



Eco Congregation Ireland

Annual Review 2022

ECI GOLD Awards

Carlow Union of Parishes ECI Award and Gold Award



Carlow Union of Parishes were delighted to receive two awards for their environmental work: the ECI Award and the ECI Gold Award! This is in recognition of all the work that has happened in the grounds of their three places of worship to make them welcoming to all God's creatures. The presentation of the awards by the chairperson of ECI, Canon Andrew Orr, took place on Sunday 6th February, Plough Sunday in St. Mary's Church, Carlow.

St Joseph the Artisan Church, Bonnybrook



On Sunday 4th December 2022, St Joseph the Artisan Church, Bonnybrook was awarded its Gold Award. It was a joyous occasion for all. Archbishop Farrell and Fran Brady, Quaker ECI rep were present at the liturgy.

ECI Awards

Cathedral Family of Parishes, Cork

At the Palm Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday 9th April, the Cathedral Family of Parishes Climate Justice Group celebrated the reception of the ECI Award from Bishop Fintan. Presenting the award, Bishop Fintan congratulated the team in the Cathedral and acknowledged the work done in all areas, environmental, spiritual, practical, community and global. Sr. Catherine Brennan, Catholic Representative on the ECI Committee, praised the good work of the group and singled out the renewable energy work in the churches as one of the best in the country and a model for all parishes.



Kirkinriola Parish Ballymena

Kirkinriola Parish Ballymena was awarded an ECI Award to acknowledge all the work the parish has undertaken towards Care for Creation, both locally with new pollinator gardens and home grown vegetables on church and parish grounds, wildlife habitat, Laudato Si notice boards and zoom lectures.



They also supported social justice projects in southern hemisphere countries. Kirkinriola is the first Catholic parish in Northern Ireland to receive this award.

An Gáirdín, Portumna

On Sunday 2nd October An Gáirdín were presented with their ECI Award. They marked the event by unveiling a Mural of the Universe Story. The mural was painted by artist Izabela Campbell. Fr Brian Grogan SJ presented the ECI Award and congratulated An Gáirdín for their 30 years of journeying towards rediscovering their place in the whole community of life and for their commitment to inviting others into this vision.



Climate Justice Candles 2022

The four Eco-Congregation Ireland Climate Justice Candles covering each of the four provinces of Ireland, have been weaving their ecumenical and climate justice journeys around Ireland in 2022. After a break due to the pandemic, the physical Climate Justice Candles started their journey again and proved to be a popular focus for worship amongst Christians of all traditions and a resource for awareness-raising of climate change and its impact on our world. Inspirational stories of churches that hosted the Climate Justice Candles in 2022, in many different and creative ways include:



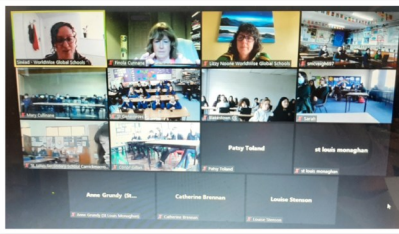
Togher Parish, Co Louth



**Mercy International Association
3 visits**



**St Michael & St John Church,
Cloughjordan**



**Annual Conference of the St. Louis
Schools' Network**



St Malachy's, Coleraine



**Methodist Church, Cloughjordan and
Methodist Local Preachers Meeting**



St Michael's Church, Enniskillen



**St Kieran's,
Cloughjordan**



**St Francis Xavier Church, Gardiner
Street Parish, Dublin**



**Tullamore Union,
Church of Ireland Parishes**

**The following also hosted the ECI
Climate Justice Candle in 2022:**

- Carrigrohane Union of Parishes
- St George's Parish, Belfast
- Knock Shrine



Bryansford Sacred Garden Official Opening, Co Down



Cork Methodist Church



Castlebar Parish



Ireland Yearly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends, Belfast



Donagh Group of Parishes



Holy Family Parish, Kill of the Grange



Church of The Immaculate Conception, Kanturk, Co Cork



St Patrick's Church, Culfeightrin Parish, North Antrim



Christ Church, Delgany



Bunclody Union of Parishes, Co Wexford

Certificates Awarded by Eco-Congregation Ireland in 2022

The ECI Committee issues two certificates in the earlier stages of the journey towards the final Eco-Congregation Ireland Award marking stages on the way - the **Awareness Certificate** and the **Endeavour Certificate**.

