

JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN MARCH 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 29TH March 2021.

Barbara Kentish, Justice & Peace Commission Member and former Co-ordinator, writes:



Obtaining a Diocesan Fairtrade Certificate has been a long struggle, led, we are proud to say, by hundreds of valiant parishioners of the 200+ parishes of Westminster. It is a wonderful staging post in the campaign for justice in world trade.

When the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission looked at the possible goals we should adopt when I started in 2006, Fairtrade seemed an easy one: surely all parishes would want to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee if it helped poor farmers in developing countries to get a better deal? We only needed half the parishes in the Diocese to sign up to reach the criteria for the award. CAFOD was a founding member of the Fairtrade Foundation and was represented on our Commission, so there was an excellent base on which to build the work. After that we would move on to think about world peace, the refugee crisis, Middle East conflict! The campaign took a little longer than we thought...

Each parish needed first to agree officially to apply for Fairtrade status. A minimum requirement was to serve Fairtrade-brand tea and coffee at parish functions; then to promote Fairtrade in other ways, such as stalls, talks or films, and finally to hold an event once a year during Fairtrade Fortnight. We emailed Fairtrade promotional materials, wrote letters, sent application forms to be returned to CAFOD and organised a diocesan steering group (thank you to those early hopeful few!) In the first 18 months we rejoiced that over a quarter of parishes had signed up straight away! Just another 50 or so to reach our magic target of 51% of the then 214 parishes. We blithely assumed we were nearly there... Years passed, volunteers came and went, additions to the certificated parishes gradually sank to a trickle, seeming to stick at around 10 or 15 short of the number required. But many faithful parishes continued promoting Fairtrade and CAFOD Westminster stepped in to give more support, with Tony Sheen's great organising skills and powers of persuasion. Numbers rose, and when I retired in 2018, we were only a handful of parishes short of our target. Miraculous to say, at last we were over the bar, and current Chair, Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, obtained the agreement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols to apply for our Diocesan status. Finally, it is our turn to celebrate! **Join us on Friday 5th March, 11.00-11.45am for a Zoom gathering to mark this very special occasion. [Register in advance with Eventbrite.](#)**

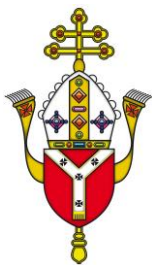
Recommended Petitions this month:

[Keep the Lifeline](#) – 38 Degrees, Joanna and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Ask to make the £20 Universal Credit boost permanent and extend it to people on legacy benefits. Got a little more time? **[Write to your MP](#)** – with Caritas

[Sacred People Sacred Planet](#)

Sign the multi-faith climate statement before 11th March.





DIARY OF EVENTS 2021

Care of Creation London & South East - Monday Lunchtime Briefings for 2021, 1.00-1.45pm
Every Monday on Zoom. To join us, please message: colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk / 07593 434905.
Full details on [website](#)

Global Healing Lent Series: Six Thursdays from 18th February – 25th March, 7.30-8.30pm.
Zoom. Video clips, speakers, prayer and discussion on the environment for Lent. Hosted by the [Global Catholic Climate Conference \(GCCM\)](#) and [UK Laudato Si' Animators](#). [Register](#)

Justice & Peace Networking Events: 'Where Two or Three Are Gathered...'

First time participants, seasoned campaigners, parishioners, religious, deacons & priests welcome

Monday, 8th March, 7.00-9.00pm

[North London Justice & Peace Network](#)

Tuesday 16th March, 7.30-8.30pm

[Hertfordshire Justice & Peace Network](#)

Saturday 20th March, 10.00-11.30am

[Central London Climate Festival Planning Group – First Meeting](#)

3rd March: ACTA Conference "A New Imagination of the Possible", 7.00pm. Zoom. With Fr Augusto Zampini-Davies, Vatican Covid 19 Commission. Panel discussion with Dr Clare Watkins (University of Roehampton), Fr Tom O'Loughlin (University of Nottingham), Fr Gerry Proctor MBE, Dr Phil McCarthy (retiring CEO, Caritas Social Action Network – CSAN.) [Register](#)



