



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN

December 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 5 January 2024.

Fr Dominic Robinson SJ writes:

The ever-moving cycle of the Church's Year starts once more as we hear the message of hope in the light of Christ enveloping our darkened world. It would seem there is much to dampen that hope in these dark days of mid-winter. Everything has been put into perspective by the singularly appalling violence in the land of Christ's birth and could lead us to simply despair.

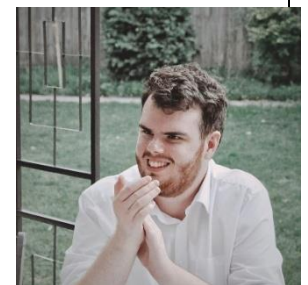
Yet for the Christian disciple we have a certain hope that God's Kingdom of justice and peace will one day prevail. That must be our heartfelt prayer this Advent.

The Justice and Peace network can lead the way at this time of crisis as we are schooled through the treasure of Catholic Social Teaching in the search for a lasting peace, which is never achieved without justice. The voice of so many advocating for this peace is a vital prophetic voice which, like the great Advent voice of John the Baptist, proclaims the dawning of a new horizon of hope. [More](#)

James Holland writes:

Hello! My name is James, and I have recently taken over from Jon Dal Din as the Coordinator of Westminster Interfaith. I'm delighted to have been appointed and I am very much looking forward to meeting some of you in the coming months.

Before joining Westminster Interfaith, I worked for 3 years as Lay Chaplain at St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College, in North Kensington. My diocesan email is jamesholland@rcdow.org.uk - please do get in touch, even if it is just to say hello!



*James Holland
Westminster Interfaith
Co-ordinator*

At time of writing, it is the end of Interfaith Week, and I spent yesterday at a Parliamentary event with the All Faiths Network. Here, the most moving testament to the importance of dialogue was the warmth with which the Muslim representative spoke about the Rabbi, who this year hosted an Iftar in his synagogue.

In a world where we are so often defined in opposition to one another, this subtle embrace was more powerful than any of the other words spoken. As Catholics, we have a role in this conflict, and that is to **pray** for peace and to promote **dialogue**. Echoing the words from our fellow Christians at Evensong, we might pray:

*Give peace in our time, O Lord,
for there is none other that fights for us, but you, O God. Amen*



DIARY OF EVENTS

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

2 December, 2-4pm: Pax Christi Advent Service - Holy Apostles, Pimlico. Followed by Alternative Christmas Market with Fairtrade and Palestinian goods, crafts and gifts. [Pax Christi](#)

5 December, 7pm: PACT Carol Service. Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington. Catholic Bishop Richard Moth and Anglican Bishop Rachel Treweek co-presiding. [PACT](#)

9 December: CAFOD's Nativity Fun Run is back! Clapham Common. Walk, run, roll or stroll our 5km route with a difference. Come along to for lots of fun activities, dance warm-ups and a Christmas Choir. [Sign up here with CAFOD](#)

9 December: Day of Action for COP28 – [Register for CAFOD Action](#)

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](#)

14 December, 7.30pm: Friends of the Holy Land Christmas Concert. Our Lady of Victories Church, 235a Kensington High Street, London, W8 6SA. With the London Male Voice Welsh Choir. Tickets £30 <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Event/christmas-concert-2023>

15 December, 7pm: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Advent Service. Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, 114 Mount St, London, W1K 3AH. [JRS Website](#) Also livestreamed: <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>

18 December, 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

14 January 2024: Peace Sunday – Theme: “Artificial Intelligence and Peace”. Pope Francis calls for an open dialogue on the meaning of new technologies. [Pope's Peace Sunday message](#)

15 January, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – Feedback from COP28. With Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy, CAFOD. 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](#)

28 January 2024: Racial Justice Sunday. [More details will be published here](#)

19-21 July 2024: National Justice and Peace Network Conference - ‘Just Politics’ [NJPN](#)