



A series of free online events during COP 26 All welcome.

Join us at this *kairos* moment of COP26 when an international group of Catholic artists, activists and academics will reflect on climate justice and the integrity of creation in prayerful anticipation of a world-wide change of heart and a renewed commitment by all nations to nurture planet earth and all that exists on it.

Read more at: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/subjects/theology/catholics-and-cop26/>

Tickets for the 5 live events at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/catholics-and-cop26-tickets-198216860967>

Vodcasts of all 7 events will be available on YouTube.

TRS Glasgow Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn7kfAoDN9v8f90AMglqHKw>

Pax Christi Scotland Youtube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCcmLpQv27Py\\_ul14szp95g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCcmLpQv27Py_ul14szp95g)

**Monday 1 November 2021 live on zoom 17.00-18.30**

Our opening event brings together two women of faith who have dedicated their lives to writing about and reflecting on the care of creation. Multi-award winning nature writer, broadcaster and conservationist, Mary Colwell, author of *Beak, Tooth and Claw: Living With Predators in Britain* (2001); *Curlew Moon* (2018); and *John Muir: The Scotsman Who Saved America's Wild Places* (2014) will look at the prophetic voices and lasting influence of St Francis of Assisi, John Muir and Pope Francis. Franciscan Sister Professor Dawn Nothwehr offers a close reading and musical rendition of the *Canticle of the Creatures* and finds within the poetry on the page an enduring wisdom that echoes down the centuries, speaking truth to our present age.

The Catholics and COP26 series of events will be opened by Fr Gerard H. Maguiness, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and chair of the Bishops' Care of Creation Office. The event will be chaired by Julie Clague of the University of Glasgow.

Mary Colwell    Three Prophetic Voices: Saint Francis of Assisi, John Muir, and Pope Francis

Dawn Nothwehr    St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*: A Call for a Moral Imagination of Hope and Praise

Featuring an authentic musical rendition of Francis' *Canticle*

**Friday 5 November 2021                          live on zoom 17.00-18.30**

Climate injustice begets conflict and violence. Such tensions are heightened during public health emergencies such as the covid-19 pandemic. Uruguayan lawyer and human rights activist Carmen Moreno discusses these linkages in her presentation, while University of Glasgow academic Anna Blackman looks to the possibilities of grassroots acts of creative non-violence in a world of escalating conflict and militarism. Dr Carlos Zepeda, of the *Laudato Si'* Research Institute, Oxford University discusses the importance of local faith actors in the climate response and how collaborative networks of grassroots civil society organisations such as the Ecclesial Networks Alliance can raise the visibility of marginalized communities and magnify their campaigning voice.

The event will be chaired by Marian Pallister, chair of Pax Christi Scotland.

Anna Blackman    Integral Ecology and Creative Non-violence

Carmen Artigas Moreno    Climate Change, COVID and Conflict: The Three Cs Challenging Christians

Carlos Zepeda    *Laudato Si'*, the Ecclesial Networks Alliance and COP26

**Saturday 6 November 2021                          live on zoom 17.00-18.30**

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis links the cry of the earth with the cry of the poor. In this event, Zimbabwe-born Dr Nontando Hadebe interrogates the greening agenda and discusses the disproportionate impact of climate change on the lives of poor people, most of whom are women. Celebrated Belgian artist Sr Françoise Bosteels, who has dedicated her life to serving poor communities in India, uses doll-making to narrate the lives of her local villagers, highlight the devastation wreaked by man-made disasters such as Bhopal, and celebrate activists such as the Chipko 'tree-hugging' women and campaigners such as Greta Thunberg. Words matter. Belgian ethicist Jan Jans discusses the need to distinguish between the theological term 'creation' and the loaded descriptor 'nature'.

The event will be chaired by Julie Clague of the University of Glasgow.