5th March: Fairtrade Diocese Award Celebration and Social 11.00–11.45am

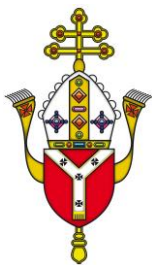
Fairtrade Fortnight will culminate in our own very special celebration. We will be showing the video by Cardinal Vincent Nichols to mark the occasion, with guest speakers congratulating all those involved, as well as encouraging those Parishes not yet signed up to complete the Award. We especially want to invite everyone who has been a Fairtrade stallholder and priests, deacons, administrators, catechists, parishioners and others involved in gaining the award for your Parishes. Please bring along a Fairtrade product to show in a screenshot photograph to be shared in the media afterwards and your own Fairtrade tea, coffee, cake, biscuits, chocolate or fruit to enjoy during the social time. [Register in advance with Eventbrite](#)



9th March: CAFOD - How Live Simply helps Catholic communities to protect our Common Home while living more fully. 11am-12noon. Online. There are 85 LiveSimply awarded communities (parishes, cathedrals, schools etc) and a similar number actively working on the Award, in spite of the pandemic. Join Maria Elena Arana, LiveSimply Award Coordinator at CAFOD, Fr Rob Esdaile, parish priest at Livesimply Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes Thames Ditton, and Ellen Teague, Assessor, and learn more about how your parish, school or organisation could join us. [Register](#)

11th March: Sacred Space Sacred People – A multi-faith International Day of Action for the Environment. Promoted by the Greenfaith network and CAFOD. [Events and other information](#)

11th March: Caritas Westminster - Quarterly Diocese of Westminster Network Meeting for All Who Welcome Refugees and Migrants, 2:00pm-3:30pm – Online. An opportunity for all parishes, charities and schools who welcome and empower migrants and refugees, to meet together, share best practice and ideas, receive training and agree main advocacy issues. [Register](#)



13th March: Ecumenical Romero Service, St. Martin in the Fields, London, 11.00am – 41st
Anniversary of the martyrdom of Oscar Romero. Address by Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ. [Livestream on You Tube – Romero Trust.](#)

25th March: CAFOD - How to organise a successful online meeting with your MP, 6.30-8pm
All welcome to attend one of two sessions <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/MP-meeting-training>

25th March 2021: London Churches Refugee Fund & Church Times, All Sisters and Brothers - Sustaining hope with refugees & asylum seekers, 6 - 7.30 pm. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, Zrinka Bralo (CEO of Migrants Organise), Harry Potter actor and LCRF Patron, Alfred Enoch. Register - <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/all-sisters-and-brothers>

27th March: Romero Anniversary Mass, St. George's Cathedral, Southwark 12.30pm - with Archbishop John Wilson. Mass of St Oscar Romero and Installation of Guardians of the Diocesan Shrine of St Oscar Romero. It is probable that a congregation can be present for the Mass. [Livestream on YouTube.](#)

10th April: CAFOD - How to organise a successful online meeting with your MP, 11am-12.30pm
All welcome to attend one of two sessions <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/MP-meeting-training>

1st May: Migrants Mass, 12.30pm St William of York, Forest Hill, 4 Brockley Park, London, SE23 1PS and streamed online. Hosted by the Diocese of Southwark. Feast of St Joseph the Worker.

22nd May: Next Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum – SAVE THE DATE!!!

27th May: Caritas Quarterly Diocese of Westminster Homeless Networking Meeting, 3.30-5.00pm. An opportunity for all parish and school homelessness projects to meet together, share best practice and ideas, receive training and agree main advocacy issues. [Register](#)

23rd-25th July: National Justice and Peace Network Annual Conference – Action for Life on Earth 2021, The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU. As climate changes, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the COP26 climate summit and in the recovery from the pandemic are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity the like of which we will never see again. Facilitators: Lorna Gold, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, Mark Rotherham, Marty Haugen, Bishop John Arnold. Chair: Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD. [Bookings open](#)

September: International Pilgrimage Paris to Glasgow - will be passing through the South East in September on their way to the UN Climate Conference (COP26), providing opportunities for solidarity and accompaniment for UK-based supporters. More details coming soon.

1st-12th November: United Nations Climate Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) - Scottish Events Campus, Glasgow, UK. Follow all the developments on the website <https://ukcop26.org/>

[VISIT THE JUSTICE AND PEACE WEBSITE FOR ALL KEY CLIMATE DATES IN 2021](#)