

TIME TO ACT FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & ECOLOGY

MAY 2021



A passion for justice, a desire for peace and a concern for the integrity of God's creation are all essential to the living out of the Gospel. They are not optional extras, but core components of Christian faith.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Church's lead bishop for Migrants and Refugees recently said, "refugees are not a political problem to be solved, but people with dignity who deserve our respect and protection." Pope Francis has called for us to welcome and protect migrants and refugees. The Columbans endorse this. In Britain, Columbans participate in a network of organisations providing care and restoring dignity for the thousands of refugees and asylum seekers who come to Birmingham, coping with a tough British asylum system and significant public hostility. Political action is required – learn more in this month's campaigns.



CAMPAIGN FOR A 'HUMAN-CENTRED' APPROACH TO ASYLUM

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS UK) report 'Being Human in the Asylum System', is available to download. Send it to your MP. Also consider responding to the [public consultation](#) (deadline 6th May). Helpful guidance can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



LEARN TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

UN Biodiversity Day is 22 May. The Columbans have produced 'Jubilee for the Earth,' a podcast mini-series about the beauty of biodiversity and the threats it faces, bringing insights from the 16 countries where they are on mission. Please download, listen and tell others!



LIVESIMPLY AWARD

Laudato Si' Week is 16-24 May, a good time to consider working towards the LiveSimply award? This award helps Catholic communities, such as parishes and schools, to respond to Pope Francis' invitation to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".

We pray for all those who face persecution for any reason. We ask that all prejudice and hatred may come to an end and that all may be treated with hospitality and care. We pray for all those who have died, especially the families of those who died recently crossing the Mediterranean. We ask that all who mourn at this difficult time may be comforted. Lord, hear us.

(JRS)