Sr Françoise Bosteels    The celebrated artist discusses her use of dolls to raise awareness of climate injustice

Nontando Hadebe    Can Green Be the Colour of Justice? Cop26 and Poverty

Jan Jans

'The Eager Longing *For* Creation' On the Necessary Differentiation  
Between Nature and Creation

**Sunday 7 November 2021**      **Video recording available from 19.00hrs**

### **Art for Earth**

Coordinated by Prashant Olalekar SJ and Hazel Lobo, founder members of Interplay India, this pre-recorded event features Art for Earth, an international network of spiritually inspired and environmentally concerned artists who will share their visions and creative work.

**Monday 8 November 2021**      **live on zoom 17.00-18.30**

Climate change is hitting Africa hard, exacerbating existing problems and heightening long-standing injustices. In this event, three Africans discuss the problems faced by their communities and the practical responses that are emerging. Fr Robert Sowa considers the damaging effects of climate change in his native Sierra Leone, a country where the majority of people live in poverty, and he asks whether Churches are doing enough to stand in solidarity with the affected. Fr Charles Chilufya, Director of the Justice and Ecology Office of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar and coordinator of the Africa Task Force of the Vatican Covid-19 Commission, looks at the perfect storm created by the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on poor communities already under strain because of the effects of climate change, and how it is girls who suffer the most. The final speaker showcases the creative ingenuity of indigenous African responses to environmental degradation. Kenyan environmental activist and CEO of Green Economy Foundation, Benard Ndaka discusses the work of his Foundation, which promotes the planting of trees by everyday folk, especially to mark major life events and significant milestones.

The event will be chaired by Marian Pallister, chair of Pax Christi Scotland.

Fr Charles Chilufya SJ      Covid-19, Climate Change and Poverty: A Toxic Mix for Girls in East and Southern Africa

Benard Ndaka      Tree Planting Activism in Kenya

Fr Robert Sowa      The Impact of the Climate Change Crisis on the Poor in Sierra Leone: Why the Local Church should Care

**Thursday 11 November 2021**      **live on zoom 17.00-18.30**

This event looks at the way some individuals and communities are more vulnerable to climate impacts than others. As Pope Francis observes in *Laudato Si'*, where there is environmental and social degradation, the vulnerable are hardest hit. Teresian Sister Veronica Nyoni, headteacher at St Columba's Community Secondary school Lusaka, Zambia will discuss how drought, failure of hydro power and other climate effects are taking a heavy toll on the women and girls in her community. Indian theologian Kochurani Abraham, author of *Persisting Patriarchy: Intersectionalities, Negotiations, Subversions* (2019), also adopts a gender lens applying it not only to the climate emergency but to the concept and practices of ecological conversion. Professor Mary Jo Iozzio, author of *Disability Ethics/Preferential Justice: A Catholic Perspective* (forthcoming with Georgetown

University Press) considers the challenges that climate change presents to people with disability and identifies strategies of resistance and resilience.

The event will be chaired by Marian Pallister, chair of Pax Christi Scotland.

Kochurani Abraham	Climate Emergency and Ecological Conversion: A Gender Perspective
Mary Jo Iozzio	Climate Change and the Vulnerable: People with Disability
Sr Veronica Nyoni	Climate Impacts on Women and Girls in Zambia

**Friday 12 November 2021**      **Video recording available from 19.00hrs**

### **Catholic voices on climate change**

Julie Clague of the University of Glasgow looks back at the COP26 conference and presents highlights from the *Catholics and COP 26: Artists, Activists and Academics on Climate Justice and the Integrity of Creation* series of events.

## **Biographies**

### **Kochurani Abraham (India)**

Kochurani Abraham is a feminist theologian, gender researcher and trainer from Kerala, India. She has a Masters degree in Child Development from Kerala University, a Licentiate in Systematic Theology from Pontifical University of Comillas, Madrid and a PhD in Feminist Theology from University of Madras, India. Her research interests include gender, ecology, spirituality and transformative education. She contributes regularly to journals and collected works in India and abroad and is passionate about bridging academia and the grassroots for a liberative praxis. Besides being an active member and former coordinator of Indian Women Theologians Forum, she is also actively engaged in the World Forum of Theology and Liberation. She was the former coordinator of Ecclesia of Women in Asia, an association of Asian level feminist theologians and has been the board member representing Asia for International Network of Societies in Catholic Theology (INSeCT). At present she is the Regional Coordinator of the Indian Christian Women's Movement for Kerala and the Vice-President of the Indian Theological Association. Her book, *Persisting Patriarchy: Intersectionalities, Negotiations, Subversions* was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2019.

