

# JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

## OCTOBER 2020

Welcome to the e-Bulletin from the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. Please send Events for inclusion to [justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk). The deadline for the next e-Bulletin is 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.



**Deacon Adrian Cullen, Evangelisation Co-ordinator, writes:**

At the heart of the 'The God Who Speaks' Year of the Word 2020-21 is the figure of St Jerome whose Feast Day on 30<sup>th</sup> September marks 1600 years since his death. It was Jerome whose tireless work to interpret the Bible, and translate it from Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic into Latin, opened the Scriptures for the people of his age, and through the centuries since. Pope Francis, celebrating this anniversary, tells us that Jerome continues to be 'a figure of enduring relevance for us, the Christians of the twenty-first century'. Jerome's "living and tender love" for the written word, was not just a personal devotion to sacred Scripture for its own sake, but a revealing of Jesus Christ himself. For, as Jerome says, it is through knowing Holy Scripture, that we come to know Christ, who reveals to us the power and wisdom of God.

In the practical work of bringing justice and peace to our world, it is lines of wisdom, stories of courage, and the sayings of Christ, so wonderfully brought to us by Jerome, that feed our every action. There will be words, phrases and paragraphs from the Old and New Testaments that play around in our mind; we may not even realise they are there, but they support us, guide us and encourage us in our work of bringing God's Kingdom into the World. In our world where it appears that the divide between rich and poor is ever widening, and that for many people God seems to be irrelevant, the words of the herdsman and prophet Amos, who faced similar issues, may come to mind: "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream". This too, is what we strive for.

The words of St Paul may surface in our mind in times of need, when the work we do is tiring and thankless, but we know it is the right thing to do: "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness." -Galatians 5:22. And there will be times when the words of Jesus himself whisper in our heart: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." -Matthew 25:40. Then, in that moment, *The God Who Speaks*, is speaking to us.

The Year of the Word has been extended to January 2022, during which, Catholics, and all of us working for justice and peace, are encouraged to explore and become more familiar with Holy Scripture, and so be ever listening to words that come to us from *The God Who Speaks*. [More on the God Who Speaks](#)

### Recommended Petition this month:

[Climate Coalition](#) – [The Time is Now](#) to lead the UK towards a healthier, greener, fairer future. Ahead of hosting the UN climate summit in Glasgow, 2021, we can build back better if we:

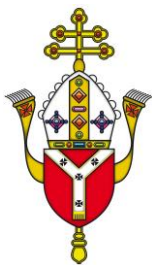
- ✓ Unleash a clean energy revolution
- ✓ Protect, restore and expand our wild spaces
- ✓ Leave no one behind

Sign the petition to Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer: [The Time is Now](#)



[Novena to St Francis](#): Last chance to pray this novena during the Season of Creation, based on St Francis of Assisi's beautiful Canticle of the Sun. Our planet needs your prayers!

[The Harvest Fast Day](#) has been moved to **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October** and Collection to **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**. In this most difficult of years, are there extra ways in which you could help [CAFOD](#) and our neighbours overseas?



## DIARY OF EVENTS 2020-2021

**4<sup>th</sup> October: Feast of St Francis of Assisi, Last day of the Season of Creation**

**9<sup>th</sup> October: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Appeal** - focused on the continuing coronavirus response. The Harvest Appeal has never been more needed, nor launched in more challenging circumstances.

Thursday 8 October	9.30am	Online Primary & Secondary Harvest Assemblies
Friday 9 October	11.00am	Live talk about the CAFOD response to Coronavirus
Friday 9 October	6.00pm	CAFOD Fast Day Mass online from Wrexham Cathedral
Sunday 11 October	10.00am	CAFOD Fast Day Children's Liturgy
Sunday 11 October	7.00pm	Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, will reflect on Pope Francis' catechesis 'Healing the World' as well as the new encyclical, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> .

[Link to register for all CAFOD Fast Day events](#)

**10<sup>th</sup> October: Mass for Aid to the Church in Need** - 10:30am - 11:30am. Celebrated by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ. Westminster Cathedral, Victoria St, London, SW1P 1LT. [Livestream](#)

**11<sup>th</sup> October: Creation Service, St Edmund's, Edmonton** – 7.00pm. [Zoom liturgy](#) Bring a picture or a photo of a flower or tree.

**15<sup>th</sup> October: Just Food? How Faith Groups Feed the Hungry and Create a Just Society** – 6.00-7.30pm. Join Westminster Caritas for an Online Interfaith Panel Discussion. [Register with Eventbrite](#)

**15<sup>th</sup> November: World Day of the Poor.**

**5<sup>th</sup> December (Saturday morning): A Diocesan Conversation – Learning from the Pandemic.** Online event for the whole Diocese of Westminster. More details to follow. [Save the date!](#)

**17<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

**31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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.