

**Fr. Michael Mc Cabe Saturday Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Joseph's Parish Church**

Today our liturgy focuses on Care for our Common Home with the theme 'Shine a Light on climate justice'.

Seven years ago in Dublin at an Ecumenical Prayer Service, a Climate Justice Candle was commissioned, to shine as a beacon of hope for all of Creation.

Since then the Climate Justice Candle has journeyed around Ireland from parishes to community groups to schools to congregations.

Through the symbol of the Climate Justice candle Christians everywhere are called to reflect on the beauty of God's world and to consider what practical steps can be taken to prevent further damage to the environment. Also, to pray for our wounded planet, for people in the developing world already affected by climate change and for future generations.

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Last week Fr. Jerome received the Climate Justice Candle from Pastor Matt Gould from the Carraig Centre in Ballincollig which we will now host in our parish as part of a week of prayer on climate justice.

You are invited to consider the integral relationship between rest for the earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living.

I now invite Fr. Jerome to bring forward the lighted justice candle and place it in our Creation space.

(Pause)

Let us pray,  
God of life and God of light may the light of this candle be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God's precious gift of creation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Bless the candle with Holy Water.

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**Penitential rite:**

God of grace, forgive us in our brokenness: when we have taken too much from the earth.

Lord have mercy

Creator God, forgive us for the times when we have not spoken out against greed and destruction.

Christ have mercy

Gracious God, forgive us for the times when we have allowed our most vulnerable neighbours to be harmed.

Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins

and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

Prayers of the faithful .....

**All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.**

Creator God, earth and air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you: have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide, and to bear the cost of change. Forgive our past mistakes and send us your Spirit, with wisdom in present controversies and vision for the future to which you call us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.**

**All God of life and God of light. We bring this climate justice candle of hope, that it might be a beacon of light for us as we seek a new relationship with your creation. May we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with you. AMEN**

***God of All Life, we give thanks for Earth, our common home, and ask forgiveness for all the unreasonable demands we have made on it. As our Earth, its many peoples, its oceans, wild life and ecosystems are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centered on ourselves, but on all you have created. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.***

Almighty God, you created the world and gave it into our care so that, in obedience to you we might serve all people:  
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom,  
and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all;

that, trusting in your bounty, all people may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

Join Season of Creation:

We hope that this Season of Creation renews and unites us by the one Baptism and call to care

for our common home.