### **Anna Blackman (UK)**

Anna is a Lecturer in Catholic Religious Education at the University of Glasgow. Anna has taught widely in the areas of Catholic social thought, Christian ethics, Christian apologetics, and political theology. Prior to her time at Glasgow, she lectured at the universities of Roehampton, Durham, Newcastle, and Tübingen, as well as working as a Research Associate in the area of Catholic social thought and practice at the Center for Social Concerns at the University of Notre Dame. Anna's research focuses primarily on the dialogue between Catholic social thought, political theology, and Christian ethics. She is interested in how the Catholic tradition can learn from other traditions about the best ways to incorporate faith and praxis. In particular, she is concerned with how we can learn from grassroots faith-based movements and organizations. Of specific concern is what such socio-political movements can teach the Church about how to best engage with the poor and marginalized, as well as how more normative theological voices often further isolate these groups.

### **Sr Françoise Bosteels (India)**

Sr Françoise Bosteels is Belgian by birth and a nurse by profession, Françoise has lived out her religious life in India for the last 48 years. The simple way of village life as well as people's closeness to nature fascinated her. She started representing people's day-to-day life through the making of dolls. The experience of life in India, the situations she found people in, the day-to-day events and her own reflections gave more meaning and purposeful depth to her creation of dolls. They began to reflect Indian life not only with its breath-taking variety and unique beauty, but life with its gripping and enduring tragedies. Each doll has a story to tell. They embody and express something of her experiences, search, questions, dreams and hopes, of her tears, anger, prayer and celebrations. As she says: "They are a part of me, and I, a part of them". Perhaps dolls like these could help people recall their history of resistance to oppression and their struggle for life and dignity. They could invite us to join hands across the world in dissent against further destruction of all living things and of Mother Earth herself. They could offer us new depths in our understanding of the mystery of relationship to one another, to the earth and to the Divine. The experiential warmth of the dolls is a reason for their appeal to so many who encounter them during exhibitions in and outside India. See [www.francoisebosteels.blogspot.com](http://www.francoisebosteels.blogspot.com)

### **Fr Charles Chilufya SJ (Kenya)**

Fr. Charlie is the Director of the Justice and Ecology Office of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM). He is also the coordinator of the Africa Task Force of the Vatican Covid-19 Commission. The JCAM Justice and Ecology Office works to foster and coordinate the Jesuits' work in economic, social, migration, gender and climate justice in Africa. JEO is a vital Jesuit interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and local issues confronting populations in Africa. JEO also works to foster collaboration among apostolic sectors in what concerns justice and ecology.

### **Mary Colwell (UK)**

Mary Colwell (UK) is a multi-award winning writer, producer and conservationist. A well-known broadcaster, Mary produces programmes on the natural world and on environmental issues for BBC

radio and television. She publishes on religion and on conservation issues across the print media and online and works with many church groups and civil society organisations to raise environmental awareness. She is spearheading a campaign to introduce a GCSE secondary school qualification in Natural History in England and Wales. She is also a passionate campaigner to save Britain's endangered curlew population. Mary is the author of *Beak, Tooth and Claw: Living With Predators in Britain* (2001); *Curlew Moon* (2018); and *John Muir: The Scotsman Who Saved America's Wild Places* (2014).

#### **Nontando Hadebe** (S. Africa)

Dr Nontando Hadebe was born in Zimbabwe. She studied and now works in South Africa. She is the International Coordinator for Side by Side Gender Justice movement and a woman theologian who is a member of the circle of concerned African women theologians as well as Catholic Women Speak.

