

# JUSTICE AND PEACE

Summer 2020

**J & P Fieldworker**  
**Archdiocese of Liverpool**

Steve Atherton  
J&P Office, LACE  
Croxtheth Drive  
Sefton Park,  
Liverpool L17 1AA  
07740 008 970

[s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk)



facebook.com/  
jpliverpooljp



www.twitter.com/  
@liverpooljandp

**Liverpool Chair:**

Justine Silcock,  
Terry Philips

**Editor of MouthPeace**

Marian Thompson  
37 Dale Road,  
Marple  
Stockport SK6 6EZ  
Tel: 0161 427 7254

[marian37et@gmail.com](mailto:marian37et@gmail.com)

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 Liverpool and Shrewsbury



Archdiocese of Liverpool  
**Justice & Peace Commission**

'See, I am making  
all things new'  
**our Christian response  
to the COVID-19 crisis**



**Sunday 28 June (7.30 – 8pm)**

**Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald MAfr**  
offers a spiritual reflection



**Monday 29 June (7.30 – 8.30pm)**

**Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu MSC**  
discusses 'framing the conversation':  
local and national issues followed by  
breakout groups



**Wednesday 1 July (7.30 – 8.30pm)**

**Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD**  
discusses international issues followed  
by breakout groups



**Saturday 4 July (10am – 12pm)**

sharing of responses to the earlier talks,  
followed by Q&A to a panel made up of  
the **speakers and politicians**

**Live feeds available**

 [Liverpool J&P](#)

 [/jpliverpooljp](#)

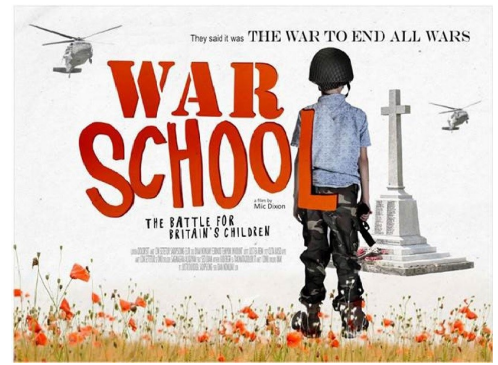
**Registration and further information**

limited places for zoom events,  
so book as soon as possible [here](#).

Steve Atherton: 07740 008 970

If you missed this film about the battle for the hearts and minds of Britain's children, there is another a chance to see it  
It will be available on YouTube until the end of June 2020:

There is a new trailer with a link to the full film here <https://youtu.be/Wj7JD62mVjQ> and the full film is here [https://youtu.be/bl5Zc71KV\\_g](https://youtu.be/bl5Zc71KV_g)



## Refugee Week 15 – 21 June 2020

**You are invited to explore the theme of 'Imagine'.** Because when things feel stuck; when the old ways of doing things are no longer working, that's what we need to do. In the era of Covid-19, the call to imagine feels more important than ever. 'To imagine' means to picture something you can't currently see. To step beyond the current moment, and perceive something different. Rather than being a flight away from reality, imagination is sometimes the best response to it – the only way to get us somewhere new.

Maybe you'll imagine a future where we've found new ways to care for our planet, transcend borders or protect human life. Or perhaps you'll imagine what it's like to have to leave your family behind, or what your hometown might look like to someone walking its streets for the first time.

You can get involved by holding or taking part in an online [Refugee Week event](#) or activity, or doing one of our Refugee Week 2020 [Simple Acts](#).

However you respond, we hope you'll join us in an act of collective imagining and help make Refugee Week 2020 the biggest, loudest and most creative Refugee Week yet.

FOR SAMA is both an intimate and epic journey into the female experience of war. A love letter from a young mother to her daughter, the film tells the story of Waad al-Kateab's life through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, Syria as she falls in love, gets married and gives birth to Sama, all while cataclysmic conflict rises around her.

Her camera captures incredible stories of loss, laughter and survival as Waad wrestles with an impossible choice– whether or not to flee the city to protect her daughter's life, when leaving means abandoning the struggle for freedom for which she has already sacrificed so much.



