

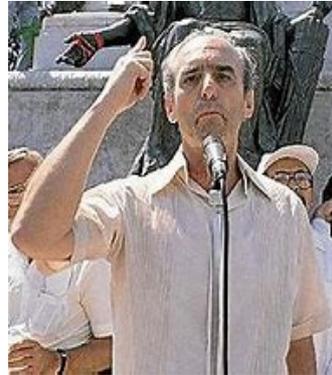


ANNUAL REVIEW Introduction

By John Battle, Chair of the Commission

"I want you to set your eyes and hearts on these people who are suffering so much, some from poverty and hunger, others from oppression and repression then, standing before these people thus crucified, ask yourselves, 'What have I done to crucify them? What do I do to uncrucify them? What must I do for these people to rise again?'"

This challenge from the Salvadoran Jesuit Fr Ignacio Ellacuria, martyred for campaigning for justice for the poor, invites us in our context to seek out, get to know and ensure the poor in our society are not invisible. We are called to "set our hearts on them" We therefore must work together to identify the poor and oppressed in our world. Then, "standing before them", we are asked to examine our relationship to them publicly. Asking " what have I done to crucify them?" means examining and confessing how I am part of the problem, nailing the suffering poor up on the cross, using the hammer or passing over the nails, holding the wood steady or, further back, providing the tree for the wood. Accepting a sense of responsibility implies we examine whether we are part of the political economic or social arrangements and systems by which the poor are kept poor so that the rich can remain and become even richer. So, who is being crucified where we are now? Those hit by Covid, sick, isolated and alone, those on declining Universal Credit or in low paid temporary work, those unemployed, those young, who have lost educational courses, those seeking refuge and asylum, those homeless, those broken by alcohol, drug or gambling addictions, those suffering with serious mental health problems, those with disabilities, those ex-



offenders unable to reset their lives, those suffering violence and all those set to fail. Fr Ellacuria takes us further, stressing that recognising the existence of the crucified poor

obliges us to ask "what am I doing to uncrucify them? " Nor is this a purely individual challenge. Hearing the cry of the crucified people has to be at the heart of the role of the Church in challenging political, economic and social systems. That's the task of the Church's J& P Commissions - drawing us to work together on often "unpopular agendas".

Our current PRIORITIES as the Leeds Diocesan J& P Commission are educational action on the causes of POVERTY in our own society, working at the CLIMATE CRISIS in our parishes schools and society with the guidance of the inspirational Laudato Si, challenging nuclear defence and arms production and PROMOTING NONVIOLENCE (not least in Palestine). championing the compassionate work of CARITAS and the SVP with those in need, refugees and ex-offenders, and most importantly championing the PARTICIPATION of YOUNGER PEOPLE (through our SPARK Justice Project) and the engagement work of the community organising CITIZENS movement. Taking the crucified down from the cross means developing that underplayed central concept of www.leedsjp.org.uk Catholic Social Learning " participation ", a concept for real transformation.

For the full annual report please click here
[About – Diocese of Leeds: Justice and Peace Commission \(leedsjp.org.uk\)](http://www.leedsjp.org.uk)



Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of “God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God’s revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’

In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected

and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth.

The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels. In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom.

Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions



about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November.

These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help

us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations.

Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and ‘renew the face of the earth’

Reclaim our common home

We want to answer Pope Francis’ call for us to build a new normal after the coronavirus pandemic – a better normal.

The G7 and COP26 summits will be key moments for tackling the climate crisis and cancelling debts as we work for a global green recovery from the pandemic

Click here for more information as to how you can help [Catholic international development charity | CAFOD](#)



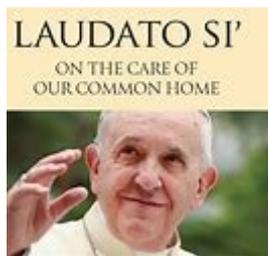


A CATHOLIC RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

By David Jackson, *Laudato Si* Animator

“We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world.”

Laudato Si paragraph 212



UK Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill

This Bill was tabled by Caroline Lucas, Green Party leader, and is supported by MPs of all parties, and by organisations like Green Christian and Operation Noah.

You can write to your MP to lobby for their support of this bill. Find them [here](#). Ask them to support the CEE Bill, and remember to include your address and phone number to show that you are in their constituency.

- 1) On the [CEE Bill Campaign site](#), you will find a [website](#) where you can enter your postcode to find your local election candidates.
- 2) You can use this [template](#) or your own words (short and simple might work best) to ask all of them to support the Bill.

The G7 Summit 2021

The G7 Summit is the annual meeting of the Group of Seven leaders. It is an intergovernmental organisation made up of the world's largest developed economies: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Invitations are extended to the EU, the UN,

China, India, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, South Korea and to the leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It is to take place from 11-13th June in Carbis Bay, near St Ives. Background information can be found [here](#).

Besides the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, leaders are expected to address trade, climate change, and technological changes. The [G7 Official Page](#) invites comments from the public. G7correspondence@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Point out that the G7 members must:

- Commit to ending destructive and polluting businesses and agriculture
- Promote sustainable businesses and agriculture
- Commit to zero carbon emissions

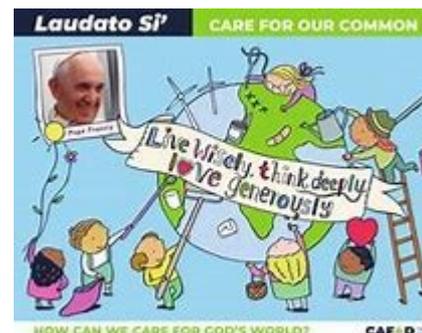
Mention any other environmental issues that you're concerned about. Remember, short and simple makes your letter easy to read.



