



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

September 2023

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 27 September 2023.

Let Justice and Peace Flow

Pope Francis writes:

Dear brothers and sisters!

"Let Justice and Peace Flow" is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed... Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.

This year, the closing of the Season of Creation on 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, will coincide with the opening of the Synod on Synodality. Like rivers in nature, fed by myriad tiny brooks and larger streams and rivulets, the synodal process that began in October 2021 invites all those who take part on a personal or community level, to coalesce in a majestic river of reflection and renewal. The entire People of God is being invited to an immersive journey of synodal dialogue and conversion..." [Full Text](#)

Ideas for the Season of Creation

GLOBAL – Join the ecumenical online services on 1st September and 4th October. Read the full text of Pope Francis' message. [Watch on YouTube](#)

NATIONAL – Watch the CBCEW webinar on the 'Call of Creation' document on 12th September.

REGIONAL – Join a Christian Climate Action river walk along the Thames on 9th or 10th Sept. Attend the Southern Dioceses Environment Network meeting on Monday 11th September.

DIOCESAN – Come with us to Kew Gardens on Thursday 14th September! [Details](#)

PARISH – Use the Intercessions for the Season of Creation; say the Season of Creation Prayer at the end of Mass; create a display board, banner or focus area in the church; choose hymns about harvest, creation, rivers, water, peace and justice; hold a harvest festival or international meal; screen 'The Letter'; host a Blessing of Pets... [More ideas and resources on the website here](#)



A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023



DIARY OF EVENTS

1 September, 2pm: Launch of Season of Creation – Global Ecumenical Online Prayer Service. Watch on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv3kExaSMml>

1 September – 4 October: Season of Creation. ‘Let Justice and Peace Flow’ [Resources](#)

4-11 September: Walking Peace Pilgrimage - Oxford to London ExCeL Centre - to protest the DSEI Arms Fair. Join for the whole way or just for a day or two. Supported by a coalition of peace organisations. More details <https://peacepilgrimage.org.uk/>

6 September, 6.30pm: To mark the beginning of Season of Creation, Jesuit Missions is inviting you to a special event at the London Jesuit Centre. Working in collaboration with partners at the Arrupe Centre in Antananarivo, Madagascar. Includes a Q&A with Paul Chitnis, Director of Jesuit Missions, recently returned from a trip to Madagascar. Contact: Lynn McWilliams, Community Engagement Officer, lynn@jesuitmissions.org.uk or 07305927754. [Eventbrite](#)

7 September, 10am: ‘No Faith in War Day’ - Pax Christi Peace Walk. Starting with a short service at 10.30 am at St Anne’s Church, London, E16 3DR, then walk to the ExCeL Centre, pausing to pray at different points along the way before joining other Faith Groups for a day of prayer and events.

9 & 10 September: Christian Climate Action (CCA) River Walks for the Season of Creation. In London, groups will be walking sections of the Thames Path. Each walk will represent and reflect the growing number of people who have a passion for justice and peace in their own locality and across the world as together we face the challenge of the climate crisis. All three walks will include times for discussion, reflection, mindful silence, singing, and attending to the landscapes and places along the way. Please bring food and clothes to suit the weather. [Christian Climate Action](#)

9 September, 10.15am: CCA Walk 1 - Thames path South East from Jubilee Gardens to the Thames Barrier. About 16 km. Starting opposite Shell Headquarters (near Waterloo) and finishing at the Thames Barrier. Please join on: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IVCo730cnUqIQU4rKGAX3C>

9 September, 11am: CCA Walk 2 - Thames path Cutty Sark to Thames Barrier. A slower walk, about 7 km. Starting Cutty Sark and finishing to meet Walk 1 at the Thames Barrier. Please join on <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DI9b8vZMfCOJLU4w4hylbq>

10 September, 12.30pm: CCA Walk 3 - Thames path Putney Bridge to Richmond. About 15 km. Meet at St Mary’s Putney Bridge for a 1pm start. Please join <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GKEQ6tMkjgy1BqAti01ybP>

11 September, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – Westminster and Brentwood Young Adults report from World Youth Day. Monthly online meeting for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [Southern Dioceses Environment Network](#)



11 September, 7-8pm: DSEI Arms Fair Silent Candlelit Vigil. Meeting at 6.15pm at Royal Victoria DLR Station, to walk to the ExCeL Centre for a Silent Vigil on the eve of the opening of the fair. If you are able to join us, please bring candles in jars/lanterns. See www.quaker-roots.org.uk/events/ and stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/dsei-arrives-12-15-september-2023/

