

## Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

I welcome this new edition of our newsletter. As usual it contains a rich blend of interesting and inspiring articles on various aspects of justice and peace from various sources. I hope you will find it interesting and find something here that might inform and inspire your thinking on the many issues that face and challenge us.

Thank you for all the work that is going on in our diocese on the justice and peace agenda. Our diocese has an active climate action group which tries to coordinate our response to the challenge at the diocesan level and in the life of our school and parishes. We all have a part to play in this. Maybe in Lent there is an opportunity to reflect on our own lifestyle and how we might live more simply and sustainably in the spirit of the Gospel and Laudato Si.

May the Lord bless and inspire us in all that we do.

Fr. Gerard Murray (Chair)

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## Dates for your diary:

### Date for 2023

Monday 20th February	Commission meeting,
Monday 24th April	Commission meeting,
Tuesday 23rd May	Discussion Forum 7pm
Saturday 10th June	J&P Retreat
Monday 3rd July	Commission meeting,
Monday 4th September	Commission meeting,
Our Assembly	Format to be confirmed
Monday 6th November	Commission meeting,
Tuesday 21st November	Discussion Forum 7pm

All Justice and Peace Commission Meetings are held online via Zoom at 11am.

The Forum meetings are also on Zoom at 7pm

At the Forum meeting in January it was agreed to move the Retreat to after Pentecost

## Comments on January's Justice and Peace Forum

A Forum of the Justice and Peace Commission for the Birmingham Archdiocese was held on 24th January via zoom to discuss the forthcoming Annual Assembly and Lenten Retreat.

It was generally felt that now was the right time to return to face-to-face meetings instead of the zoom meetings we have had to have over the past two or three years. Face-to-face interaction was in many ways more fulfilling on both a spiritual and a personal level. The idea of holding perhaps two assemblies, in different parts of the diocese was mooted which may allow more people to attend meetings as travelling would not be so great. Finding a suitable venue was, however, always problematical. Whilst numbers attending the Annual Assembly were heartening, it was noted that at times the attendees did not reflect the diverse demography of the Archdiocese as a whole.

What started out as a discussion on the format and topic for the next Assembly became a wide ranging and lively discussion on the role, activities and vision of the Commission. Did the current visionary statement for the J & P Commission need updating to take into consideration the problems and issues facing us today? A visionary statement – especially if shared with a Diocesan Vision – should be both inspirational and relevant to the concerns and needs of people today.

Do we need to be more proactive as people seem to be more willing to take an active interest in things if there was a definite programme of action? Attending meetings do not seem to be a priority for people as they do not always see any practical actions arising. People should be given opportunities to work on issues which are of concern. More clarity, perhaps, was needed on what the work of the Commission was and a more integrated programme of events/actions needed to be worked out. We also need to be aware of what other groups round the Diocese are doing as there was some wonderful work being done on Justice & Peace around the Archdiocese but not always under the Commissions 'umbrella'. Some thought might be needed as to how we can revitalise Justice and Peace and find ways of listening to other groups.

The Commission should be a forum where all groups interested in any aspect of Justice & Peace can come together to share ideas and vision.

Topics for the upcoming Assembly were discussed. The main area of concern seemed to be the NHS. There seemed to be a lack of awareness/concern in some quarters of society, for the marginalized and poor at a time when they help need the most. There had even been a suggestion, reported in the papers, that people should pay to go to see their doctor. This would leave a large portion of the population without the means to access health care. How do we, in the interest of the common good, reach out and help these people or reach out to stop the decline of our Health Service.

Our Lenten Retreat was also discussed. There were so many other organizations/groups offering Retreats during Lent so perhaps now is the time to look at the timing of our Retreat. Pentecost seemed to be a good time for most, bearing in mind that that was also the time for school holidays and, this year, the extra Coronation Bank Holiday.

The Forum has given us all a great deal to ponder and pray about. Our thanks go to all those who contributed to the thought provoking evening.

