



PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

No 24 - July 2023

The Justice and Peace Group meets to *pray*, educate ourselves, and to raise awareness that we may all act on Catholic Social Teaching. You are welcome to join us. We meet at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in PNL Centre Redhill. Details from pnljandp@gmail.com

PLASTIC WASTE - Our Parish Charity with Practical Action

Support for the Parish Charity is well underway. Thanks to the parishioners in our three churches recent plant sales raised £425 which has already been sent on to Practical Action to help further their waste management programme in **Faridpur, Bangladesh**.

Bangladesh is facing a serious waste management issue because its own population generates about 800,000 tons of plastic waste per year, along with much rubbish shipped to its shores from wealthier countries. With frequent urban migration and ever-growing informal settlements the mountains of rubbish are increasing. The Bangladeshi local authorities do not have the money to provide adequate waste services. Informal waste workers are poorly paid, unrecognised within society and subject to unhygienic, dangerous conditions and discrimination.



Without suitable disposal means, plastic waste blocks up drainage systems, thus polluting neighbourhoods and creating health risks. As plastic is not biodegradable it finds its way into the river and eventually the Indian Ocean, where it is a significant and long-term threat to marine life.

The process



Floating waste in the Padma River is first gathered together so that it can be sorted. Any rescued rubbish that can be recycled mechanically or composted is sent to respective processing plants. The remaining low-value plastic waste, usually dumped in landfill sites, can then be treated using a pyrolysis process. It is transformed into a clean, high-grade oil used for transportation in ships and black carbon as used in print cartridges. The waste from the river is combined with flimsy plastics collected from the town itself, thus cleaning up the local communities. Practical Action supports existing waste workers improving their incomes and working conditions.

[Practical Action](#) is working in partnership with two technical, environmental clean-up companies, [River Recycle](#) and the [Lamor Foundation](#), the [Society Development Committee](#), a local community organisation based in Faridpur and with support from **Danida**, the Danish Department for international development.



Livesimply

The Live Simply Award is an opportunity for Catholic communities to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si to *“work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God entrusted to us”*

The Live Simply Award is earned by communities which show how they have been living -

- Simply
- In solidarity with people in poverty
- Sustainably with creation

It celebrates what we have already done and will inspire us to do more. It will help us to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

Father Tony has submitted a plan on behalf of the parish which comprises our application for the award . In the plan three main actions have been outlined which all involve smaller actions.

Every member of the parish, of all ages, can be involved on a personal and/or communal basis.

The main actions are:

Practical Action support for the Faridpur plastic pollution project, which inspires us to be aware of our own plastic usage and efforts to reduce it.

Laudato Si Initiative – care for the community, work for refugees, support of food banks, improvement of our environment, Fairtrade.

CAFOD support – Fast Days and collections, Fix the Food System.

When we are ready CAFOD will organise two assessors to visit the parish to hear about what we have been doing and to celebrate our achievements .

Together we can become a Live Simply Award Parish.

THE REDHILL FOODBANK AT ST MATTHEW'S



PRIORITY LIST

vegetarian meals, macaroni cheese, tinned meat, baked beans, tinned spaghetti, all soups, cereals, porridge oats, pasta, rice, instant rice, packet meals (pasta & rice), coffee, milk, squash, sweetcorn, tinned fruit, pasta sauces, cooking sauces.

PLEASE NO perishable food, out-of-date food, alcohol or medicines.

GETTING LOW

meat meals, mash, custard, beans and pulses, biscuits, and tins of fish, carrots, tomatoes.

Please avoid giving items that aren't on the above list.

www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

PNL has applied to become a Fairtrade Parish, formerly the separate parishes were working towards Fairtrade status, but from now on we will be working towards :

- ◇ Using Fairtrade tea and coffee for ALL meetings for which we have responsibility;
- ◇ Moving forward on using other Fairtrade products;
- ◇ Promoting Fairtrade during Fairtrade fortnight and through other activities

What is Fairtrade?



Fairtrade is a system that ensures better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. The Fairtrade Foundation certifies products where companies pay locally negotiated fair and sustainable minimum prices, and meet social, economic and environmental standards. In addition to a minimum price (paid if the market price is lower), a further premium is invested in social, environmental and economic developmental projects, decided upon democratically by a committee of producers or workers. There must also be continuous improvements to develop farmers' organisations or workers' situations.

Why Fairtrade?

Conventional trade generally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. These producers may have poor access to markets and limited information about prices and market needs, so they often get very low prices. Fairtrade gives a better price as well as a premium to help an organisation or community grow. Fairtrade organisations also give training and market research advice to help producers develop and sell new Fairtrade products – and invest in opportunities to start Fairtrade for new products and new producers.