You can access the film for free via the Channel 4 website: <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/for-sama/on-demand/66428-001>

<https://chester.cityofsanctuary.org/>



# Post Pandemic Church: paralysed or energised? recovered or re-imagined?

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

a *MINI-CONFERENCE* by ZOOM  
of the *NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK*

**Session 1 10.30-12.00**  
*Forgotten People*

**Session 2 2.00-3.30**  
*Our Response?*



**Book via eventbrite**

(bookings close 11pm Friday 10th July)

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets-108604414728>**

Following the postponement of this year's NJPN Annual Justice and Peace Conference at Swanwick to July 23-25 2021, the planning team are in the process of developing a Mini-Conference via Zoom. This will be 2 sessions on Saturday 18th July 10.30 to 12 and 2 to 3.30.

Preparing for a new world order. How do we, as Church, move to an alternative model of being. In the light of the Gospel message and Pope Francis Catholic Social Teaching documents (Laudato Si', Evangelii Gaudium) How do we begin to build and 'Care for Our Common Home'. This will lead us into preparing for '2021 – Action for Life on Earth', the new name for our postponed '2020 Vision: Action for Life on Earth'.

Timetable and speakers will be sent out to you once confirmed. Booking in advance allows us to sort out the technology of having breakout groups with facilitators in the session. Book via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets-108604414728>

We look forward to seeing you on zoom as we can't see you in person.



## Chocolate, and the power to protect the Rainforest.

Just through buying a Fairtrade Chocolate Bar or a product containing cocoa, you can help protect the Rainforest. Watch this [video](#) about Beshey and his family, working to protect their environment. Plus, not only have Waitrose and John Lewis pledged this year to use only Fairtrade cocoa in their own brand confectionary; but Lidl have just launched their own 'Way to Go!' Fairtrade chocolate bar. Buying this way certainly makes me feel better about the odd sweet treat or few!

## REFLECTIONS DURING LOCKDOWN

The lock-down during the present crisis has made many amazing changes to our lives and the way we view the world. Almost overnight, humble, low-wage jobs have been revealed as crucial to society. I don't think that their wages have increased but the stackers of shelves, the drivers of white vans, the staff of care homes have been revealed as essential to us all while it turns out that we can actually manage without the Premier League and hedge-fund managers.

We may not have seen the church-as-we-know-it on the frontline but a new form of church is surely evident. God is active in the selfless behaviour of doctors and nurses, the eruption of kindness among people, rainbow messages of support for the NHS appearing in windows and even the Conservative government putting the welfare of people at the top of its priorities. The Catholic Social Teachings of The Common Good and Solidarity are being enacted in front of our eyes. I am astonished to see a socialist policy of universal income (ridiculed as an impossible dream during the recent general election) being enacted by the government.

How long will society remain turned on its head?

I've just been reading a booklet called 'Mersey Reflections ... on Faith in the City' that was written in late 1995, shortly after Margaret Thatcher had declared that there was no such thing as society, and I was amazed at how relevant it is to our current experience during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But our churches are surely being called to re-integrate life and faith, to get a feeling for the 'secular' as the locus of the sacred.

This re-integration will involve a certain redefinition of what it is to be church at all. Many people, inside and outside the churches, think of them as enclaves of the saved, enclaves which at least give the impression that human affairs outside their confines are indifferent to God. Are we not called to affirm the presence of God in all of people's lives, to acknowledge and indeed to celebrate the creative and redeeming power of Christ wherever it is discernible? After all, we profess a God who creates all people in his image and likeness, and a Word of God who enlightens all people. Our role as churches is to be sacraments of this creative and redeeming God, communities of those who freely want to be living witnesses to 'the one who stand in their midst, unrecognised'.

Although notionally we assent to this unfettered presence of God – of God who is always in situations before we get there – yet we confess to finding many of our churchly attitudes, actions and structures in fact belie it. We are humbled by Augustine's comment: "God knows many whom the church knows not, and the church knows many whom God knows not".