Sent in by Barbara

**Note: at time of writing the Retreat date is the 10th June at St Paul's Convent, Selly Park B29 7LL**

### Possible Vision

The other evening during the zoom meeting there was a consensus of opinion to revive Face to Face meetings. That prompted me to reflect on, Face to Face.

In reading the scriptures I have noticed that Jesus always sought a Face to Face meeting with the excluded - those marginalised from power – the nobodies, who were held in poverty and injustice on the peripheries by political, economic systems and structures, e.g. the blind, the lame, the cripples, the lepers, the homeless, the paralytic the excluded.

Jesus always met them Face to Face, not through their representatives, he listened attentively to their story and at times encouraged them to tell him their story. In that way give them back their dignity as persons and enhanced their respect. Notice Jesus didn't go through their representatives, he always approached them directly, Face to Face, and in that way they became agents of their own destiny with the ability to participate or contribute to the wider community.

Pope Francis, wrote in Fratelli Tutti, that no one is useless and no one is expendable, so we must find ways to include those on the peripheries of life. For they have another way of looking at things; they see aspects of reality that are invisible to the centres of power, where weighty decisions are made.

On the margins of power, one does not simply find poverty and deprivation, one finds persons with dignity who are gathering up the rejected and fighting to make the world better of everyone.

The call of Pope Francis to go out to the margins of power, is not about giving a voice to the voiceless, but it is about recognising, in prayerful humility, that our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of life, are already speaking, witnessing to God in a world of poverty, exclusion and injustice.

One avenue for lifting us up and healing the patterns and structures of marginalisation in our Church and our world is to systematically bring the peripheries into the centre of life in the Church.

Bringing the peripheries to the centre means constantly endeavouring to support the disempowered as protagonists in the life of life of the Church. It means giving a place in the priorities and budgets and energies of every Church community to those who are victimised and ignored. It means advocating forcefully against racism and economic exploitation. In short, it means creating a genuine solidarity

May I suggest a possible VISION

Develop a structure whereby we go out to the margins of power, to meet, listen attentively and learn, through regular Face to Face ( not through representatives) those sisters and brothers of ours who live there and who are already speaking, witnessing to God in a world of poverty, exclusion and injustice.

May I further suggest that they be invited to the annual Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly.

As Pope Francis said "in seeking to address poverty and injustice, we must remember our goal is enabling persons to become dignified agents of their own destiny.

Raymond Collier



Pax Christi News late January  
2023



Welcoming New Chief Executive: Andrew Jackson In early January, we welcomed Andrew Jackson as Pax Christi's Chief Executive. Andrew joins us from CHIPS (Christian International Peace Service) where he was Director. He has a legal background and long-standing involvement in social justice.



### Peace Sunday

We were delighted that this year a special Mass for peace was celebrated in 5 cathedrals: Birmingham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Southwark. All parishes in England & Wales received emails promoting Pope Francis' Message for World Peace Day is: "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace" together with a wide range of resources.



### Ash Wednesday Witness:

Pax Christi together will hold an online Ash Wednesday Witness (22 Feb, 7pm) watch the website for other activities around the country. □ • We're planning to hold online prayer and reflection sessions weekly during Lent. Each week will focus on a situation of conflict using mediations from the Icon of Peace. See the website for more information as it is finalised.



### Journeying through Lent to Easter:

- \* A resources flyer of books, cards and Palestinian olive wood gifts will be out soon by post to members (and will be available on our website).

- \* This year, we are hoping to find venues - parishes, cathedrals, schools ... willing to host the Pax Christi Icon. If you would be interested in this opportunity to use the Icon as a focus for prayer/workshops etc. contact the office.

- \* We will have ideas for actions and reflection on our website page.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/journeying-through-lent-to-easter/>



## Reflections

Recently, Lyn and I attended our first Mercy Associates meeting of the New Year. In the prayers, we were given two Reflections which I hope you enjoy.

