

Shine a Light on Climate Justice



Thank you for taking part in our 'Shine a Light on Climate Justice' initiative, which we hope will see a different church, parish, meeting or study group focus on climate justice for a week over the course of a year. That will be 52 communities praying for climate justice in the next 12 months!

The challenge of climate justice is huge; at times it seems quite simply overwhelming. As we send our candle on its journey, on the eve of the critical COP21 UN Climate Summit, we hope and pray that world leaders will make the strong and legally-binding agreement that is crucial at this critical time and that they – and we – will have the courage to follow through in the months and years ahead.

We can all play our part – as individuals and as communities. By taking action at home and by joining in global climate initiatives, we can speak truth to power. It is crucial that action is taken and that it is taken NOW – for the millions of climate refugees already suffering as a direct result of climate change, for future generations and for the whole of Creation.

We send out the candle in faith and in hope and look forward to receiving updates as it makes its journey around Ireland. Do please write in the notebook the name of your church and the dates you had the candle. Also, a message about the context in which you used the candle and the impact it may have had, or anything else you may wish to share.

We would encourage you to take a photo and to send it to local papers. We can provide a template press release for this purpose and, of course, we would love to see your photos too!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us any time you have a query, would like further information or support, or would like to invite a guest speaker.

With warmest blessings,

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How to use this climate justice pack

We hope that you will find this resource pack a helpful tool as you focus on climate justice and the environment.

There are different ways you can use the pack. You might choose to use the service of prayer and reflection the way that it is, you may prefer to adapt it to suit your own church, or you may wish simply to include some of the prayers in your regular Mass/church service.

As well as a service of prayer and reflection and intercessory prayers, the pack also contains a printout of our new resource, which you may find useful. **Climate Change – Can I Make a Difference?** includes a theological response to climate change, a selection of prayers and tips for cutting carbon emissions. It also includes quotes – both inspirational and challenging - from such high profile people as Mary Robinson, Columban eco-theologian Fr Seán McDonagh SCC, Monsignor Dermot Lane of the Mater Dei Institute, Anglican vicar and BBC TV presenter Rev Peter Owen-Jones, Alex Hill of the Met Office and environmentalists Éanna Ní Lamhna and Gavin Harte – all of whom have spoken at ECI events in the past 10 years of our existence.

The resource, which can be found online at www.ecocongregationireland.com/resources/, has been endorsed by Ireland's leading climate scientist Prof John Sweeney of NUI Maynooth. He says the resource provides "a valuable perspective on the nature and impacts of climate change in an Irish context. On a practical level, it highlights the connection between local action and global consequences".

We also include in this folder a printout of our **church check-list**, which can also be found in the resources section of our website. If you haven't already done so, we would encourage you to download a copy and complete it with a group in your church. It need only take an hour. This can be a helpful exercise as you will find the results will highlight the steps you are already taking to 'green' your church whilst also giving ideas for further steps you could take.



If you don't already include a prayer for the environment in every service/Mass, we hope that taking part in this initiative might encourage you to do so from now on (you might like to photocopy the prayers within this resource before passing it onto the next church).

You can also find further prayers and liturgy on the following websites:

Eco-Congregation Scotland - www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - <https://ctbi.org.uk/category/spirituality-and-reflection/creation-time/>

World Council of Churches - <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation>