



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

JANUARY 2022

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 2022.

Sr Elizabeth O'Donohoe HC, retiring member of the Commission, writes:



I cannot remember the year that Fr. Pat Davies invited me to join the newly formed Westminster Justice & Peace Commission, but it was around the turn of the new century. I already knew and had worked with Sheila Gallagher who had been a prime mover in setting the Commission up. Both he and she were visionaries of a Church committed to the mission given it by Christ - to do justice and live peace as essential to its calling: and certainly not as an add-on.

As a member of Westminster Interfaith, I joined the Commission to represent the Church's implicit and explicit commitment to inter-faith activity. My appointment of three years has, as in the case of many others who have since been co-opted, stretched out to well beyond that. Nearly 20 years later I have now called "time."

When I first reported the setting up of the new Commission to my Parish Justice & Peace Group, the reception came across as quite hostile: was it to be an unneeded layer of bureaucracy? A further talking shop? What would its business be with local groups? Frankly, I had no idea, but I trusted the initiative which had grown out of the North London Network of J&P Groups, where folk worked, as much as possible, together (even ecumenically) - not alone. And meeting 3 times a year with representatives of CAFOD, CARJ, Aid to the Church in Need, Pax Christi, Israel Palestine, Asylum Seekers and representatives of local Parish groups ... familiarised me with the work going on in a sprawling patchwork of dedicated people within the Diocese, and in the process I found I was in the company of terrific Christian people, with a trained focus.

From year to year the Commission adopted specific foci: The Hundred Days of Peace associated with the ancient Olympics became a serious endeavour in 2012. Barbara Kentish was by then the Field Worker and Fr Joe Ryan, its Chair. I remember it so well because the chance to work both ecumenically and inter-faith was grasped with both hands, and we co-led All-Night-Vigils with Anglicans and Methodists, staged Athletics for all-comers together with a Mosque in Finsbury Park, and more. COP 21 was marked in 2015 by abundant promotion of the need for Care of the Environment, and as a part of that some hardy Commission members cycled from London to Paris to take part on the spot. In the wake of the publication of Laudato Si', the commission set up a Climate Sub-committee and I was fortunate to serve on that, again dove-tailing with those from other Churches and other Faiths where possible.

In the past 12 months I have known that the time has come for me to resign from the Commission, which is again in fresh and capable leadership. I am aware that I have received support for the work of Westminster Interfaith and been given more than I gave. These days, every area of the Commission's work reaches out beyond denominational boundaries and is informed by the common need of all people, of all Faith traditions, to benefit from its work (and indeed to work with it) as it represents the Catholic Church's commitment to do Justice and to live Peace.



DIARY OF EVENTS 2022

10th January, 12.45-2.00pm: Launch of the Southern Dioceses Environment Network

This developing network for all Catholics and our friends who care about creation will meet monthly online on the second Monday of the month and also organise other events during the year, some in person - when this is possible. We will be liaising with the Northern Dioceses Environment Group as we all work together to animate the Catholic community in the long-term task of stabilising our climate and protecting our common home. All welcome to join us for the launch event.

Register with Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-southern-dioceses-environment-network-tickets-220575847297>

Future Meetings:

Monday 14th February, 12.45-2.00pm

Monday 14th March, 12.45-2.00pm

Monday 9th May, 12.45-2.00pm

Monday 13th June, 12.45-2.00pm

Monday 11th July, 12.45-2.00pm

15th January, 10-11.30am: Zoom Meeting for Westminster Justice & Peace Parish Contacts – the Parish Contact person for Justice & Peace or the Parish Priest is invited to join members of the Commission for sharing and discussion of your hopes and plans for Justice & Peace in your parishes and the Diocese as a whole in 2022. Contact colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk for more info.

15th January, 11am-12.30pm: 'Climate Change, Arms and Conflict: What does Security mean in a time of Climate Crisis?' Zoom. Aisling Griffin, schools and education officer from Pax Christi, will be talking about these issues in an online meeting organised by Middlesbrough Diocese Justice and Peace. All most welcome. To register please email bhungin@yahoo.co.uk

16th January: Peace Sunday – The theme from Pope Francis is “Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace.” <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2022>

17th January, 12.30-1.30pm: Prayer Vigil outside the Home Office with Westminster Justice & Peace and London Catholic Worker to pray for migrants seeking safe passage to the UK, especially those attempting Channel crossings. There will be prayers outside the Home Office on the third Monday of every month in 2022. Contacts Barbara Kentish (J & P) barbarakentish@talktalk.net and Br Johannes Maertens (LCW) johanmaertens@hotmail.com

18th-23rd: January: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

24th January, 7-8.30pm: National Board of Catholic Women Online Workshop - Receiving the Gifts: Listening to the Spirit within our Christian Communities. Exploring women's views on Receptive Ecumenism. An opportunity for women to hear the stories of women with different Christian identities and to tell their own stories. Contributions from Sarah Leeson (Methodist Lay Preacher), Reverend Claire Turner (Anglican), Fleur Dorrell (Bible Society - Scripture Development Officer). [Register in advance with Eventbrite https://www.nbcw.co.uk/events](https://www.nbcw.co.uk/events)



26th January 2022, 11am to 7pm: Conference at St Mary's University – 'The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching 25 Years On.' In person or Zoom. The Waldegrave Suite, St Mary's University, Twickenham, TW1 4SX. Speakers include: Clifford Longley, Pat Jones, Jon Cruddas MP, Francis Davis, Raymond Friel, Ashley Beck, Bishop Richard Moth. Tickets: £25 per person, £10 Online via zoom, SMU students – free to attend. Bookings: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/01/comon-good-25-years-on>

26th January, 6.30pm: JustShare - Greening Property: How can the government achieve net zero goals efficiently? Online. Speakers and discussion on the built environment and the fight against climate change. Yvonne Rydin (Professor of Planning, Environment and Public Policy, Bartlett School of Planning, University College London), Anna Biggs (Advancing Net Zero at UK Green Building Council), Bram Adema (Founder of CFP Green Buildings). [Register](#)

3rd-5th February, 10am-4pm Daily: Scripture Festival, St Alban's Cathedral - You are invited to our God Who Speaks Festival at St Albans Cathedral, Hertfordshire, AL1 1BY, from Thursday 3rd to Saturday 5th February 2022. We hope that all pilgrims, whether from schools, parishes, or just visitors to the Cathedral will have an encounter with Christ through His Word at this three-day event. Westminster Justice & Peace will be among many different groups from the Diocese offering a variety of ways to explore the Word of God. <https://rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival/>

5th February - CAFOD 60th anniversary. There will be an event in each diocese which will include celebrating together and activities both online and in person.

13th February: Racial Justice Sunday

21st February – 6th March: Fairtrade Fortnight <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>

28th February, 7.30-8.45pm, Leaving Something on the Table - How Money Doesn't Make the World Go Round: A conversation with Dr David Ko and Richard Busellato, authors of 'An Unsustainable Truth' (2020). Hosted by Westminster Justice & Peace on behalf of the Southern Dioceses Environment Network. Register in advance with Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/241047458437>

4th March: World Day of Prayer Prepared by Women of England Wales and N Ireland - 'I know what plans I have for you.' <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2022-wdp-free-resources-to-download/>

11th March: CAFOD Lent Fast Day

2nd May, 11am: Annual Migrants Mass, Westminster Cathedral - for the three Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster.

22nd-24th July: National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) Annual Conference – Theme 'Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up.' The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

7th-18th November: COP27, United Nations Conference of Parties Climate in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.