I am hoping and praying that when the pandemic has become a memory we will have emerged, re-energised, as the church that nourishes people in the joys and sorrows of their lives, and that the upside down world of the Kingdom of God will continue to be evident in the church we will have become.

Steve Atherton



1948...1967.....AND STILL GOING ON TO-  
 Palestinian families are being forced out  
 villages being destroyed, becoming refu-  
 COMMEMORATING THE NAKBA – THE

15 May 2020 - Palestinians all over the  
 trophic. It is the day when in 1948 the  
 closed borders and Palestinians were dis-

and still is, very high. More than 200,000 Palestinians were dispossessed of their properties between 1947 and 1948 and in 1948 a further  
 600,000. Over 400 Palestinian villages were completely depopulated or destroyed and 800,000 Palestinians became refugees.

Report from Ann Farr who is a Pax Christi Executive Member and a Member of the Pax Christi International Israel/Palestine Working Group

When we visit refugee camps in the West Bank we meet fourth generation refugees, young people, who will tell us which villages their families  
 are from. In their homes many have a tin in which they keep a large, precious key, the one that opened the door of the house that was lost  
 1948. They are not allowed to visit those homes or their land. They have no right of return and have never received any compensation for  
 they have lost.

Our visits show us that the Nakba is on-going, the loss of land, house demolitions, the detentions without trial, the imprisonment and torture  
 children, the daily Israeli military and settler attacks on villages and family homes has increased drastically, even in the last few months. In  
 Separation Barriers imprison communities in large sections of the West Bank and hundreds of checkpoints deny them access to hospitals,  
 and universities, to worship and to visit their families. These are all experiences which we will recognise from the last six weeks. For Palest  
 this has been their experience for 72 years!

The call from Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers is for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the siege of Gaza. Nora Carmi from  
 salem, a Pax Christi International Board Member, says: "Will the international world continue to keep silent or will it take action to end our  
 going Nakba?" Zoughbi Zoughbi, Director of Wi'am Conflict Transformation Centre in Bethlehem says: "Our message to the world is, enough  
 enough. As much as we believe in life after death, we want to live our life before death, echoing what Jesus said, 'I have come that they may  
 life and have it to the full.' We want to celebrate life with you all. Please don't let us down."

TODAY ISRAEL IS PLANNING TO ANNEXE PARTS OF THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK, INCLUDING THE JORDAN VALLEY From as early as July 1st  
 new Israeli government will legislate to formally annexe parts of the occupied West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. This has immense i  
 tions for the Palestinian people. Annexation, as well as being illegal under international law, threatens the livelihoods, hopes and daily lives  
 thousands of Palestinian families who are already experiencing severe restrictions under Israeli occupation since 1967.

Report from Iona Community Common Concern Networks 17th May, 2020:

<https://iona.org.uk/2020/05/25/e-coracle-may-2020/>

#### BACKGROUND

#### APRIL 20 THE ISRAELI COALITION DEAL

Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gantz signed at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, as Israel remained in near-total lockdown.

"I promised the State of Israel a national emergency government that will act to save the lives and livelihoods of Israeli citizens," Mr Netanyahu  
 tweeted afterwards.

Mr Gantz wrote: "We have prevented a fourth election. We will protect democracy. We will fight coronavirus and care for all Israel's citizens."

HIDDEN WITHIN THE DEAL – THE ANNEXATION OF WEST BANK. This Unity deal also allows PM Netanyahu to begin advancing West Bank  
 tion from July 1. The move must be carried out in full cooperation with US, which has all but given its blessing already; can be advanced through  
 cabinet or Knesset, where right enjoys clear majority.

According to clause 29 of the deal, Netanyahu "will be able to bring the agreement reached with the US on the application of sovereignty  
 West Bank]... for the approval of the cabinet and/or the Knesset starting July 1, 2020."

DAY.

of their homes, watching their houses a  
 gees.

CATASTROPHE

world, commemorated The Nakba, The  
 Israeli State was established, without a  
 possessed. The human cost of this plan