



HOLY SPIRIT SOCIAL JUSTICE

FROM THE CHAIR

by Peter Peterson

I'm delighted to say that our first Issue was exceptionally well received. Thank You. Environmental sustainability has now become the key national issue after a harsh summer. For me the nightmare scene of a badly burnt koala desperately trying to escape between burning trees is etched into my memory as a symbol of our massive loss. Now we have the privilege of helping our community recover from this disaster.

Our Parish has got off to a good start with the collection of \$20,000 and now we need to maintain an ongoing commitment when the media furore has died down.

The St Vincent De Paul is making a massive effort and the Parish is staffing two collection tables in the Gungahlin town centre throughout February. Please show your support!

As the Holy Spirit Parish we remember the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si*.

"As Christians we are also called to accept the world as a Sacrament of Communion, the Divine and the human meet in the slightest detail of the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust on our planet."

We do a terrific job in crisis so let's work together in the same way in recovery.

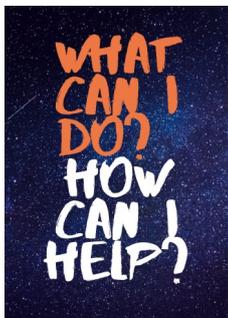
A MESSAGE FROM FR MARK

Instead of our usual relaxed Christmas holidays, these past two months have been marked by anguish, suffering, grief and loss. But they have also been full of strength, resilience and loving fellowship.

Our prayers are always with our fellow Australians and our Parish is also providing practical help. With great generosity of wallet and spirit, we have raised \$20,000 for Disaster Relief. Thank you for reaching out with such kindness and charity.

The questions about our environment and warming climate are confronting and urgent.

The Catholic Church is not being overtly political when it tells us to care for the earth and ALL of God's creation. It is leading us to understand why it is so important and to protect, nurture and repair this world we share. This is an urgent task given to us by Pope Francis, and this Social Justice Bulletin is devoted to the question:



What can I do? How can I help?

I urge everyone to ask themselves this question, educate themselves on the answers and work together as friends, families, schools and the parish community to make a difference.



How Does Climate Change Affect Bushfires

1. A Longer Fire Season
2. Drier Vegetation and Fuel
3. Hotter Temperatures
4. More Lightning

For more information investigate climatecouncil.org.au

CATHOLIC GLOBAL CLIMATE MOVEMENT

by Alison Weeks

St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, looked at life through the wide, powerful lens of ALL creation. Today, over 900 bodies, from large international organisations to local parishes, and thousands of Catholics like you and me have formed the Catholic Global Climate Movement.

This movement works within the Catholic Church to better care for our common home. It's founding document and authority comes from Pope Francis himself, through his encyclical *Laudato Si*.

The Movement is guided by a core set of values:

- They are Catholic. Grounded in faith, driven by hope.
- They are all brothers and sisters, united in faith and care for the earth.
- They are calling for urgent, nimble, ambitious action.
- They see that everything is connected.
- They are "on the way" in their faith and ecological journey.

Its mission is to serve the Catholic family worldwide in achieving climate justice. It is turning Pope Francis' encyclical into action by assisting our own ecological conversion, transforming personal lifestyles and calling for bold public policies.

The Catholic Global Climate Movement promotes lifestyle changes through an Eco-Parish program to reduce the carbon footprint of Catholic Parishes worldwide and to encourage the shift of Catholic investments away from fossil fuels and into renewable energies. It has developed a good range of spiritual and practical parish and public resources which can be used to talk about protecting creation, changing our

lifestyles and promoting change.

It is suitable for individuals, small groups, social justice bodies and schools at all levels. It also has a digital

Find out about the Eco-Parish program and ask the Parish Council to implement it here at Holy Spirit. NOW!

platform to share information and resources.

Join the Catholic Global Climate Movement at: catholicclimatemovement.global/introduction/

For more information or comment: alisonmweeks@bigpond.com

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP OUR PLANET?

by Paul Crowley

Time is not on our side; we must act urgently and genuinely to provide our young people and future generations with hope. Pope Francis has said that the Earth is becoming "a pile of filth". Love is our greatest commandment and that is what we must show for our Earth and all creation.

Even though climate is complex and there are many factors that cause and influence it, there are consistent indicators showing that the warming in our atmosphere is occurring far too quickly for nature to respond. Australia is drier now than at any time since 1900, and we keep experiencing the hottest days, highest minimums, lowest rainfall, and once in a hundred-year floods.

The management of fuel loads in national parks also played a role, along with the land use by farmers, graziers and developers. We should also listen to our First Peoples and their stories of cultural burning practices.

We are a small country but we can play an important role in setting an example. If all the small nations worked together we could achieve up to 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases.

There are many small things that we all can do; for example, buy an electric lawnmower; reduce the amount of meat you eat, (the impact of livestock, especially beef cattle, is massive on the environment); catch public transport; don't get slack on recycling; support businesses who are acting on climate change and reducing their pollution.

Looking after the environment and taking action on climate change go hand in hand. Our beautiful planet - which God has given us the privilege to look after - is crying out for us to act. And so too is our own country with its unique landscape, wild life and beauty.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

The following dates and information are from the Social Justice Diary 2020. This is for your thoughtful prayer.

8 February: St Josephine Bakhita She was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery.

See acrath.org.au/prayer-for-anti-trafficking-advocates/

20 February: World Day of Social Justice – Social Justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations.

See un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day

26 February and throughout Lent: Caritas Australia, Project Compassion. See caritas.org.au/compassion

8 March: International Women's Day. Still Listening to the Spirit. On International Women's Day, consider reading and reflecting on one of the essays in Still Listening to the Spirit. See catholic.org.au/shop

21 March: World Water Day.