



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome to the e-Bulletin from the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. Please send Events for inclusion to justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk. The deadline for the next e-Bulletin is 27th February 2023.

Fr Dominic writes:

As we begin a new calendar year, the mission of Justice and Peace around our Diocese is as urgent as ever. In our parishes, chaplaincies and schools the call to action on behalf of the weakest in society is such a vital part of our Catholic life. Faith put into action is the driving force of our communities.

The cost of living crisis demands us to advocate for change in the way we distribute wealth as the poor are getting poorer, the rough sleeping crisis is reaching unmanageable limits, and the class divide is growing ever wider. The migrants seeking sanctuary here challenge us to be a Church which is truly welcoming. Our communities too are being challenged to promote racial justice as at the heart of the Gospel. **We mark Racial Justice Sunday this coming Sunday, 5th February.** The ecological crisis is spurring on many to make practical changes which help preserve the creation God gave us to steward for future generations. Working alongside Caritas Westminster, as Justice and Peace we are striving in our communities to answer Pope Francis' call to be a Church not just with and for but of the poor, conscious we are all in the same boat as fragile human beings in an increasingly fragile world. Further afield, world peace is threatened in so many other parts of the world and, along with CAFOD, we do all we can to keep those places of conflict and war in our minds and hearts and to advocate on behalf of the weakest.

Thankfully, we have an excellent network of Parish and Chaplaincy Contacts and we are seeking more in 2023. We recently welcomed Martin Pendergast from St Joseph's, Bunhill Row, as a new member of the Commission and are very grateful for the hard work and wise, energetic leadership of our Co-ordinator, Colette Joyce.

Every year the Agency for Evangelisation prepares a Lent faith-sharing resource for small groups. This year's booklet - 'Enlarging the Space of our Tent'- aims to ground the work of justice and peace around the Diocese in the context of our faith and the Sunday celebration of Mass, built on attentiveness to the scriptures and to prayerful discernment of priorities in the light of the current Synod process. Look out for details of groups running in your parishes or other communities or facilitate one of your own! More coming soon at <https://rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/mission-and-discipleship/small-communities/>

Many thanks indeed for your faithfulness to the work of Justice and Peace in our Diocese. May the Lord inspire and bless us throughout this coming year.

**Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ
Chair**





DIARY OF EVENTS

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

9 February, 6.30pm: Catholic Union Synod Webinar. Panel discussion with Gavin Ashenden, Christopher Lamb, Anna Rowlands and Sr Gemma Simmonds. [Bookings with Eventbrite](#)

13 February, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – Laudato Si’ in 2023. Online meeting. Open to all Catholics and our friends for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [More details](#)

16 February, 7.30pm: Friends of the Holy Land Concert. Music from the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and supported by Irish trio "The Priests". Westminster Cathedral. Tickets from £20. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/westminster-concert2023.

17-20 February: Living Laudato Si’ Your Parish and Your Planet Online Retreat - with Boarbank Hall and the Ecological Conversion Group. For new retreatants. Free, but donations welcome if you can afford it. Contact Sr Margaret Atkins margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

18 February, 10am-4pm: Faith and Frontiers: Christian Responses to the migration Crisis - Online Conference. Insights from the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Speakers include Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Dr Ulrich Schmiedel, University of Edinburgh, and Rev. Dr. Keith Clements, plus groups currently working to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in Calais, Kent, and the North of England. Bookings at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-and-frontiers-christian-responses-to-the-migration-crisis-tickets-352547247307>

20 February, 10am-12noon: Caritas Westminster – Routes out of Homelessness. Part of Dignified Work Stepping Stones Series. Introduction to organisations helping people out of homelessness and hardship. For community volunteers. Online. [Book with Eventbrite](#)

20 February, 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

22 February (Ash Wednesday to Easter): CAFOD - The Big Lent Walk. Walk 200 km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Find out more from [CAFOD](#)

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 or via link on NJPN website www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/

27 February – 12 March: Fair Trade Fortnight. Making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet. As part of Fairtrade Fortnight 2023, on Tuesday 28 February, Fairtrade launches the Endangered Aisle. This will be a pop-up experience in Shoreditch, east London. It will be open to the public from 28 February – 2 March. The Endangered Aisle will shine a light on the supermarket staples most at



risk of becoming endangered from the climate crisis, including coffee, bananas and chocolate.
<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

28 February, 7.30-8.30pm: Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) - How do we Campaign for Climate Justice Locally? Zoom webinar about effective campaigning to our councils on climate issues. *JPIT is the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church working together for peace and justice.* [Register with Eventbrite](#)

1 March, 7-8.30pm: London Jesuit Centre - Human Rights: A Way to God. With Fr Luis Orlando Pérez Jiménez SJ. In person talk with Jesuit priest from Mexico. Free. [Book in advance.](#)

2 March, 5-6pm: Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) - How do we Campaign for Climate Justice Locally? Zoom. Second chance to attend the same webinar about effective campaigning to our councils on climate issues. *JPIT is the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church working together for peace and justice.* [Register with Eventbrite](#)

3 March: CAFOD Family Fast Day - <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

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22 March, 11am-12.30pm: National Board of Catholic Women. 'Waiting for the Gift' – Online. Sr Gemma Simmonds will lead us in an exploration of our role in the Church as women and help us look to the future with hope. To get the link, email helen.burgess@northamptondiocese.org

22 March, 6.30-8pm: Catholic Union Webinar: "Faith in Social Mobility: The work of the Social Mobility Commission". Social Mobility Commissioner, Ryan Henson, in conversation with Catholic Union Deputy Director, James Somerville-Meikle. Join for a discussion on the work of the Social Mobility Commission and what the Church has to say on social mobility. Free. [Register](#)

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24 May: 8th Anniversary of Laudato Si' – [Laudato Si Week 21-28 May](#)

10-18 June 2023: [Great Big Green Week](#) Celebrating environmental action across the UK.

21-23 July: National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference 'Sustainability? Survival or Shutdown?' The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. [National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference](#)

30 November – 12 December 2023: COP28 – United Arab Emirates. [COP28](#)