The first is by Michael Dougherty:

“When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet, to feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and Peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.”

The second reflection:

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,  
Thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,  
Mindful that our steps make an impact and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently,

Aware that you have endowed

Every creature and plant, every person and habitat  
With beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness,

May we honour rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully,  
Willing to laugh and dance and dream,  
Remembering our many gifts with thanks  
And looking forward to blessings yet to come.  
May we welcome your lavish love.  
In this New Year, may the grace and peace of Christ  
bless us  
Now and in the days ahead.

Author unknown.

Sent in by Phil Mayland



## Catholic Social Teaching

I have always been interested in Catholic Social Teaching, CST, ever since Fr Benignus, a Franciscan missionary in Zambia, gave me a copy of Vatican 2 documents, a pretty large book, when I was living and working in Zambia. This was in the late sixties. About 10 years later, and living back in the U.K., I was privileged to be asked to be a delegate to the National Pastoral Congress in Liverpool on the Peace and Justice group. We, the delegates from North Staffordshire, underwent a period of training in Church Teaching, Vatican 2, CST, with Fr Michael Joyce. (Whatever happened to the document, "Easter People"?)

CAFOD have produced a series of workshops for schools on CST, which have proved to be very popular and are really exciting to present. CAFOD Schools Volunteers have been delivering these since the academic year 2021/22.

One interesting fact is that if you want a list of Principles of CST, they differ from one Bishops' Conference to another. By that I mean some principles are not included or go by different names, or a couple of them are squeezed together. So here in Birmingham, or the UK, our list may differ from the United States, or from Germany. However, these are moot points. The main purpose of this article is to highlight what I perceive as some glaring and serious issues concerning living according to these principles.

How often have you listened to a homily about Social Teaching, about how we should act accordingly, about how we should vote, or write to our MP?

Here is a brief run through of principles, in no particular order of importance. All are important.

### Common Good.

A society that wishes and intends to remain at the service of the human being at every level is a society that has the common good -- the good of all people and of the whole person-- as its primary goal. \* We do hear about this from the Bishops Conference, especially when there is an election. We need to consider the Common Good when deciding how to cast our vote. And the common good is not just about our society in the U.K., but the Good of all, in the world. So ask, when voting, which of the parties has a programme of service for all, rather than the race to gather more wealth for certain individuals and then some of this may trickle down to the poorer parts of society. The trickle-down economic theory has been condemned by Pope Francis, and his predecessors.

### Human Dignity.

We need to see every person as a child of God. We need to have laws which are inclusive. There are many issues in our society which we should be addressing and trying to put right which stem from our belief in Human Dignity. Here we are concerned with the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. In no particular order there are issues around abortion; euthanasia; refugees, migrants. Issues concerning the amount of money spent on armaments; our willingness to use nuclear weapons; (Thomas Merton, I think, said that our willingness to use nuclear weapons is the tap-root of violence which leads to abortion.) Homelessness, child poverty, women's safety, are issues of human dignity.

### Solidarity:

Showing we care for those less fortunate. Does every parish have an S.V.P. group? Or some link to CSAN? (Have you heard of CSAN?). Does every parish regularly support CAFOD's appeals? If not why not? These are the Church's official agencies. Do we support other charities? Do you have any refugees/asylum seekers in your area? How can you help them? Does your parish have any other overseas links? What does your parish do about homelessness and poverty in your area?

**Subsidiarity:**

This principle is not always understood. This tells us that decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level. Individuals, families, intermediate social groupings and higher-level groupings constitute the whole of a society. So, for example, a central government should not take upon itself powers that can reasonably be undertaken by a more local authority. 'Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice.... to assign to a higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do.'\*

'On the basis of this principle all societies of a higher order must adopt attitudes of help (subsidiary) – therefore of support, promotion, development – with respect to lower order societies.'\*

**Participation.**

Every individual has a right to participate, either as an individual or in association with others, to contribute to the social, cultural, economic and political development of the civil community he/she belongs to. I have a vision that when I die, I will be asked 'what did you do to make things better? How did you help others? We live in a democracy. Not only do we have a right to participate by voting but we have a duty to do so. I can approach my MP and give my views on any matter. The denial of participation of the individual is the reason why totalitarian states or dictatorships are a serious cause for concern.

**Promoting Peace.**

Peace is the fruit of justice and the fruit of love. If the principles of Common Good, Human Dignity, Subsidiarity, are not followed and the individual or group is threatened we see the results in outbursts of temper, violence, within the family; and then within smaller units of society, and of course between nations. Wherever we see violence we need to try to find solutions based on mutual respect. In our own 'advanced' society we frequently hear of terrible outbursts of violence, stabbings, which lead to many people living in fear; fear of being outside at night; fear of going to particular places etc. Are there any serious attempts to establish and deal with causes?

Earlier, I mentioned our possession and implied use of nuclear weapons. I would love to see the church being known for its promotion of the unilateral abolition of these weapons.

**Stewardship:**

Caring for our Common Home. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* brings CST right up to date. We are all called to an ecological conversion. Our way of life, (I mean how we in this country have developed a way of living including our use of fossil fuels, plastics, fast fashion, food production and consumption, and our throwaway culture) is directly causing the warming which has led to climate change. The world is getting warmer and this is directly causing changes in climate around the world which is directly killing other humans. It is destroying ways of life developed over centuries. It is leading to record number of people being displaced and becoming refugees. We need to change as individuals and collectively we need to demand action from our governments. What is being done at present is far from what is needed.

**Preferential Option for the Poor.**

This is linked with The Universal Destination of Goods. 'This principle requires that the poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be the focus of particular concern.'\*

To this end the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force. St John Paul 11 was very clear about this in 'Sollicitudo Rei Socialis'. "Today, .. this love of preference for the poor, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without healthcare and above all, those without hope for a better future."

**Distributive Justice.**

This final principle is to do with putting right wrongs which occur. The best examples would be ensuring that workers, or farmers, those who produce anything we consume, including our food, clothing, are paid a proper wage or salary. Supporting the Fairtrade movement is an excellent way to practice. Is your parish a Fairtrade Parish? If not, why not?

\*Passages are from the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

Personal views are my own.  
Phil Mayland. January 2023.

## Report on Coventry's Holocaust Memorial Event - January 2023



St Mary's Guildhall was crowded

On 27 January, 140 people crowded into St Mary's Guild Hall to hear the powerful voices of those that have witnessed the horrors and atrocities of the Holocaust and Holodomor.

People gathered in the hall accompanied by music performed by Coventry Music's Brass quintet while overhead daylight streamed through the windows, casting a vivid winter glow on the assembly.

When all seats were taken, people stood shoulder to shoulder at the back of the magnificent hall, each one in solidarity showing dedication and commitment against evil.

The event began with welcomes by Councillor Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader of Coventry City Council and Coventry Lord Mayor, Councillor Kevin Maton.

They spoke about ordinary people in Coventry fighting hatred and Coventry's commitment to peace and reconciliation. The audience was asked to "listen and then tell others what you have heard here".

Then the first speaker was introduced.



John Fieldsend

Holocaust Survivor and Kinder Transport child John Fieldsend read out a letter written by his murdered parents, but only received by him after the war, saying their last goodbyes, telling him about their last journey to Belson and asking him to remember all his relatives that had been murdered.

He set the political scene for the Holocaust and then gave his own experience. John reminded us that following World War One, there was "civil war" and financial crisis in Germany. The civil war was between those who wanted Germany to have won and those who felt Germany should not have gone to war. The financial crisis was caused because of the war reparations Germany was forced to make after the war.

