

Dear Justice and Peace Supporter,

As we finished compiling this newsletter we have seen in the news the Home Office's decision to restart deportation flights to Jamaica (which had been stopped following the Windrush scandal) including people who have been in the UK since they were children, and around 41 British children losing parents. A few weeks ago we saw the government refuse to commit to offer vulnerable refugee children in Europe safe reunion with family in the UK under the Dublin III regulations after Brexit. While the headlines, and government rhetoric labels one group as foreign offenders and the other as 'migrants' both cases show a lack of compassion for families. Whatever the 'politics' in play (and no one is saying that there are easy answers) ripping apart families and abandoning children cannot be the answer. Before Christmas I went back to Calais with a group from England. On our second day I was part of a small group who went to St Omer to a centre where unaccompanied children stay while being cared for by the French authorities. Through several games of Uno I was introduced to one boy. I was told that he was from Afghanistan, however he only spoke Italian, was 13 (however he looked younger) and the only name he had was *bambino*. He had been found alone on a lorry entering the port the previous day, had been taken to St Omer but had made it clear to the staff there he planned on returning to Calais immediately as he believed he had family in the UK.

The following day we were on distribution in Calais when the team from St Omer arrived; Bambino had stayed in the centre overnight, but still wanted to find his family in the UK. It's a shame that the government refuses to see the young people who are behind the numbers.

Danny (Co-ordinator)



**GLOBAL CATHOLIC
CLIMATE MOVEMENT**

The need to solve the climate crisis grows more urgent by the day. As fires rage and cities flood, *Laudato Si'* Animators are making a concrete difference across the world.

Could you be a *Laudato Si'* Animator for your community?

Laudato Si' Animators are champions of change in communities all around the world. Animators have changed policies, cleaned up lands and waters, and organised prayer services.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement are inviting the next cohort of Animators to apply to the programme. You will have the opportunity to learn from experts and environmental leaders through online trainings, witness the call to protect creation in your community, get support for taking action to enliven your local community and join a global network of Catholics committed to bringing *Laudato Si'* to life.

No expertise is needed. People from all backgrounds and walks of life have what it takes to share the message of creation care with their communities. The climate crisis affects all of us, and we're all needed to solve it.

To learn more visit <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/animators> . The online course runs 23rd March – 13th April 2020

Volunteers wanted: SCIAF need your help this Lenten season!

Could you do a short talk in your parish about SCIAF's **Wee Box Big Change** appeal during lent? Drop an email to getinvolved@sciaf.org.uk to learn more.



Human Trafficking and Exploitation Awareness free training

We are delighted that **Hope for Justice's** Training and Development Officer Alister Bull will provide Human Trafficking and Exploitation Awareness training on **Tuesday 24th March 2020** at **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church** 2049 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, G20 0AA, **7pm - 9pm.**

The learning objectives of this training session are to explain what Human Trafficking and Exploitation is and identify the different types that exist; to recognise the signs and indicators of Human Trafficking and Exploitation; and to respond appropriately to a case of Human Trafficking and Exploitation.

Hope for Justice deliver high quality, award winning, interactive training to ensure you will have the skills needed to successfully identify victims or cases of Human Trafficking and Exploitation and respond appropriately.

There are only 40 places available on this free training. To secure your place register soon here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/human-trafficking-and-exploitation-awareness-free-training-tickets-93907998351>

The World Council of Churches, the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Green Anglicans, Operation Noah and GreenFaith invite religious and spiritual institutions from around the world to join a multi-faith global **divestment announcement** on **26th -28th March 2020.**



This involves a commitment to divest (disinvest) any fossil fuel investments within five years or, if your diocese, congregation or organisation doesn't hold any investments in fossil fuels, it can make a powerful statement by pledging not to invest in fossil fuels in the future. You can read more about the upcoming announcement [here](#).

In January this year, the first Catholic dioceses in England & Wales committed to divest from fossil fuels (Middlesbrough and Lancaster), and five Catholic religious orders have also now made a divestment announcement. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please get in touch with Helena at Operation Noah, on helena.ritter@operationnoah.org.

SCOTTISH FAITHS
ACTION FOR REFUGEES

Sanctuary in Scotland – Saturday 14th March, Edinburgh

Join us for this special day conference to explore issues connected to refugees and asylum seekers and how the Church can respond. This ecumenical day is supported by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Action of Churches Together in Scotland and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees.

