

Climate Justice Candle Church Presentation 16/11/19

We have a special visitor to our church in Newcastle this week. The Climate Justice Candle has travelled all around Ireland since November 2015. It represents the hopes and aspirations of all Irish people regarding Climate Change and Climate Justice

We are delighted to welcome it to our beautiful Parish of Maghera.

Climate Change demands that we re-examine our relationship with the rest of creation and with our common home Planet Earth.

Do we tread lightly on the earth as Jesus did or do we use way more than our fair share of its resources?

Pope Francis' writes in Laudato Si, his letter "On Care for our Common Home"

St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

**Climate change disproportionately affects the poor.
It's the poor people of the world who will suffer most
when we overuse the planet's resources.**

Do you have enough stuff? How much stuff is enough?

A poem by American spiritual author Kent Nerburn

“Do we really need more than this?

To honor the dawn.

To visit a garden.

To talk to a friend.

To contemplate a cloud.

To cherish a meal.

To bow our heads before the mystery of the day.”

**Climate Change will affect the next generations even
more than us.**

**We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We
Borrow It from Our Children**

**16 year old Swedish school girl and Climate Activist
Greta Thunberg proclaimed in January of this year at the
World Economic Forum:**

"I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is."

(This is an excerpt from a poem by Drew Dellinger)

What did you do once you knew?

**“It’s 3:23 in the morning and I’m awake... because my
great great grandchildren won’t let me sleep.**

**My great great grandchildren ask me in dreams,
What did you do while the planet was plundered?
What did you do when the earth was unraveling?
surely you did something ?...**

**When the seasons started failing?
surely you did something?**

**As the mammals, reptiles, and birds were all dying?
surely you did something?**

**Did you fill the streets with protest when democracy was
stolen?**

What did you do once you knew?”

What CAN we do about Climate Change?

**How do we provide enough energy and food to sustain
the amazing eco systems of our common home so that
all life may thrive on this beautiful Blue Planet?**

American Cosmologist Brian Schwimme tells us at the end of his epic documentary "Journey of the Universe:"

"Awe and Wonder will lead us"

The words "awe" and "wonder" are employed at least fourteen times in the pope's encyclical Laudato Si... writes Creation Theologian Matthew Fox....without awe the universe becomes a marketplace for us, the pope teaches that "if we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder ... our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters."

So long as we are in touch with "wonder and awe" we recognize a "continuing revelation of the divine" in the smallest and largest forms within nature.

We must first honor and cherish all creation as an expression or mirror of the Divine Beauty.

"This, then, is salvation, when we marvel at the beauty of created things and praise the beautiful providence of their Creator," wrote Meister Eckhart.

Take some time to walk around our Eco Stations of the Cross (In Our lady of the assumption church in Newcastle). Enjoy the beautiful local nature photographs and the inspirational quotations on the walls.

The Irish Climate Justice Candle (here today), invites us to admire and contemplate, in Awe and Wonder, a leaf in our garden, a red squirrel or a river in Tollymore Forest Park or the Mountains of Mourne sweeping down to the sea.

After your contemplation, plan your actions, enjoy your ecological conversion of heart and your new environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Climate Justice begins with you and together we can make a huge difference for the good!

Finbarr Keaveney 16/11/2019