Fairtrade products have to meet minimum conditions for workers. Buying Fairtrade chocolate is important, for example, because some cocoa farmers use forced child labour in cocoa production. **Fairtrade cocoa producers are strictly monitored on this – so if you want to ensure that your chocolate treats are not encouraging child slavery, buy Fairtrade chocolate!**

www.fairtrade.org.uk

LAUDATO SI'

Caring for Our Common Home

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience”

– Pope Francis



Following ‘The Letter’ film screenings there have been many suggestions that we can try.

- ◆ walking/cycling/car-sharing to come to Mass at the weekends
- ◆ reducing consumption of meat and dairy products
- ◆ getting involved in caring for our churches environment both outdoors and indoors – volunteers who are always needed!
- ◆ repairing, recycling, reusing, re-purposing in our homes and schools/work places
- ◆ reducing the use of/purchase of items using single use plastics
- ◆ Joining in our parish’s efforts to become a CAFOD Live Simply parish
- ◆ Exploring ways of engaging with peaceful campaigns/protests like The Big One which several parishioners joined in April this year
- ◆ sharing your other ideas at pnljandp@gmail.com

There is another chance to come and see **‘The Letter’ on Thursday 6th July 7-9pm** at St Joseph’s parish centre.

The World Day of Prayer for Creation is on 1st September, the first day of the ecumenical Season of Creation which runs until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th with the theme: “Let Justice and Peace flow like a river”.

laudatosimovement.org

FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM



Solidarity with Small farmers

Our global food system is broken. One tenth of the world go hungry whilst one third of all food produced is wasted and giant corporations make huge profits. The way we produce food damages our planet too. Many of the small-scale farmers are pushing for alternatives that are good for people and planet. It's vital for us to support them in order to fix the global food system.

CAFOD works with small farmers around the world who produce lots of the world's food. They have freely used and shared their own seeds for hundreds of years. Now many of them are facing a huge problem as laws are being passed to limit what they are allowed to do with their own seeds, giving them little choice but to buy more expensive seeds from large companies. These laws make it even harder for small farmers and their families to produce enough food.

Ahead of the World Bank's Annual Meeting this autumn, CAFOD is urging parishes to sign a letter asking the bank to protect the rights of small farmers to use and share their own seeds.

The giant letter will be available for all to sign at the Parish Mass on 16 July, on the J & P table.

"It is not enough to balance, in the medium term, the protection of nature with financial gain, or the preservation of the environment with progress. [...] Put simply, it is a matter of redefining our notion of progress. A technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si

More on CAFOD's website about Fixing the Food System: cafod.org.uk/campaign/fix-the-food-system

Some facts about plastic waste

500 billion plastic bottles are produced globally every year,

There are more than **150 million tons** of plastic waste in the ocean.

By 2050, ocean plastics **will likely overtake** the amount of fish.

Last year we generated more than **500 million tons** of plastic waste, **900% more** than in 1980.

Single-use plastics have an average useful life of **12- 15 minutes** and can take up to 500 years to disintegrate.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE OUR INDIVIDUAL PLASTIC USAGE?

- * Avoid single-use plastics such as plastic straws, plates and cutlery. Use metal and bamboo alternatives, or biodegradable plastics.
- * Refill containers with pasta, cereal, rice, oil, shampoo, washing up liquid, nuts etc (New Leaf, Woodhatch) or buy in bulk.
- * Rethink food storage - instead of using plastic bags, wrap and storage containers use jars or glass containers or a bento box.
- * Take a cloth bag when you go shopping and reuse plastic bags.
- * Buy "loosely sold" locally grown fruit and vegetables.
- * If you do use plastics, put plastic waste in the correct recycling container and in accordance with local recycling services
- * Avoid using cosmetics that use microplastics.
- * Buy less clothing, and only wash clothes only when necessary - a single wash can cause 700 000 bits of microplastics to be released into the environment.
- * Buy "natural" fabrics like cotton, hemp and linen. Processing these materials uses far less water than synthetic fabrics like polyester and nylon, and they will last longer
- * Use a refillable waterbottle and carry a reusable coffee/tea mug
- * Reduce cleaning products - use a mixture of 1 part vinegar to 3 parts water as an all-purpose surface cleaner.
- * Try washable natural beeswax coated cloth wraps or silicone lids
- * Compost food waste to avoid plastic bin bags

More here: friendsoftheearth.uk/plastics