LAUDATO SI ANIMATORS UK

Dedicated to spreading the teachings of the Pope's Encyclical 'Laudato Si'

[Home - Laudato Si Animators](#)





COMMISSION EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH CHURCHES IN JERUSALEM



As a Commission of the Diocese of Leeds we express our solidarity with the local churches in Jerusalem and their anguish and concern at the ongoing violence there. We wholeheartedly support the statement issued on 09 May by the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, as reported on the Bishops' Conference website. Palestinians are being harassed, evicted from their homes, often violently, and the rate of demolition of houses has risen during Covid – and these are all factors behind the current violence. There will be no lasting peace without justice for Palestinians.

The following extract from this statement underlines the distress of the Christian communities at the treatment of Palestinians:

"...We echo the words of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights who said that the rule of law is being "applied in an inherently discriminatory manner". This has become a main flashpoint amid rising tensions in Jerusalem in general. The issue today is not a matter of a real-estate dispute between private parties. It is rather an attempt driven

by an extremist ideology which denies the right of existence of a person in his own home.

Our Church has been clear that peace requires justice. Insofar as far as the rights of everyone, Israelis and Palestinians, are not upheld and respected, there will be no justice and therefore no peace in the city. It is our duty not to ignore injustice nor any aggression against human dignity regardless of who is committing them.

We call upon the International Community, the Churches and all people of goodwill to intervene in order to put an end to these provocative actions, and to continue to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We join in prayer with the intention of the Holy Father Pope Francis that "the multi-religious and multi-cultural identity of the Holy City might be respected and that fraternity might prevail."

We encourage all churches in the Diocese to join in those prayers.

For full statement see:

[\(https://www.cbcew.org.uk/latin-patriarchate-reacts-to-recent-violence-in-jerusalem/\)](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/latin-patriarchate-reacts-to-recent-violence-in-jerusalem/).





Israeli-Palestinian conflict: How you can support the people affected

By CAFOD

[Israeli-Palestinian conflict: How you can help | CAFOD](#)

CAFOD's response to the latest violence?

We, at CAFOD, are joining the calls of faith leaders from around the world, including Pope Francis, who have called for an immediate cessation of all violence.

On 12 May 2021, CAFOD released a statement that read:

“The violence in the West Bank and Gaza including East Jerusalem is deeply disturbing and must be brought to a halt before it spirals out of control and more lives are lost. Continued escalation only harms the most vulnerable people.

“There is an urgent need for responsible leadership ready to work for justice and peace for Palestinians and Israelis creating an alternative to this cycle of violence that divides and kills.

“CAFOD opposes the eviction of Palestinian families from their homes which is a violation of international law. We call for an immediate cessation of all violence

“CAFOD believes that the only way out of the cycle of violence and for Israelis and Palestinians to be truly secure, is to revive hope for a just Israeli-Palestinian peace

process, aimed at creating the conditions for a stable peace based on justice, where all must be treated equally.”

Click here to email your MP to call for a lasting peace in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel. [Call for a lasting peace in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel | CAFOD](#)

Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.



We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord hear us.

Donate to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Appeal

Please donate to our partners who are responding through emergency food and medical assistance, legal aid and promotion of dialogue.

[CAFOD : Donation to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Appeal](#)



Caritas Leeds: Criminal Justice Inquiry Virtual Workshops:

By Rev Joseph Cortis

'Life After Prison' to be facilitated by Jane Deguarre Chief Executive for the West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project on Tuesday 8th. June at 6.30-8.00pm. To book a place please access this site: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/caritas-leeds-31188104135>

'Addictions' to be facilitated by Mark Law (Barka) and David Wise (Forward Leeds) on Tuesday 15th. June at 5.30-7.00pm. To access this workshop please use this link: Join Zoom Meeting <https://barca-leeds-org.zoom.us/j/81155926587?pwd=aW5CSzFhUHFYL1Jhdzh5Mk9VTG5kdz09>



J&P ON ZOOM: MEET THE SVP NATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY ADVISOR

Alessandra Sciarra, National SVP Policy Manager for Social Justice has agreed to lead a Zoom-based meeting with us to discuss poverty in the UK today and what, as Church, we should be doing about it. Registration is via Eventbrite

[The SVP and Social Justice - a Zoom with the SVP National Policy Manager Tickets, Wed 26 May 2021 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

As it is on Zoom, there are unlimited places



EVENTS

 Wed 26 May 7:30-9pm	J&P ON ZOOM: MEET THE SVP NATIONAL SOCIAL POLICY ADVISOR Alessandra Sciarra, National SVP Policy Manager for Social Justice has agreed to lead a Zoom-based meeting with us to discuss poverty in the UK today and what, as Church, we should be doing about it. Registration is via Eventbrite The SVP and Social Justice - a Zoom with the SVP National Policy Manager Tickets, Wed 26 May 2021 at 19:30 Eventbrite
 Thurs 27th May 7--8.30pm	Saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war by Tim Devereux, MAW Join us online as we celebrate MAW's 20th birthday! BRUCE KENT and MAW Chairperson TIM DEVEREUX will be joined by expert guests, looking back briefly on our achievements and, more importantly, thinking about the future. Saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war Tickets, Thu 27 May 2021 at 19:00 Eventbrite
 Tues 8th June 6.30-8.00pm	'Life After Prison' to be facilitated by Jane Deguarre Chief Executive for the West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project. To book a place please access this site: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/caritas-leeds-31188104135
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 23rd July-25th July	NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: LIFE ON EARTH – MOMENT OF TRUTH  There will be opportunities to take part in workshops and activities throughout the weekend as well a JUST FAIR consisting of more than 20 stalls from different agencies displaying goods and resources. https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NJPN-Conference-2021-Booking-Form.pdf

Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.