Contributors include: Sabir Zazai (Scottish Refugee Council), Colin Sinclair (Church of Scotland), Torsten Moritz (Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe), Jayme Reaves (Sarum College) and Inderjit Bhogal (Church of Sanctuary)

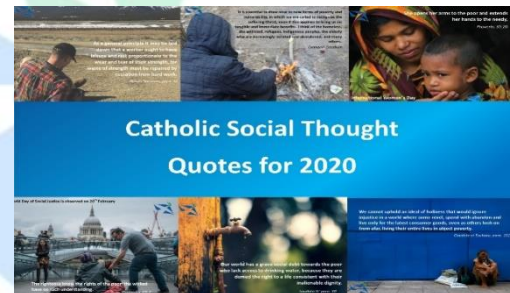
There will be more chance for learning about church-related refugee support – from integration projects locally, to thinking about theology and worship, and the global context. There will be plenty of opportunity for networking and ecumenical fellowship. Refreshments including lunch will be available, though we are asking for a contribution from people who are able to afford it to help meet the costs of the event. To secure your place please visit : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sanctuary-in-scotland-tickets-82607101063>



Please consider submitting a 500 word personal reflection for our weekly blog. Perhaps you are involved, (or know someone who is) in social justice work in the community or maybe you have been inspired by something you have read, heard or been to see recently, if so we love to hear about it, get in touch by email to frances.gallagher@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Now available on the homepage of the **Justice and Peace Scotland website**, the **CST Quotes for 2020**. Quotes for each week of the year themed to match the Sunday scripture readings, or a significant social justice event in the coming week.

Download the document and use them every week in your parish or school newsletter or social media. Visit our website, or click [here](#).



In November 2020 the world is going to come to Glasgow. The UK is hosting **COP26**; the United Nations conference which aims to give concrete action to stopping climate change. Churches and communities across Scotland are invited to consider how they can learn about the issues, lobby government, and prepare for when COP26 comes to Scotland. Please let us know about any ideas or initiatives being discussed in your parishes and communities, and keep an eye on our website and social media as we move through the year towards the COP.

Music for Worship

A selection of music for praise, thanksgiving, and comfort inspired by faith.

Laudato Si' O Mi Signore – in thanksgiving for Pope Francis' encyclical

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tCkCfyg5bU>

Chris Tomlin – God of Wonders <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXMT1IdoDCM>





Food for thought

Each edition we will try to bring something thought provoking, and perhaps challenging for you to reflect on. This edition we have three selections. First from TED Talks, all about plastic.

https://www.ted.com/talks/andrew_forrest_a_radical_plan_to_end_plastic_waste?language=en

Plastic is an incredible substance for the economy -- and the worst substance possible for the environment, says entrepreneur Andrew Forrest. In a conversation meant to spark debate, Forrest and head of TED Chris Anderson discuss an ambitious plan to get the world's biggest companies to fund an environmental revolution -- and transition industry towards getting all of its plastic from recycled materials, not from fossil fuels.

Our second is from the BBC exploring the problems with Universal Credit : The Welfare State.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000f1xj/universal-credit-inside-the-welfare-state>

Universal Credit is the biggest change to the benefits system in a generation. By 2023, nearly seven million people will be claiming it. But it has been controversial, with critics arguing the new system of advances and monthly payments is causing hardship and pushing people into poverty. With unprecedented access to the Department for Work and Pensions, this three-part series follows the people designing the new benefit system, the staff in Jobcentres and the claimants living on Universal Credit.

The third item comes from The Guardian's Today in Focus podcast; Life on Lesbos: What's happening to refugees there?

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2020/feb/11/life-on-lesbos-whats-happening-to-the-refugees-there-podcast>

For people fleeing countries including Syria and Afghanistan, Lesbos became a gateway into Europe, with hundreds of thousands of migrants passing through the island at the height of the crisis in 2015. Now there are far fewer people coming. But as Europe has made it harder for people to begin a new life on the continent, those that have risked the journey are finding themselves trapped. With the island's main camp, Moria, at capacity, thousands are being forced to build shelters around it. Rachel Humphreys talks to the Guardian reporter Harriet Grant, who recently travelled to Lesbos, and to Philip Worthington, a lawyer with European Lawyers in Lesbos.

Don't hesitate to be in touch with the Justice and Peace National office on 0141 333 0238 and please consider printing out a copy of our newsletter and leaving it at the back of your church, or sharing it with a friend in print, or by email.

www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Twitter : @JandPScotland

Facebook & Youtube: Justice and Peace Scotland

Instagram : justiceandpeacescotland

If you have any upcoming events, interesting articles, music selections you think would be good to share with the Justice and Peace network in Scotland please get in touch!