In 2022 the following were awarded certificates:

Awareness Certificate:

- Holy Trinity Parish, Killiney
- St Malachy's Church, Coleraine
- The Grouped Parishes of Sandford and St Philip's, Milltown



Endeavour Certificate:

- Parish of Maghera, Newcastle, Co Down
- Springfield Cluster of Parishes: Springfield, Fettercairn, Brookfield and Jobstown
- Church of St Therese, Mount Merrion, Dublin
- Castlebar Parish
- Enniscorthy and Monart Union
- Church of the Immaculate Conception, Roundfort/ Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Robeen/St. Joseph's Church, Carras, Co Mayo
- Holy Trinity Parish, Killiney

ECI Leinster Online Gathering



On Saturday 12th February 2022 Eco-Congregation Ireland held its second regional online gathering. This gathering brought together friends from across the Leinster region. You can now watch this online event on the [ECI YouTube channel here](#).

SAGE: Shankill Action for a Green Earth receives Roman Juriga Award

Sunday 19th June 2022 was a great day for SAGE! Archbishop Dermot Farrell visited St. Anne's Parish for the 10.00am Mass in order to present SAGE with their Gold Award from Eco-Congregation Ireland. SAGE had been awarded the Gold Award in 2021 but due to Covid it had not been possible to find a day for the presentation until then. On the same day the Archbishop presented SAGE with the plaque and certificate of the Roman Juriga Award from the European Christian Environmental Network.



Eco Congregation Ireland

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Two Retirements from the ECI committee

Two church representatives on the ECI Committee stepped down in 2022.



Joe Furphy, Presbyterian Church in Ireland rep, was one of the founding members of Eco-Congregation

Ireland. A civil servant in the Department of the Environment, he worked and volunteered in the conservation movement for over 60 years. He is an active member of the Ulster Wildlife Trust and several other nature organisations. He worked very hard to promote creation care in the Presbyterian Church, and the fruits of his work have been shown in the congregations which have joined us and gone on to receive awards. Thank you Joe for all your hard work and enjoy your retirement!



Steven Johnston also stepped down as Methodist rep on the ECI committee. He joined us in 2016 and worked hard to spread the

word about ECI in Methodist congregations north and south. Again we wish to say a huge thank you to him and wish him well in the future.

Chairperson's Remarks Canon Andrew Orr

Thankfully, congregations across the Island of Ireland were able to resume a full range of activities, and particularly eco activities in 2022.



Unfortunately, 2022 was also a year of disappointments on the international front, after a brief slow down, fossil fuel came roaring back and biodiversity loss accelerated. The war in Ukraine and its subsequent economic effects showed the folly of depending on fossil fuels often sourced from autocratic dictators. All the more so in Ireland when we are in one of the windiest places on the planet!

Here in Eco-Congregation Ireland, we continue to be a focus for those who want to make a real difference in their local area and among their own congregations: grass roots movements for change. You will read stories of hope in this report, and we have heard those stories shared in our wonderful national and regional zoom meetings held throughout 2022. The diversity of ideas, plans and practical actions in so many churches is inspiring. Thank you to all those of you working away in your own corners of our island. Thank you too to our hard working committee for all they do in encouraging the member churches of their own denominations, and beyond.

As St. Francis said "Praise be to you our God, for our sister Earth".

Finances

Opening Balance	€12,891.20		
INCOME:		EXPENDITURE:	
Church subscriptions		Salary	€7,200.00
Church of Ireland	€5,000.00	Printing	€125.00
Roman Catholic		Awards	€645.98
Presbyterian	€685.14	Bank charges	€48.60
Quaker		Admin Officer paid forward	€1,200.00
Talks	€150.00	Admin Officer Expenses	€76.80
Individual Congregations	€2,396.70	Total Expenditure:	€9,296.38
Interest	€0.04		
Total Income:	€8,231.88	Surplus/Loss	-€1,064.50
		Closing Balance:	€11,826.70