverty, Jesus is the richest among all. In his poverty, Jesus can still be giving, forgiving and loving. In our pursuit of property, we become poor. Our creation of wealth strips the wealth of creation.

The breakdown of humanity's relationship with God distorts all interpersonal relationships as well as humanity's relationship with nature. The root of the ecological crisis is that of humans trying to be masters over creation.

A: Lord, help us to be content to have nothing else but you. With you, we can re-form our relationships with fellow humans and with all creatures.

XI. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried, while we thought of him as someone punished and struck with affliction by God; whereas he was being wounded for our rebellions, crushed because of our guilt. (Isaiah 53:45)

The cruellest form of punishment has become the fulfillment of love and a realization of salvation. By the cross, we do not live in sin but live in God. In our ignorance we have neglected to take proper care of the wonderful world God has created.

The crucifixion is the price paid by God's immeasurable love for us. If we are willing to repent, we too must pay a price.
A: Lord, you do not count any price to love us. In our desire to imitate you, we are willing to correct how we relate to creatures, to free them from corruption and to enjoy the fruits of salvation which you have gained for us through the cross.

XII. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then the other. When they came to Jesus, they saw he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. (John 19:32-37)

The entire life of Jesus is a song of love between the Father and Him. When pain becomes ultimate, love reaches its highest point. The corruptible becomes incorruptible and a pure moment enters eternity. By the cross, the old creation has been buried and a new creation begins. We must make the order of a new creation a reality and become a new humanity.

A: Lord, we are ready to protect our environment with renewed hearts, so that the world may be a place of singing praises to you.

XIII. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, 'In truth this man was the Son of God.' (Mark 15:39)

Jesus finishes his sacrifice of life in love. God who becomes human teaches what it means to be fully human. But humans who like to play God attempt to rule over nature and manipulate people in order to satisfy their own greed. If we are truly willing to follow Jesus, let our lives become a sacrifice of charity in loving all creatures, for God has loved us without any reservation.

Lord, not only do You bring us salvation but You also invite us to co-operate with you in saving the world.

A: Mindful of our duty to care for the earth we promise to protect the splendor of all that you have created.

XIV. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered that it be handed over. (Mt 27:57-58)

The body of Jesus was locked inside a cave by a rock. But darkness can never overcome light and death can never win over life. Let us give ourselves to Jesus to continue His light and His life.

We are sent to a suffering world to bring the Good News of light and life.

A: Lord, we repent and take responsibility for threatening the ecological balance and polluting the environment. We will choose a life style of greater simplicity, abandoning the pursuit of materialism and consumerism. We will co-operate with our brothers and sisters to rebuild the harmony between humanity and all creation.

CLOSING PRAYER

L: We worship You, Lord, we venerate Your Cross, we praise Your Resurrection.

A: Through the cross you bring joy to the world.

Composed by Fr Sean McDonagh 27/03/2012
Adapted by Anne O'Connor 02/02/2022

