

PILGRIMAGE FOR THE PLANET

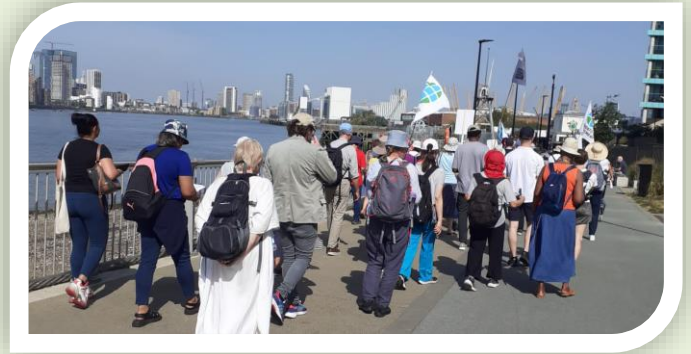
The Season of Creation is celebrated by Christians throughout the world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of St. Francis).

The 2023 theme: ***Let Justice and Peace Flow...like a Mighty River*** gives inspiration with involvement in Caring for our Common Home.

On Saturday 9 September, Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, Srs Esther Shin, Ellen Maseve and Monica Whelan were part of the Pilgrimage for the Planet. This event was organized by Sr Kate Midgley, Missionary Sister of St. Columban and Cecilia Bullock, Laudato Si Animator, member of Christian Climate Action and parishioner of St. Paul's Harefield.

Pilgrims were from many local parishes including nine religious Sisters from several Congregations.

More than fifty (50) people participated in the Pilgrimage for the Planet along the Thames River, London. We commenced at Our Lady and St. Catherine's Church, Bow, London with a time of prayerful reflection and a blessing from Fr Howard James, Parish Priest.



Our invitation to walk the pilgrimage was to be open to the beauty of Creation as we reflected on Creation's Cry, Creation's Call and Creation's Song. We commenced at Cutty Sark, Greenwich and paused at significant places including: *Crowley's Wharf *Greenwich Power Station *Tidal terraces/Reed beds * Ecology Park, Greenwich Peninsula.

This time of pilgrimage was also shared with people from the Chinese Catholic Community, Missionary Sister of Africa, Sister of the Holy Cross, Carmelite Sister, Fr Richard Nesbitt, and a visiting seminarian from Nigeria as well as parishioners from White City. At the Thames Barrier we were joined by another

pilgrimage group from Christian Climate Action coordinated by Barbara Wilson as well as five Buddhists.

Throughout the pilgrimage the time of prayer and reflection allowed us to focus on the following ***Message from Pope Francis on the Season of Creation 2023:***

Here, immersed in creation, we can also sense another beating: the maternal heartbeat of the earth. Just as the hearts of babies in the womb beat in harmony with those of their mothers, so to grow as people, we need to harmonise our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life.

Being on Pilgrimage for the Planet, this experience had invited us all to a time of renewal of mind, spirit, community as we walked the journey along the Thames River, experiencing the beauty of Creation.

Monica Whelan LCM