



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN MARCH 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 29th March 2023.

Fr Dominic writes:

Prayer, fasting, and works of charity are the three traditional strands of Lenten observance recommended by the Church.



As such, they are part of a whole, representing how on our Lenten journey we live out our faith as God's Pilgrim People and, as the living out of the Church's social teaching is at the heart of our faith, each dimension involves the hallmark of the Kingdom of love, peace, justice, truth. In our prayer we are called to remember those most in need, especially those affected by war and conflict, and those on the margins in whatever way. We are called to make some concrete expression of our need for God in fasting from earthly pleasures, and in so doing are in solidarity with those who suffer and grow into closer communion with the whole of creation groaning for rebirth. CAFOD's [Lent Family Fast Day](#) is a good time to do this but, of course, the whole of Lent presents opportunities for fasting. And we are called to do something tangible which assists those most in need and our ailing planet. Here we can volunteer through Caritas with the homeless, food banks, with the SVP and so many other charities, and [there are so many practical things we can do to care better for the environment](#)

There is so much we can do as individuals and as communities in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies, to prepare for the greatest feast of the Church's year at Easter. If nothing else, however, I hope we can spend some more time reflecting on our own frailty and sinfulness as God's constantly journeying Pilgrim People, to be renewed in our commitment to be a Church which truly proclaims the Kingdom of peace and justice, to be a Church which, as the Holy Father puts it, is a Church not just with or for but "of the poor".

The Lent 2023 Faith-Sharing group resource, prepared this year by Westminster Justice and Peace, is there also to help us embrace Lenten renewal in communities. I hope that our growing network of Contacts representing our communities can promote it. [Download a copy](#)

In encouraging us to use it widely, this gives me the opportunity to thank all our contacts and other volunteers for the work of Justice & Peace in their communities, and especially Colette Joyce, for all the work on this and so much else as Justice & Peace Co-ordinator. I thank also the Commission, now rebuilding and growing, and this month welcome back Hilda McAfferty, who will represent the vast network of parishes in West London where so much valuable work is going on.

Many thanks again for your faithfulness to the work of Justice and Peace in our diocese.
And a blessed Lent to all!

**Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ
Chair**



DIARY OF EVENTS

27 February – 12 March: Fair Trade Fortnight. Join one of seven Big Fairtrade Get Togethers online to hear about the danger climate change and unfair trade pose for the future of our favourite food. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

7 March – 4 April, Tuesdays 11.15-11.50am: Radio Maria - 'Enlarging the Space of Your Tent'. Fr Dominic Robinson SJ and Colette Joyce present on their Lent Faith-Sharing series. [More details](#)

7 March, 7.30pm: English Catholic History Association. 'Women Religious as Peacebuilders in Conflict Zones' – online talk by Dr Maria Power, Fellow of Blackfriars Hall, Oxford. [Register](#)

11 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

13 March, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – The Things That Bring You Joy. Reflections for Lent. Online meeting for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [Book with Eventbrite](#)

17 March – 2 April: Great British Spring Clean and Great British School Clean. [More details from Keep Britain Tidy](#)

18 March: CAFOD Community Big Lent Walk. Organise a walk on Saturday 18 March (or another date that works for you), and join with hundreds of people walking in community in England and Wales to support people who are working to overcome poverty. [CAFOD Big Lent Walk](#)

19 March, 6pm: Romero Memorial Evensong at St Alban's Cathedral. Preacher Bhp Nicholas Hudson (Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Trustee of the Romero Trust.) [Romero Week](#)

20 March, 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 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](#)

25 March, 11am: Oscar Romero National Ecumenical Service. St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. Marking the 43rd anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Romero. Speaker: Maria Exall, President of the TUC. [Romero Week](#)

28 March, 12.30pm Mass in St George's Cathedral. Archdiocese of Southwark, London with presentation of the Romero Awards. Celebrant: Archbishop John Wilson. [Romero Week](#)



27 March, 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](#)

21 April: Christian Climate Action – The Big One. The biggest climate protest yet. 100,000 people protesting outside the Houses of Parliament in London. The protest is on-going but aims to be at its biggest from 21-24 April. [Christian Climate Action](#)

22 April: Earth Day. Theme ‘Invest in Our Planet’. [Earth Day](#)

1 May, 12pm Mass for Migrants The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster invite you to a celebration of the annual Mass for Migrants at St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate, E7 9QB. Banner bearers to gather at St Bonaventure's Secondary School at 11:15am for refreshments and preparations ready for the banner procession at 12pm. The Mass this year is hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood and the celebrant is Bishop Alan Williams, sm.

13 May 10.15am-4.30pm: A Climate Retreat with Ruth Valerio. The Royal Foundation of St. Katharine – 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS. An opportunity to be refreshed and re-envisioned amidst our current climate crisis. Ruth Valerio is an environmentalist, theologian and social activist. Cost £45. [Bookings with Eventbrite](#)

15 May, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – Online meeting for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [Southern Dioceses Environment Network](#)

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

24 May, 6-8.30pm: PACT Harold Hood Lecture 'The Church's Participation in Prison Reform'

10 June 10.15-4.00pm: God is not a white man and other revelations: A Quiet Day with Chine McDonald. The Royal Foundation of St. Katharine – 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS. An opportunity to explore the impact of white supremacy while diving into the theological responses to Black Lives Matter and anti-racism within the Church. Cost £45. [Bookings with Eventbrite](#)

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?’ Consideration of the UN Sustainability Goals. The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. [National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference](#)

1 September – 4 October: Season of Creation. Theme ‘Let Justice and Peace Flow’. [Website](#)

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

