

How does Climate link with our faith?

Together we've got the power to do something amazing...



Nature reveals God to us. The world is a gift from God and its future is intimately bound up with our own lives and choices. Climate change not only threatens the natural world, but also the lives and livelihoods of our global neighbours, especially the world's

poorest communities. Our faith calls us to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people who are poor. So doing our bit to tackle climate change is a fundamental part of expressing our faith.

Let's take some time this Lent to Pray about Our Climate. These Prayers of Intercession may help:

We pray for world leaders: that they may act to protect God's creation and ensure all people have equal access to its gifts.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for those affected by storms, floods and droughts: that through God's grace we may work together to help rebuild lives and communities, and prepare for future disasters.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our parish community: that by caring for God's creation locally we may share in the joys, hopes, griefs and anxieties of our global family suffering from floods, droughts and storms.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the Church around the world: that the Spirit may inspire us to continue to work together for the good of all and of each individual, sharing in the gifts of God's creation.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world, especially those living in poverty: may God help us to give the support they need to change their lives for the better.



Adapted from Cafod Climate Campaign resources for St Wilfrid's Parish by members of the St Wilfrid's Faith & Justice Group. Lent 2015



Why is St Wilfrid's Parish supporting CAFOD's *One Climate, One World* campaign:



It's part of our faith. "Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." Pope Francis.

It's a way of tackling poverty. "(The changing climate) has created unpredictable droughts as well as heavy rains, which cause mud slides. People can't grow crops and are left hungry." Fr Ignacio Blasco, parish priest of Santa Maria Chiquimula, Guatemala



It's part of loving our neighbours. "The changing climate means people need to work together. It's important to support each other and be a neighbour." Sinteyo Legei, mother of five and member of a women's co-operative in Isiolo diocese, Kenya

It's a matter of justice. "Earth at its beginning was for all in common, it was meant for rich and poor alike." St Ambrose of Milan.

It's urgent. With a 2-3 degree temperature rise possible over the next 20 years, up to 200 million people will be at risk of hunger.



It's an important opportunity. One in five of the world's population have no access to energy – yet extending sustainable energy such as solar power could light and heat schools, keep clinics open and improve women's health in poor communities.

It's a way of working together with others. CAFOD's part of The Climate Coalition, a network of over 100 organisations and their supporters, including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Progressio.

Why not find out more?

Visit cafod.org.uk/campaign



Why is CAFOD campaigning on climate?

Climate is the single biggest threat to reducing poverty. Whether it is typhoons or floods destroying entire communities, damaging homes and property or unpredictable seasons for farmers leading to harvests growing smaller or failing, leaving millions hungry, climate change is undoing years of our work together to improve people's lives.

If CAFOD is serious about tackling poverty, we need to take climate change seriously. The world's poorest people are already being hit hardest by climate extremes. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) project that climate change is expected to significantly increase and intensify extreme climatic events, putting those most vulnerable at even greater risk.

This coming week is Climate Week.

Can we, here in St Wilfrid's Parish, make a difference?



How can I, as part of St Wilfrid's Parish, make a difference?

Although each change we make might seem small in itself, together it all adds up. It's a sign that we want a much bigger change, and our actions can encourage others to get involved. It also strengthens our campaigning. If we are calling on politicians to cut emissions and support sustainable energy, then our words will be much stronger if we commit to achieving the same goals in our own lives. . By committing to live more sustainably ourselves we can demonstrate our support for people living in poverty, living with climate extremes and expected to be significantly adversely impacted by climate change.

Personal commitments come in all shapes and sizes. You could get an energy monitor, turn down your heating or improve insulation, or simply tell someone else about CAFOD's campaign.

Here's a few things you might consider:

Do I leave my appliances on standby?

Do I turn off unnecessary lights, could I switch to a green energy supplier, ie ecotricity?

Could I be the parish contact to organise car sharing to Mass?

Could I manage without my car one day a week?

Can I reuse rather than recycle, recycle rather than throwaway?

Many fast on the first day of the month to show solidarity with creation. Could I do this, or at least go meat free for one day?

Alternatively have a look on Cafod's website at cafod.org.uk/campaign for more ideas on how to care for creation and live more sustainably.



What's CAFOD's campaign asking for?

One Climate, One World calls on all UK party leaders to protect the most vulnerable people from dangerous climate change and to support the transition from polluting fossil fuels to sustainable energy for all.

At the same time it will invite each of us as individuals to commit to playing our own part by taking action and living as sustainably as we can. By doing this we're showing politicians how much we care and that we expect them to act too.

Why energy?

The global energy system – power and transport - is currently responsible for over 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions, rising to over 80% in developed countries like the UK. This makes it the global energy sector a major contributor to climate change. Globally, energy emissions are set to double by 2030 if we keep up our current demand for energy continues as demand for countries that are industrialising rises too.



So please sign the action card *(they are at the back of the church)* and put it in the box.



They'll be sent back to CAFOD who will tell party leaders in the run up to the general election how many people in our parish want them to act. If you have more time why not email the election candidates.

The changing climate is a serious problem; Remember the Good Samaritan Parable: we can't continue walking on the other side of the road ignoring those who need our help most. It's our time to become better neighbours.