

# JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

## JANUARY 2023

Welcome to the e-Bulletin from the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. Please send Events for inclusion to [justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk). The deadline for the next e-Bulletin is 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!



A significant feature of 2023 in the life of the Church will be the on-going work in preparation for the 'Synod on Synodality'. The first meeting of bishops takes place in October this year, with the second a year later in 2024. Pope Francis has stressed that the Synod is an on-going journey. It is not an event but a process in which the whole People of God is called to walk together toward what the Holy Spirit helps it to discern as being the Lord's will for his Church.

The latest stage is reflection on the **Working Document for the Continental Stage (DCS)**, a Global Synthesis gleaned from 112 National Syntheses and produced by the Vatican Synod Office:

**"Enlarge the space of your tent" (Isaiah 54:2)**  
**Synod 2021 – 2024**

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>

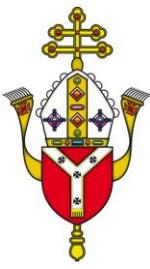
In December, Colette Joyce, the Westminster Justice and Peace Co-ordinator, was one of around 16 people invited to join Bishop Nicholas Hudson in a Discernment Group for a series of meetings responding on behalf of the Diocese of Westminster. The group was made up of lay men and women, religious, a deacon, two priests and a bishop. The Diocesan Discernment Group considered the following questions posed in the document:

- 1) "After having read and prayed with the DCS, which intuitions resonate most strongly with the lived experiences and realities of the Church in your continent? Which experiences are new, or illuminating to you?"
- 2) "After having read and prayed with the DCS, what substantial tensions or divergences emerge as particularly important in your continent's perspective? Consequently, what are the questions or issues that should be addressed and considered in the next steps of the process?"
- 3) "Looking at what emerges from the previous two questions, what are the priorities, recurring themes and calls to action that can be shared with other local Churches around the world and discussed during the First Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2023?"

### #106, Working Document for the Continental Stage

The tight deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> January meant that this part of the process was not taken up widely by the parishes, although some were able to respond. Individuals are still welcome to submit their responses which can be sent to [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk).

More opportunities for engagement and participation will be offered as the year progresses.



## DIARY OF EVENTS

**9 January, 12.45-2.00pm: Joint Meeting of the Southern Dioceses Environment Network & Northern Dioceses Environment Group.** 'Looking Ahead in 2023'. Input from Emma Gardner, Colette Joyce and Edward de Quay. Open to all Catholics and our friends. [Register with Eventbrite](#)

**15 January: Peace Sunday.** This year's theme from Pope Francis is 'No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.' Full message for World Peace Day and resources on the Pax Christi website <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2023/>

**16 January, 12.30-1.30pm: Monthly Prayer Vigil outside the Home Office** with Westminster Justice & Peace and London Catholic Worker to pray for migrants seeking safe passage to the UK. Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF. Contact Barbara Kentish (J & P) [barbarakentish@talktalk.net](mailto:barbarakentish@talktalk.net)

**17 January, 5-6.30pm Caritas Westminster Online Training 'Trauma Informed Approach for those involved in Social Outreach'** hosted by the Diocese of Westminster Homeless Network, but open to all in the Diocese of Westminster who accompany people who have experienced trauma. Trainer - Nikki Dhillon Keane, founder of 'Safe in Faith'. [Register with Eventbrite](#)

**19 January, 5.00-6.30pm: Centre for Catholic Studies Online Seminar 'Doing THE work: Anti-racism and the Catholic Church'** with **Dr Tia Noelle Pratt** - Dr. Pratt, will discuss her research regarding systemic racism in the U.S. Catholic Church and its impact on African American Catholics. She will also discuss ways to engage the Church in anti-racism efforts. All welcome. [Register on Eventbrite](#)

**23 January, 6.30-8.00pm: Churches Together in Westminster AGM and Panel Discussion.** 'Coping with a torn safety net: the church's response to increasing need.' Methodist Central Hall.

**25 January, 7-9pm: Justice & Peace Parish and Chaplaincy Contacts meeting – with Bishop Nicholas Hudson.** Vaughan House. Also on Zoom. Representatives sought from every parish and ethnic chaplaincy. Contact Colette on [colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk) for details.

**27 January:** [Holocaust Memorial Day](#)

**5 February: Racial Justice Sunday** 'All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church: Let us walk together, pray together and work together.' Resources will be published shortly by the Bishops Conference at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice/>

**13 February, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network.** Online meeting. Open to all Catholics and our friends. [More details](#)

**25 February, 10.45am for 11am–3.30pm: National Justice and Peace Network - Open Networking Day.** Zoom. Book via eventbrite [www.eventbrite.com/e/njpn-networking-day-tickets-466226314457](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/njpn-networking-day-tickets-466226314457) or via link on NJPN website [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/)

**21-23 July: National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference** 'Sustainability? Survival or Shutdown?' The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Booking forms available from the end of January. [National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference](#)