



JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN JULY 2020

Welcome to the e-Bulletin from the Westminster Justice and Peace Commission.

To contact us please email justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk. The deadline for the next e-Bulletin is 14th August 2020.

Colette, Westminster Justice and Peace Co-ordinator, writes:

One of the most powerful experiences for me in the last couple of months was attending the first Black Lives Matter rally in Trafalgar Square, following the death of George Floyd, and joining the emotional yet peaceful witness of hundreds of people, mostly young adults from many different ethnic backgrounds, chanting 'I can't breathe,' 'Say their names,' and taking a knee together.

Racial justice has been an important theme for the Justice & Peace movement for many decades and yet black people in our Church and society are telling us that we are still a very long way from removing the scourge of racism. Some of its more overt features may be weakening, but structural conditioning and expectations, based on perceptions of skin colour, remain deeply ingrained, despite the individual successes of many more men and women from BAME backgrounds. The nastier elements of the twin legacies of African enslavement and imperial colonialism extend long reach into the current century and are proving difficult to eradicate.

However, the murder of one man, in one country, by one officer of the law, captured on camera by one teenager, may have marked a turning point from which there is no going back. The Diocesan Communications Department has produced a video testimony from four black Catholics, alongside the Cardinal, that all are invited to watch, which we hope will open up an on-going conversation, beginning with our webinar 'A Catholic Response to George Floyd and Black Lives Matter' on Friday 24th July at 7.30pm.



Video Link: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/being-black-and-catholic/>

Colette writes: "In this time of global lockdown, responding to online petitions is one way to show support for the causes that matter to you."

Recommended petitions this month:

[CAFOD Coronavirus Petition to the Prime Minister](#)

- ask him to make any vaccine developed in the UK available worldwide, cancel debt payments in developing countries and promote a fair international recovery plan.

[Jubilee Debt Campaign](#) – Urge the Chancellor to cancel or restructure the debt of developing countries at the G20 **this weekend**.

CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Weds 22nd July 6pm: Mass Online for CAFOD friends and supporters worldwide. [Register](#)

Novena to St Francis: use for 9 days at any time! Video prayers for a world under threat. Nine short reflections asking St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Canticle of the Sun. [Novena](#)



DIARY OF EVENTS 2020

23rd July: Caritas Westminster and the Irish Chaplaincy – Supporting Gypsy, Roma and Travelling Communities during COVID19 and beyond - 3.00-5.00pm. Register from [Website](#)

24th July: A Catholic Response to George Floyd and Black Lives Matter – Online Zoom Webinar - 7.30-8.30pm. The death of George Floyd, recorded on 8 minutes and 46 seconds of video, has shocked people everywhere and prompted protests against racial injustice and discrimination across the globe. How do we respond as a diverse and multicultural Catholic community in the Diocese of Westminster committed to racial justice and to protecting the innate dignity of every human being? Guest speakers Baroness Scotland (London, UK) and Leslye Colvin (Alabama, USA) will guide us in a reflection on our responses and what action to take. Hosted by Westminster Justice & Peace Commission.

30th July: Pax Christi, Catholic Nonviolence Initiative – Spreading the word and the vision - 5.30-7.00pm. An event led by Pat Gaffney. Come and learn more about the Initiative. Book by email or online from [website](#)

6th August: 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima

6th August: Pax Christi - Witness outside Westminster Cathedral 10.00-11.30am, a silent, outdoor, socially-distanced presence. If you can safely join us, please come and stand in silence for a while. The plaza space is large so you will be able to maintain a distance. You might like to bring a candle, some flowers, or a sign, but just to be present will be enough.

9th August: 75th Anniversary of the Bombing of Nagasaki

9th August: Pax Christi - Witness outside Westminster Cathedral 10.00-11.30am, a silent, outdoor, socially-distanced presence. If you can safely join us, please come and stand in silence for a while. The plaza space is large so you will be able to maintain a distance. You might like to bring a candle, some flowers, or a sign, but just to be present will be enough.

6th – 9th August: Pax Christi – Hiroshima and Nagasaki Online Liturgy 8.00am every morning. Email Pax Christi for the Zoom link: info@paxchristi.org.uk. [website](#)

1st September – 4th October: Season of Creation - an ecumenical initiative uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home from the start of September until the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

[*NEW – Westminster Justice & Peace / Season of Creation Resources Webpage*](#)

Sunday 6th September - Day for Creation & start of [Climate Sundays](#).

26th September: 'People not Walls' Roadshow - St Paul's Church, Maison Dieu Road, Dover - further details to be released nearer the date. (*Postponed from March.*)

15th November – World Day of the Poor.