Germany was "ungovernable". One failing government followed another. All this led to the rise of Hitler's Nazi Party which rose to power in the early thirties, Germany was in a desperate state. Hitler was appointed Chancellor in January 1933, blaming "Dirty Jews" for all Germany's ills. Within 18 months, Hitler had transformed a democracy to a dictatorship. John described how he was bullied for being a Dirty Jew in Dresden. John's Dad's best friend became a member of the SS. After the 1938 peace treaty between the Chamberlain government and Germany, German troops moved into Czechoslovakia and bullying of John began again by fellow pupils and, even worse, by teachers. John said how precious are school anti-bullying policies in 2023.

This was very moving for everyone who was privileged to hear him.

Music from Coventry City Council's "Voice Squad" brought time for reflection before the next speaker began. The song they sang was "Al Shloshar D'Varim" written by Allan E. Naplan. The words mean "The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice and by peace".

After that, Dr Andriy Ilchychyn spoke about Holodomor during which 7 – 10 million Ukrainians died between 1932 and 1934 in Stalin's Soviet Ukraine.

School children from Eden Girls School recited their own beautifully crafted soul-searching poems and Bianca Andrei, Coventry University Student Union Education Officer, talked about her visit to Auschwitz.

This part of the event terminated by Lighting of the Candle and Final Words from Councillor Khan then, after a short musical interlude from Coventry Music's Brass quintet, there was a question and answer session with John Fieldsend and Dr Andriy Ilchychyn. After the event Pru Porretta MBE, Director of Godiva Trust, suggested some questions she thinks we all need to ask ourselves:

- How does this kind of thing happen?
- Are we complicit by not doing anything if we can?
- Are some nations being brain-washed even today?
- Do some people become radicalised while others still deny this ever happened?
- And, most serious of all: could it happen again?

This article was written by members of Coventry Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation.



## Coventry City Council sets out plans to plant and protect an urban forest in the years ahead

Councillors will meet in the new year to formally adopt the city's Urban Forestry Strategy and approve plans that will create a greener, healthier city for all.

The plans are set to be approved following a consultation period with residents and organisations, and work has already taken place over recent months to plant thousands of trees.

The Strategy recognises the importance of the urban forest in fighting pollution, flooding and wind, as well as the ways trees can improve the quality of life for residents and help with physical and mental wellbeing. The city's urban forest will cover streets and parks, schools, cemeteries, housing estates, private gardens and more.

The Council itself is responsible for 45,000 individual trees in parks, highways and other greenspaces and an estimated 200,000 woodland trees.

The new 10-year strategy will help care for all of them, from the ancient oaks of Kenilworth Road and Coombe Abbey to the trees that honour the Fallen at the War Memorial Park and the newest saplings.

It also includes a pledge to plant a tree for every single resident - over 350,000 trees.

The Council will work with partners and communities to identify areas where there is a lack of trees and help local people play a part in planting their own trees and contributing to the urban forest.

It will also look to secure funding from the government and other sources to support the programme.



Lent begins this year on 22nd February and attention is turning to Lenten plans and commitments. Across the country, schools, parishes, groups, and individuals are lacing up their walking shoes to walk in faith and solidarity, with CAFOD's Big Lent Walk.

During lockdowns in England and Wales, CAFOD launched the Walk for Water in Lent 2021 which raised £750,000 for vital water projects in some of the most drought-stricken regions of the world. Walk Against Hunger followed last Lent 2022.

It's an event for a school, a parish, or a group of friends to plan now to walk together. Or simply, a chance to commit to some timeout and quiet reflection along the way,

Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends, have fun or take time to pray and reflect. As a Lent commitment, it's an inspiring way to actively commit to bringing our faith physically into every day of Lent, and support people as they overcome poverty.

Find out more and sign up online at:  
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

## Lovely Good Healthy Trees Cut Down



Seven mature trees have been chopped down by developer's in Boswell Drive, Walsgrave, Coventry.

They were on a small pocket of green space, land which had been sold and bought by a developer, who, without any planning application, cleared the site. Recently all small plots of land around the city were highlighted and the ownership was looked into. Some housing estates in the late 1950's and early 60's were built by large house- building companies. After acquiring the land the estates were sectioned off for different houses, garages and gardens.