#### **Mary Jo Iozzio** (US)

Mary Jo Iozzio, PhD, STL, Professor of Moral Theology at Boston College, School of Theology and Ministry, teaches Catholic social ethics, fundamental moral theology, and the critiques of systemic bias with special interest in disability studies, anti-racism, feminist theology, gender, intersectionality, and access to the commonweal. She lectures and writes extensively on disability at the intersections of theological ethics, anthropology, and justice. In addition to many publications, she has edited or co-edited the *Journal of Religion, Disability & Health*, the *Journal of Moral Theology*, and the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*; she is completing an eBook for Georgetown University Press, *Disability Ethics/Preferential Justice: A Catholic Perspective* and a manuscript for Baylor University Press on a theological ethics of disability.

#### **Jan Jans** (Belgium)

Jan is visiting professor at St Augustine College, South Africa and retired associate professor of ethics at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. Since his studies at the Catholic University of Leuven, he has served on the boards of many academic journals, scholarly societies and institutional ethics committees. Author of numerous articles on Catholic theological ethics, Jan has taught classes, delivered public lectures, and presented academic papers across the globe.

#### **Carmen Artigas Moreno** (Uruguay)

Carmen is an expert on mission on the United Nations Internal Justice Council. She is a lawyer who specialises in international law and the right to development.

#### **Benard Ndaka** (Kenya)

Benard is founder & CEO of Green Economy Foundation of Kenya. Benard understands the effects of climate change on Kenya and has instigated an extensive tree-planting project. He has been a youth environmental leader since 2015, and his foundation advocates for proper environmental

management and conservation by planting trees for a range of milestones in everyday lives - trees for birthdays, trees for peace, graduation trees, wedding trees, trees for academic excellence... as he says, 'in summary, trees for all occasions'.

#### **Sr Dawn Nothwehr (US)**

Dawn M. Nothwehr, O.S.F., Ph.D., is The Erica and Harry John Family Professor of Catholic Theological Ethics at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She teaches courses in environmental ethics, racial justice, and fundamental moral theology. Her publications include: *Franciscan Writings: Hope Amid Ecological Sin and Climate Emergency*. (Forthcoming Bloomsbury-London, 2022), *Ecological Footprints: An Essential Franciscan Guide for Faith and Sustainable Living* (2012), *A Franciscan View of the Human Person: Some Central Elements* (2005), *Struggles for Environmental Justice and Health in Chicago: An African American Perspective* (2004), and *Franciscan Theology of the Environment: An Introductory Reader* (ed. 2002).

#### **Sr Veronica Nyoni (Zambia)**

Sr Veronica is a Teresian Sister and head teacher at St Columba's Community Secondary School on the outskirts of Lusaka, a school built as the result of a partnership between the Scottish-based charity ZamScotEd and the Teresian Sisters. Sr Veronica also serves on the leadership team of the Teresian Sisters for Zambia and Malawi. She is a degree holder in Education and has been teaching for 16 Years. Sr Veronica has also acted as the main contractor during the building of the school and as such has seen the effects of drought, electricity outages, and the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable in an already poor community.

#### **Fr Robert Sowa (Sierra Leone)**

Fr. Robert Michael Sowa, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Bo, was born and raised in Sierra Leone, West Africa. As a child Fr. Sowa experienced the long-term structural violence which eventually led to the outbreak of a decade-long brutal civil war in his home country. He witnessed first-hand how human interests can harm the lives of poor people and harm the environment. It is from this context that his theological interests evolved. Following his ordination to the priesthood and a period working in his diocese as a pastor and schoolteacher, he left for Rome, where studied for his Licentiate in Sacred Theology. He is currently working with the Xavierian Missionaries in Glasgow and carrying out doctoral research at the University of Glasgow on *Laudato Si'*.

#### **Carlos Zepeda (El Salvador)**

Dr Carlos Zepeda is Assistant Director of Policy and Practice at the *Laudato Si'* Research Institute, Campion Hall Oxford University. Carlos studied economics and international development in El Salvador, Spain, the Netherlands, and the UK. Inspired by his experience studying and working first with the Jesuits, and later, as political advocacy campaigner for international development NGOs and civil society organisations in El Salvador and Central America, Carlos explored how power shapes the root causes of social and environmental degradation. Carlos is especially interested in global water and natural resource governance in relation to social justice and the role of indigenous and marginalised communities to affect change.