



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

JANUARY 2021

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 28th January 2021.

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Chair of Westminster Justice & Peace, writes:



Welcome to the first Justice & Peace E-bulletin of 2021. We begin a new year with so many uncertainties and challenges. We are right in the midst of this dreadful pandemic which is changing so much of the way we live our lives. Our parish communities will each have their own stories of those who are suffering in different ways: physical illness, bereavements, loneliness, depression, lost jobs, increased poverty and destitution, and the inability to come together in person as a parish community. It's a tough time and is likely to continue to be so for months ahead.

While so much of the work of Justice & Peace has rightly focussed on these immediate and pressing needs, the Commission, sub-committees and parish groups have addressed other issues of ongoing importance. In the wake of Black Lives Matter we have seen great motivation in addressing issues of racial justice in parishes, in the Church and society. Racial Justice Sunday on January 31st will be an opportunity to focus on this important issue. Similarly, Peace Sunday, celebrated on January 17th, will challenge us to think outside of our domestic borders to be in solidarity with those overseas ravaged by war and conflict and to examine our own complicity there through passive support of weapons manufacture and investment. Pope Francis' call to Care for Creation will continue to be echoed in the way we promote environmentally friendly projects and policies and raise awareness of green issues, all leading up to COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021.

As we begin this new year of such uncertainty and challenge, may we make a new commitment to allow the Gospel of justice and peace to take root in all our communities and respond to the Holy Father's call on New Year's Day when he encouraged all of us to work for a peace "*sustained with patient and respectful dialogue*" and "*constructed with an open collaboration with truth and justice,*" so 2021 may be "*a year of peace, a year of hope.*" It is up to everyone, Pope Francis says, to take "*by the hand those who need a comforting word, a tender gesture,*" he said, and if "*we begin to be in peace with ourselves,*" it will spread to "*those who are near us.*"

May the God of Peace be with you and your loved ones at the start of this new year.



Recommended Action this month:

Urge the Prime Minister to put poor communities at the heart of COP26 climate talks

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

This year, the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow, 1-12 November 2021.

[Sign CAFOD's Petition to end the climate emergency](#)



DIARY OF EVENTS 2021

11th January 2021: Care of Creation London & South East Lunchtime Briefings begin 1-1.45pm
Bringing together Catholics from five Dioceses in London and the South East – Arundel & Brighton, Brentwood, Portsmouth, Southwark, Westminster - every Monday lunchtime in 2021 to pray, share updates and ideas, discuss and take unified action for Climate Justice and the Care of Creation.

To join the Care of Creation mailing list email: colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk. More details on [website](#)

17th January 2021: Peace Sunday – A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace. [Promoted by Pax Christi.](#) [Message from Pope Francis for 54th World Day of Peace on 1st January 2021.](#)

CARJ Workshops on Diversity, Inequality and Racism in the UK – A Challenge for Catholic Education - Series of Workshops, designed for School Chaplains, Teachers and others interested in Catholic Education, organised by [CARJ](#) with support from CAFOD. Email: info@carj.org.uk.

3) **Thursday, 7th January, 3:30 – 5:00pm:** Ethnicity, Identity and Belonging.

4) **Wednesday, 27th January 3:30 – 5:00pm:** The Life of the School.

21st January 2021: Million Minutes Virtual Open Day – 10.30am and again at 7.30pm – Join Million Minutes to find out how your Parish can transform the way it works with young people. [Details](#)

January - March 2021: ‘Where Two or Three Are Gathered...’ – NEW series of online Zoom gatherings for Justice & Peace activists across the Diocese for mutual support and sharing of current issues with Colette, our Co-ordinator, and other Commission members. First time participants and seasoned campaigners welcome. Click on the links for more details and to register:

Friday, 22nd January 2021, 7-8pm

Saturday, 23rd January 2021, 10am-12pm

Saturday, 6th February 2021, 10am-12pm

Saturday, 20th February 2021, 10am-12pm

Monday, 8th March 2021, 7-9pm

Tba

[18-25 Justice & Peace Network](#)

[West London Justice & Peace Network](#)

[East London Justice & Peace Network](#)

[Central London Justice & Peace Network](#)

[North London Justice & Peace Network](#)

[Hertfordshire Justice & Peace Network](#)

31st January 2021: Racial Justice Sunday – An opportunity to reflect on the action needed to counteract racism and promote diversity, belonging and inclusion.

Global Healing Lent Series: Six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March 2021, 7.30-8.30pm

A national Lent course offered to all parishes. Reflective evenings with speakers, prayer and discussion, using the “Global Healing” film resource. These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis’ call to Care for Our Common Home. Hosted by the Global Catholic Climate Conference ([GCCM](#)) UK Laudato Si’ Animators. [Register](#)

23rd-25th July 2021: National Justice and Peace Network Annual Conference – Action for Life on Earth - The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU.

1st-12th November 2021: United Nations Climate Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) - Scottish Events Campus, Glasgow, UK. [Watch the service launching a year of prayer and action - be inspired!](#)