After roads and paths were laid out in the new estates, it left small pockets of odd shaped land which were grassed and trees planted to make the estate look nice and green. After all the houses and the property around them had been sold, technically the pockets of land still belonged to the company. Most of the companies do not exist anymore and if they went bankrupt they became part of the government finance so they have been selling them off in auctions. Most neighbours near to the land do not know about this happening until the developer starts to clear the site.

If the city is going to plant over 300,000 trees in Coventry it needs plots of land like this to keep our city green.



**At Coventry charity Global Care, we're celebrating 40 years of transforming the lives of vulnerable children worldwide!**

Our journey started with a handful of orphaned and abandoned children in Uganda in 1983, and a tiny child sponsorship scheme relying on family and friends, run from the end of founder Ron Newby's kitchen table in Earlsdon, Coventry.

Forty years later, Global Care has changed the lives of many thousands of vulnerable children in 43 countries on four continents, thanks to supporters all over the UK. We've stepped up in major emergencies and international disasters, but also in personal crises and with long-term individual support.

We're proud of our achievements – but the journey isn't over! Our 40th anniversary is a chance to take stock and celebrate, but also to push forward, to raise awareness and to increase our impact worldwide.

**Because although the world has changed enormously in the last four decades, the most vulnerable children need our help as much as ever.**

With this in mind, we're dedicating our 40th anniversary to girls. The coronavirus pandemic has undone years of progress in gender equality. All the evidence shows that increasing the prospects of girls helps the whole community flourish. Yet the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls means the inequality gap is widening again, rather than reducing. We can't ignore that.



Why was Covid worse for girls and women? Multiple reports from the UN and World Bank\* outline key reasons:

- a sharp increase in gender-based violence
- increased domestic work and care responsibilities for girls
- Gender gaps in access to – and use of – digital technologies
- Disruption to key health services including reproductive, adolescent and maternal health
- Jobs held by women lost at a faster rate than jobs held by men
- Greater exposure to contagion and stress, as girls and women are more likely to be care-givers, and women are over-represented in health services.



We want to mark our 40th anniversary year by raising £100,000 to fund initiatives which fill in the gaps for girls. We'll be reinforcing existing work with girls – like mentoring for girls at high risk in Guatemala, or skills training for teenage mums in Kampala, Uganda – and we'll be developing new initiatives. For example, one of our partners in India, working with Dalit families in a slum near Mumbai, is developing a new project advocating for girls who are being prostituted by their families. Another of our partners, in Uganda, is hoping to establish girls clubs in schools to mentor adolescent girls at risk of drop-out and teen pregnancy, encouraging them to continue in education. Our Anniversary Appeal will equip us to support projects like these.



We also want to remain true to our sponsorship roots and find 100 new sponsors for girls in 2023, as we know that child sponsorship is a powerful tool for advocacy and inclusion.

**We know these goals are challenging ones in the face of the current economic downturn, but we are determined to press on, trusting God to provide, as He has done over the last 40 years.**

“Frankly, the massive impact Covid has had on so many children’s lives has broken our hearts,” says CEO John White. “There is now so much to do, at a time when resources may be restricted. But as we face the coming years, looking back helps remind us of God’s goodness and provision.

“We reflect on the last 40 years with a sense of humility. We see God’s hand in the provision of funding, volunteers, staff, Trustees, partners here in the UK and development partners all over the world. Without this large team and God’s guidance, I don’t believe we could have achieved anything of significance.

“So yes, we may sometimes feel the weight of the challenge, but we surge into the years ahead, assured of His provision and continued goodness, and excited by the opportunities we see.”

