

JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2020

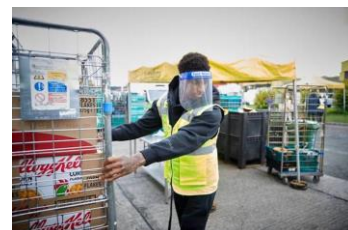
Welcome to the e-Bulletin from the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. Please send Events for inclusion to justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk. The deadline for the next e-Bulletin is 27th November 2020.

Colette Joyce, Westminster Justice & Peace Co-ordinator, writes:

Two images have stood out in my head this week. You have probably seen them, too. The first is the picture of the Kurdish-Iranian family who attempted to cross the Channel on Wednesday with a group of other migrants, desperate to seek sanctuary in the UK. When the flimsy boat got into trouble in heavy seas and sank off the French coast Rasoul Iran-Nejad, 35, Shiva Mohammad Panahi, 35, Anita, nine, and Armin, six, all drowned. Baby Artin, just 15 months old, is still missing. Save the Children said that, "the English Channel must not become a graveyard for children." That phrase haunts me. As Justice & Peace we have been petitioning for a long time for safe and legal routes to be created for people in Europe, especially Calais, to apply for asylum in the UK, supporting campaigning organisations like Seeking Sanctuary, Safe Passage and People Not Walls. Without this vital commitment, all the attempts to 'crack down on ruthless smugglers who exploit vulnerable people' will be in vain. The problem is that the current emphasis on securing the border and promoting a 'hostile environment' as a deterrent, is simply creating more desperation. The underlying causes must be addressed.



The other picture was of 22 year-old England footballer Marcus Rashford helping out at a Foodbank. His petition calling for free school meals in the holidays reached 1 million signatures the same day as he scored his first hat-trick in the Champions League, proving to his detractors that anyone can continue to excel in their day-job while still campaigning for justice in their free time! He is an inspiration to us all that we can and must continue to advocate for those who suffer the devastating effects of poverty and oppression – before it is too late.



Recommended Petition this month:

Marcus Rashford and the Child Food Poverty Taskforce are calling for Government to allocate money to:

- Expand free school meals to all under-16s where a parent or guardian is in receipt of Universal Credit or equivalent benefit.
- Provide meals & activities during all holidays.
- Increase the value of Healthy Start vouchers to at least £4.25 per week, and expand the scheme.

These 3 recommendations must be implemented without delay to #endchildfoodpoverty.

Over 1 million signatures so far! [Sign the Petition](#)

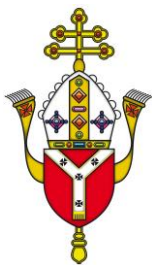
Saturday, 14th November 2020

11am – 4pm

**Faith into Action:
Building a better world
after the pandemic**

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Join CAFOD for a day of online discussion and workshops on the world we want to create after the pandemic. Participatory sessions led by practical theologian Sam Ewell and climate campaigners from around the world. Plus reflection on *Fratelli Tutti* and input from CAFOD's Director of Advocacy Neil Thorns. [Register](#)



DIARY OF EVENTS 2020-2021

31st October: 'Fairtrade Presents - The Women Behind Your Coffee' – 11.00am. Online. Panel includes Kenyan Fairtrade coffee farmer Dorcas Jeptanui, Emma Brown, founder of Land Girls and chef, food writer and activist Melissa Hemsley. [Register with Fairtrade Foundation](#)

2nd November: Jesuit Refugee Service Vigil of Witness and Solidarity – mourning the Iranian family who perished in the English Channel on Wednesday. [More details](#)

6th November: London Mining Network Report Launch – 'Martial Mining' – to mark [UN International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#). 6.00pm. Zoom. Author Daniel Selwyn exposes the links between mining, the international arms trade, and warfare. Plus panel talk with other [LMN](#) & environment campaigners. Register with [Eventbrite](#)

7th November: Catholic Association for Racial Justice AGM - 11:00am – 1.00pm by Zoom. The morning session (11:00 – 12:00) will be the business meeting, with Reports and Election of Trustees, followed by a speaker and discussion around the theme – 'Institutional Racism and the Church.' Those who wish to attend must register with the [CARJ](#) Administrator at info@carj.org.uk

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. The Workshops will attempt to relate key issues to the life of the school. To book email Gloria Oham: info@carj.org.uk.