12 September, 7-8pm: Panel discussion on the 'Call of Creation' document. Webinar hosted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD and St. Mary's University in conversation with Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji, Sr Margaret Atkins and Christine Allen (Director, CAFOD). Welcome by Bishop John Arnold. Register: bigmarker.com/cafod/signsoftimes

12-15 SEPTEMBER STOP THE ARMS FAIR

The Defence and Security Equipment (DSEI) Arms Fair returns to the ExCeL Centre in London this year from 12-15 September. Supported by the Ministry of Defence and the UK Government's Defence and Security Exports Unit, the publicity for the event says that this will be the largest fair in its 24-year history and will feature over 2800 defence and security suppliers. It is described as the premier event of its kind in bringing governments, the armed forces and the arms industry together. In reality, of course, the event's purpose is to market deadly weapons and military technology to representatives of states some of which have committed war crimes and human rights violations. The fair takes place every two years and is where over 1000+ arms companies meet with 30,000 visitors. These visitors include delegations from the worst human rights abusing countries including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Turkey among others. STOP THE ARMS FAIR is planning to resist the fair. Find out more via www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk Email resistDSEI@protonmail.com

13 September, 6.00-8.00pm: Catholic Union Craigmyle Lecture – Speaker Dame Rachel de Souza DBE, Children's Commissioner for England. University of Notre Dame London campus, near Trafalgar Square. Online option. Free to attend but [please book Eventbrite tickets in advance](#)

14 September, 11.00am – 4.00pm: Westminster Justice and Peace Outing to Plants of the Qur'an Exhibition, Kew Gardens. We will visit the exhibition in the morning, with time to explore the gardens in the afternoon. Please purchase your own tickets in advance via the Kew website (there are different pricing options) or on arrival. Meet just inside the ticket barriers at the Victoria Gate entrance at 11.00am where we will begin and end the day with prayers. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact Colette Joyce – colettejoyce@rcdow.org.uk/ 07593 434 905. [More details](#)

14 September, 6.30-7.45pm: Just Working? Together for the Common Good Public Lecture. Speaker – Jon Cruddas MP. (Rescheduled from 11 July) Online. Free. [Register with Eventbrite](#)

16 September, 10am – 5.30pm: The Debt Justice National Gathering 2023. Speaker - Gargi Battacharyya, Professor of Sociology, University of East London. Find out the latest on the debt crisis facing 54 countries and why we can't fight the climate crisis without addressing the debt crisis. Learn new campaign skills and plan actions together for key campaigns this autumn. The Station, Silver Street, Bristol. Free to attend. [Online Booking](#)

16-23 September: World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. Theme: 'No place to lay my head'. This year commemorating 75 years of Nakba (catastrophe) of the Palestinian people since 1948. For more information and to download the Pax Christi action card see: tinyurl.com/yztdetaz

17 September: Disability Awareness Sunday – [Through the Roof Resources for Churches](#)



18 September, 12.30-1.30pm: Monthly Prayer Vigil outside the Home Office – Organised by Westminster Justice & Peace, London Catholic Worker and the London Churches Refugee Fund to pray for migrants seeking safe passage to the UK. Marsham Street, SW1P4DF. Contact Barbara Kentish barbarakentish@talktalk.net

20 September, 6:00-7:30pm: CSAN and CBCEW Webinar - "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay." Preparation for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Speakers include Bishop Paul McAleenan (Lead Bishop for Migrants & Refugees, CBCEW) and Christine Allen (Director, CAFOD). More: <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2023/>
Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkcuivqjMpGdHtpZZhXjfx7MCd0VfXdlhl>

20 September, 2-3.30p.m: Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group – ‘Chapter 7 “Paths of renewed encounter.” Monthly discussions on *Fratelli Tutti*, the encyclical on fraternity and social friendship by Pope Francis. Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, SW1 1EN. Contact John Woodhouse woodhousesopten@btinternet.com

21 September - 2 October: Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action. 'Blessed are the feet of those who bring nonviolence.' More information and Pax Christi action card: <https://tinyurl.com/mudmtyxv>

23 September: Loss and Damage Action Day [Faith for the Climate](#)

23 September, 10.30am-5pm: A Tent of Learning - Synodal Conversation and Conversion in Receptive Ecumenism. The Society for Ecumenical Studies, in conjunction with the Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University, and the London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AY. Keynote Speaker Dr Callan Slipper - Book at: <https://A-tent-of-learning.eventbrite.co.uk>

23 September: Archdiocese of Southwark Commission for Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Autumn Assembly. *The Right to Stay: Free to Choose*. Addressing the motivations that affect decisions taken to leave one's native land. **Full details to follow.**

24 September, 5.30pm: Annual International Mass at Westminster Cathedral. This is also World Day of Migrants and Refugees. All are welcome to this Mass in which our ethnic chaplains will have a leading role. The Celebrant is Cardinal Vincent Nicholas.