Our 40th Anniversary ‘Filling in the Gaps’ Appeal launches this Lent. More details at [www.globalcare.org/40-years](http://www.globalcare.org/40-years)

If you’re interested in sponsoring a girl, find out more at [www.globalcare.org/child-sponsorship-is](http://www.globalcare.org/child-sponsorship-is)

We also have a whole programme of events lined up to help us celebrate, including our Anniversary Spring Ball (20th May), our Great Big Tea Parties (why not run one between April and September?) a sponsored walk around the 40-mile Coventry Way (8-9th July), and our Anniversary Prayer Day on 9th March. More details at [www.globalcare.org/events](http://www.globalcare.org/events)

\*UN / World Bank references

<https://data.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/g glaring-gaps-response-RGA.pdf>  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/gender/overview>  
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/gender/brief/gender-equality-at-a-crossroads>



## No-Buy Lent

You're invited to a "No Buy Lent." During this holy season in which we pray, fast, and practice almsgiving, give up buying non-essential items in order to make space for the sacred and to give the planet a rest. Sign up to share your commitment and find short daily inspiration on our Lenten calendar. An accompanying PDF will be provided for folks who prefer not to use the interactive calendar.

Step one: Sign up to receive reminder emails to check the Lenten calendar which will be filled with short daily inspiration such as scripture, quotes, brief articles or videos, questions for reflection, or a suggested action.

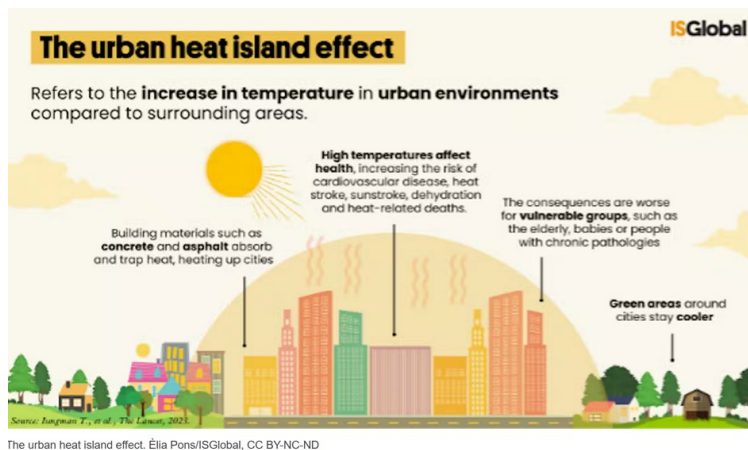
Step two: Set your intention for the Lenten season by committing to a full no-buy (not buying anything outside of the essentials) or giving up purchases in a particular area of your life.

<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/no-buy-lent-2023/>



## Planting more trees could reduce premature heat-related deaths in European cities by a third – new research

Urban development leads to fewer shaded areas and more heat-absorbing paved surfaces. Cities tend to be warmer than their rural surroundings as a result, a phenomenon known as the [urban heat island \(UHI\)](#) effect. During the summer daytime, cities can be up to [12°C hotter](#) than rural areas.



UHIs are a major environmental hazard for urban dwellers. Research suggests that for each 1°C rise in temperature, the risk of death increases by between 1% and 3%. Heat exposure also increases the risk of suffering cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses.

Our research calculated the death rates of urban inhabitants across 93 European cities (57 million people in total) between June and August 2015. We found that 6,700 premature deaths during this period were linked to UHIs.

But the pace of global warming is accelerating and 2 billion to 3 billion people are expected to live in cities by 2050. The health impacts of UHIs will likely worsen in the coming years.

been hurt the most. Border closures impacted trade. Medicines, food and basic goods are in short supply. All of this deepened the economic crisis. The price of goods and services are skyrocketing. Malnutrition and crime are on the rise. We're also increasingly feeling the effects of Climate Change, crippling regions which are seeing consecutive droughts. There is a severe hunger crisis happening in the Horn of Africa, of which the UN has recently made a \$2.6 Billion appeal to alleviate.

Governments, including the UK, have the tools to free up funds that will help address the 'polycrisis' which is being seen across the world right now. It's not that governments have no money - it's just that they are not using it.

