

Guardian Angels for Climate Sunday (GACS)

June 2021

" If the fields are parched and the trees are felled, will the rocks cry aloud on their own? "

...these are the words of the song we hope you will hear and take to heart during our Climate Sunday services.

Dear parishioners!

We are confirming that we will be holding our Climate Sunday services on the **26th and 27th** of this month which is in two weeks time. It will be a little different from our regular Sunday service in so much as the prayers and parts of the service will have words expressing thanks for God's creation and our acknowledgment for the need to care for the environment. We hope to invite the ministers of other local churches, as well as invite our local MP Neil Coyle with whom we, as a church group, will have a meeting this coming Thursday.

Many of the other regional churches in our project "Make COP 26 Matter" have already had meetings with their MPs to discuss why and how climate/ environment is relevant to their locality and encouraged them to speak in Parliament and reinforce the preparations for COP26.

We are planning to ask our MP about the air pollution and the new green jobs in context of energy efficiency of houses of our constituency and in Southwark.

Going back to our own parishioners' actions. I can't emphasize enough the benefit of our new church website that presents all the information about Climate Sunday and gives ideas about parish commitments.

CAFOD, in response to Pope Francis call, has produced the whole list of ways individuals and parishes could choose to live more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor. We are including this list on our website in the section "Parish Community", then go to "Climate Sunday".

Also, under the heading "Speak up" it directs you signing of a declaration **Time is Now**. Please take a look and sign if you are comfortable with it.

As you may remember, here in church I have talked about ways to reduce our own emissions and taking even the smallest steps to help the climate. We have talked about reducing of single use plastics and meat consumption. And although the box of ideas was not an overwhelming success, some of you particularly vouched for vegetarian diet and limiting flying. One person said she was no longer using cling film in the kitchen. Another advised to take holidays by train rather than car. Obviously in relation to making a unified pledge as one parish, we cannot tell people what to do or forbid specific behaviours but at the end of the day we can consider or even suggest simpler, **less consumption** lifestyle.

So, I would like to suggest to you the following simple pledge that we might want to include in our Climate Sunday in two weeks time.

Our pledge

Lord of life and giver of hope, we pledge ourselves to care for creation, to reduce our waste, to live sustainably, and to value the rich diversity of life. May your wisdom guide us, that life in all its forms may flourish, and may be faithful in voicing creation's praise. May the commitment we have made this day be matched by our faithful living.

Thank you.

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