From 25 September: School for Synodality – Free Webinar Series. Monday evenings 7.30pm. <https://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/news/practicing-synodality-webinar-series>

25th Sep **What is synodality?** Dr Jessie Rogers, Dean of Faculty of Theology, St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth.

2nd Oct **Thinking about power and trust - leading, facilitating and creating safe groups** Ciaran Beary, facilitation and leadership consultant, including for the UN.

9th Oct **Best and worst practices - learning on the way** Fr Matthew Nunes and Fr Phillip Inch, co-moderators of the Archdiocese of Liverpool Synod.

16th Oct **Discerning the signs of the times** – Mauritio Lopez, Executive Secretary of CEAMA (Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon.)

30th Oct **The art of listening - hearing all the voices** - Sr Ngozie (Sierra Leone) and Sr Anthonia (DRP) in partnership with CAFOD.

6th Nov **Group discernment** - how do we know it's the Holy Spirit? TBC

13th Nov **Moving to action** – TBC



20th Nov **Becoming a synodal community** – Prof Anna Rowlands, Office for Synod, Vatican and Durham University.

26 September, 5pm: Talk by Rosa Monckton, Disability Rights Campaigner. Caritas St Joseph's, St Joseph's Grove, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4TY. Rosa is a Patron of Acorn's Children Hospices, the Down Syndrome Educational Trust and Together for Short Lives. [You can read more about Rosa on this Wikipedia page](#)

30 September - Ecumenical Prayer Gathering for the Synod in Rome. This is a good suggested date when you might like to plan prayer opportunities (or Synod-style conversations!) for your own parishes and communities. <https://www.synod.va/en/highlights/together-gathering-of-the-people-of-god.html> October 4th: [Online Ecumenical Prayer Service](#)

Throughout October – Black History Month. [More Details](#)

4 October, 2pm – Close of the Season of Creation – Global Ecumenical Online Prayer Service. [Watch on YouTube](#)

4-29 October – First Session of the Synod in Rome. <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

6 October: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day>

8 October: Homeless Sunday. This year's theme is 'love and justice' <https://housingjustice.org.uk/>

8 October: Prisoners Sunday – [Find resources on the PACT website](#)

9 October, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network - Synodality and the Care of Our Common Home. Online meeting for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [Southern Dioceses Environment Network](#)

10 October, 5.30pm: 'Prisoners' Sunday' Mass - Westminster Cathedral. Celebrant Bishop Paul McAleenan.

11 October, 7-8.30pm – Westminster Justice and Peace Parish & Chaplaincy Contacts Meeting. Synodal discussion. Online and at Vaughan House. Details from Colette Joyce (Westminster J & P Co-ordinator) justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk

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16-22 October – Challenge Poverty Week. [Download the Toolkit here](#)

18 October, 2-3.30p.m: Westminster Cathedral Interfaith Group – Chapter 8 “Religions at the service of fraternity in our world.” Monthly discussions on *Fratelli Tutti*, the encyclical on fraternity and social friendship by Pope Francis. Hinsley Room, Morpeth Terrace, SW1 1EN. Contact John Woodhouse woodhousesopten@btinternet.com



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30 November – 12 December: COP28 – United Arab Emirates. [COP28](#)

11 December, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – Advent Prayer and Christmas Party. Monthly online meeting for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [Southern Dioceses Environment Network](#)

13 December, 7 – 8pm: Aid to the Church in Need Christmas Carol Service. The Oratory, Brompton Road, London, SW7 2RP. Celebrate Christ's coming with uplifting traditional music by The Schola Cantorum of the London Oratory School, conducted by Charles Cole with organ and brass ensemble. Free. Collection taken for ACN's work with persecuted Christians. Book [here](#).

19-21 July 2024: National Justice and Peace Network Conference: 'Just Politics'