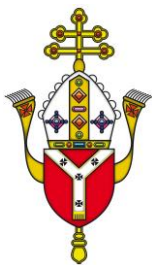
- 3) **Tuesday, 3rd November, 3:30 – 5:00pm:** Resources for Black History, Black Literature, Social Studies and Religious Education.
- 4) **Wednesday, 25th November, 3:30 – 5:00pm:** Cultural Awareness and the Evolving language of Racism and Racial Justice.
- 5) **Thursday, 7th January, 3:30 – 5:00pm:** Ethnicity, Identity and Belonging.
- 6) **Wednesday, 27th January 3:30 – 5:00pm:** The Life of the School.

14th November: CAFOD Online Event 'Faith into Action - Building a Better World after the Pandemic' - Join CAFOD for a day of discussion and workshops on what action we can take to ensure we continue to tackle poverty and the climate crises. With theologian Sam Ewell. Free. [Book](#)

15th November: World Day of the Poor Service – 3.00pm, Church of the Immaculate Conception (Farm Street Jesuit Church), W1K 3AH. A Celebration of Solidarity. Music by the Farm Street Choir. Preacher Revd Tricia Hillas. To attend contact FarmStreetOffice@rcdow.org.uk or [Watch Live](#)

1st December: World AIDS Day Mass - 6.00pm, Church of the Immaculate Conception (Farm Street Jesuit Church), W1K 3AH. Hosted by LGBT+ Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council. Celebration on UNAIDS 2020 Theme, Global Solidarity - Shared Responsibility. Celebrant - Canon Alan McClean, Music provided by the 530 Music Group. Retiring Collection for the Mildmay Hospital. [Watch Live](#)

2nd December: Caritas Westminster 'How are we helping those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)?' 2.00-4.00pm. Many of our parishes, schools and projects reach out their hands in support of those who are NRPF or without secure immigration status. This event is an opportunity to gather together and discuss concrete action and possibilities for a better future. [Register](#)



5th December (Saturday morning): Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum – Learning from the Pandemic. 11am – 1.30pm. Zoom. Online event for the whole Diocese of Westminster. Join us for a time of reflection on the experience of the pandemic so far and conversation about the journey that now lies ahead. Speakers helping to facilitate the Forum include Anna Gavurin (Caritas Food Collective), Fr Richard Nesbitt (Parish Priest, White City) and Dr Pat Jones (Theologian). Chair: Fr Dominic Robinson SJ (Chair of Westminster Justice & Peace). Hosted by Bishop Nicholas Hudson and Bishop Paul McAleenan. Co-sponsored by Caritas Westminster & Westminster Justice & Peace. Please register in advance to receive the Zoom link. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/127452079601>

7th December: Pax Christi Advent Peace Service Online - music, song, powerful readings, messages for Palestine, and a 'virtual' marketplace afterwards. Music co-ordinated by Julie McCann.

11th December: Jubilee Debt Campaign Launch of Documentary Film Bank Job – 7.00pm special online preview screening. This mischievous feature documentary produced by artist and filmmaker team Hilary Powell and Dan Edelstyn, tells the story of a community coming together to make their own currency and open a 'peoples' bank. In doing so they examine how money and debt is created and ask important questions about how the system of money creation might be altered in our favour. Tickets £12. Early bird bookings get a free copy of the DVD. [Book](#)

17th January 2021: Peace Sunday – Every year the Church prays for peace on the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time and the Pope sends a message about peace to the world. Promoted by [Pax Christi](#).

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. You are invited to attend the Network meeting local to you, but if the date isn't suitable please feel free to join any of the others. First time participants and seasoned campaigners welcome. Registration details next month.

West London Justice & Peace Network – Saturday, 23rd January 2021, 10am-12pm

East London Justice & Peace Network – Saturday, 6th February 2021, 10am – 12pm

Central London Justice & Peace Network – Saturday, 20th February 2021, 10am-12pm

North London Justice & Peace Network – Monday, 8th March 2021, 7-9pm

Hertfordshire Justice & Peace Network – tbc

18-25 Justice & Peace Network – Friday, 22nd January 2021, 7-8pm

31st January 2021: Racial Justice Sunday – An opportunity to reflect on the action needed to counteract racism and promote diversity, belonging and inclusion. Materials produced annually by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

23rd-25th July 2021: National Justice and Peace Network Annual Conference – Action for Life on Earth - The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU. Postponed from July 2020. To see the video presentations from this year's 'Mini-Conference', including Colette's presentation on the homelessness project in Trafalgar Square go to [NJPN](#) website.

1st-12th November 2021: United Nations Climate Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) - Scottish Events Campus, Glasgow, UK. The [climate talks](#) will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together over 30,000 delegates including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. The Vatican will be represented.