We need governments and financial leaders to use every tool they have to free the funds that will help people and countries impacted the most. These funds are available, so we can't afford to wait any longer. Multilateral Development Banks (namely the World Bank) were established to address global challenges like we are seeing today. But they need to modernise rapidly to address 21st century crises. Their performance in the millennium has been sub-standard. Not even the Pandemic could get the World Bank to step up.

They should be doing more with the money they have. This includes improving attitude to risk, factoring in callable capital, and smart innovation. They could unleash billions of dollars to \$1trillion - in a time when the world needs it most.

The G20 governments are the primary shareholders of Multilateral Development Banks. Therefore, they have the power to make that change happen. With Rishi Sunak early in his leadership, the UK could regain its reputation as a Development superpower by leading the G20 on this reform.

In the midst of a Cost-of-Living crisis, by making institutions like the World Bank step up and take on some of the burden of today's global crises, it can relieve some of the pressures on national Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets. Freeing the funds withheld by multilateral institutions is one of the best opportunities we have in 2023 to help tackle major global challenges while maintaining fiscal discipline in this critical time.



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To read more follow this [Link](#)



## Impact of the economic crisis

Right now we're experiencing the devastating impact of the economic crisis in our countries and communities. The pandemic has hit hard. It came at a time when the world was already facing so many economic, social and environmental challenges. A lot of people lost their jobs, many of which haven't returned. Small businesses owned by women and young people have



Last autumn 2022 RISING Global Peace Forum in Coventry. If you missed the event, or want a reminder of the presentations, the sessions can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@risingglobalpeaceforum4605/streams>.

Two free upcoming RISING events:

24th February: online webinar to mark the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, join us with Charles Dunst from The Asia Group to discuss his new book 'Defeating The Dictators' – register at <https://coventry.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/defeating-the-dictators>

18th March: film showing in Coventry Cathedral, to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, of the new film 'Lyra' about the life and death of journalist, poet and rights campaigner Lyra McKee – register at <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/events/lyra-film-screening>

Please 'Save The Date' also for #RISING23 on 9th and 10th November with the theme of #BeSecure. More details will follow in due course.

Regards, Richard



Aid to the  
Church in Need

Lenten Gift of Faith

In many parts of the world, Christianity remains under huge pressure. War, targeted violence and discrimination and the effects of economic collapse and COVID-19 means that many Christian communities are on their knees. Faith is their rock against adversity – even when life would be easier if they gave in to pressure to abandon it. This Lent, as they walk their own Way of the Cross, please join Aid to the Church in Need in prayer and show your solidarity with a Gift of Faith – a lifeline for Christians suffering today.

**ACN Child's Bibles** Your Gift of Faith will help to pass on the Word of God to future generations.

**Support For Sisters** Your Gift of Faith will support religious Sisters who dedicate their lives to helping the needy.

**Minister To The Sick** our Gift of Faith will provide medicines and medical care for the poorest faithful in countries such as Iraq and Syria.

**Emergency Aid For Ukraine** Your Gift of Faith will help to provide refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine with emergency aid including food, clothes and a safe shelter.

**Help Provide Trauma Counselling** Your Gift of Faith will provide trauma counselling projects in countries like Nigeria, where the faithful have suffered attacks.

**Train Future Priests** Your Gift of Faith will help train future priests to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world.

**Feed The Hungry** The people of Lebanon are in desperate need, as their country has been plunged into poverty. Your Gift of Faith will feed the hungry in desperate times.

**Support A Catechist** Your Gift of Faith will help support catechists who teach the Faith.

For more information about these and other Gifts of Faith visit [acnuk.org/our-campaigns/lent-2023/](https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/lent-2023/)

If you have a contribution you would like included in the **June 2023** newsletter please send it by Email for consideration to:

The Administrator, J&P Commission.

Email: [admin.jandp@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.jandp@rcaob.org.uk)

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

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