

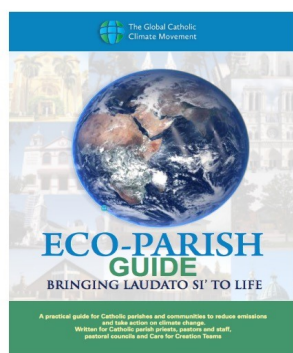


A MESSAGE FROM FR MARK

A blessed Easter to everyone and let's make this Easter the beginning of a stronger and greater commitment to our community. Catholics are actively and credibly engaged in the lives of all parishioners; we have a strong tradition of influencing policy and of helping those in need far beyond our parish borders. We do this because we trust in God's life-giving grace, which makes us a people of hope.

In the world there are about 220,000 Catholic Parishes which accounts for many times more churches, rectories, offices, other parish assets. No doubt we can have a huge impact as a Church but also as a Parish. Our Church is the sole Catholic Church for Gungahlin which has about 80,000 people of which almost 40% say they are Catholic, so we have great responsibility to serve that community by strong initiatives and the active commitment of everyone by letting the Holy Spirit guide us to good works, be it bushfire relief, climate change or the vast range of social issues. So please give your consideration on how you might support a new Eco Management team.

I am appealing to you, along with the Social Justice group, to ask you to commit your name to establish a 'Care for Creation Team' as described in the Global Catholic Climate Movement Eco-Parish Guide. I must stress this goes beyond pure climate issues and delves <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/eco-parish/> into all the social impacts of our management of "Gods Garden". The way this works with is described in the article opposite. "In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, he has united himself to our earth, and his love impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!" – Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 245.



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

HOLY SPIRIT SOCIAL JUSTICE

FROM THE CHAIR *by Peter Peterson*

Welcome to this Easter Edition. The year has got off to a tough start and it seems the challenges keep coming for our Parish, Australia and the world. In this issue we invite you to take up the challenge of allowing our Parish to live up to its name as the Church of the Holy Spirit, serving others and ourselves in defeating our weaknesses.

In this time of Coronavirus and bush fire recovery it is worthwhile to remember that:

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God. - Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 119 *God. - Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 119*

THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

A practical guide on reducing emissions, promoting low carbon lifestyles, and caring for those harmed by climate change written for Catholic parish priests, pastors and staff, and for pastoral councils and most importantly parishioners.

To use this guide and get the best possible results we have a:

Proposed Gungahlin Holy Spirit Care for Creation Team
Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' challenges us to CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME by growing in faith, hope, and love—and so live in healthy relationships with God, neighbour, and all creation. We are called to be ecological citizens, to make prudent decisions, and to take sometimes bold actions.

In short, living Laudato Si' builds up the common good.

"In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise is to him!" – Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 245. Parishes have an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions because as a Church For Example: We operate more than 220,000 parishes globally, which accounts for many times more churches, rectories, offices, other parish buildings, and vehicles that, in using conventional fossil fuels for energy, contribute directly to climate change. Energy savings of as much as ten percent can be achieved in a parish simply through conscious and continuous efforts to use less energy.

With some modifications or upgrades to facilities, parishes have enjoyed savings of twenty to thirty percent, and even more in some cases. The Pope also wants to encourage parishes to embrace renewable energy, as many are already doing all over the world. Forming a **Care for Creation Team** is a good way for us to start. So please contact **Peter Peterson 0437 672 069** or **Paul Crowley 0423 263 214** to find out more about how you can help.

A Social Justice Shining Star

Last week Peter Peterson visited a small church, St Peters in Rochedale, Brisbane and encountered a long running social justice group celebrating one of their strong members. So he thought you might enjoy the short speech given in her honour and perhaps we will be able to add similar achievements in addition to the works we have started in years to come.

"Today it is my great privilege to honour a very special lady, Anna. Anna is resigning from St. Peter's Social Justice Group after working passionately for the past 26 years. In that time, Anna, in her bright yellow Volkswagen, travelled long distances, learning about social justice issues. She took part in protests and rallies. If an urgent issue arose, Anna would visit politicians, write letters make phone calls and sign petitions. Anna assisted in writing liturgies, reflections and handouts bringing justice issues to the attention of the community.

Anna has a great organising talent and this was obvious in raising funds for many worthwhile projects, for our indigenous Ministry, for refugees, the poor and homeless, for land mine education and our African projects, the Girls in The City of Joy and the Hamlin Fistula Foundation in Ethiopia. However, Anna's best work was with two traumatised migrant families from Bosnia and Lebanon. She made sure the families had everything they needed, that the children had the right school uniforms and books. Later on she helped the families find employment. A beautiful moment I remember is the baby shower Anna organised for one of the pregnant ladies. Many St. Peter's women came with gifts for mother and baby and the mother to be was overwhelmed to see the love and generosity.

Anna, thank you for everything you have done, for your joyful, welcoming spirit and your burning desire to make this world a better place for everyone. We love you, we will miss you and you will always have a very special place in our hearts. Erika"



Palm Sunday

Over a number of years, the Canberra Refugee Action Campaign has organised a rally on Palm Sunday in **Garema Place at midday**, to seek more humane treatment

of refugees in Australia and in Australia's off-shore detention centres. Many churches and religious institutions have displayed banners for to Palm Sunday. **Palm Sunday this year is on 5th April 1.00 pm -3.30pm and the Church will have a banner there, we hope you can support us in Civic.**

If its cancelled, please think about attending next year.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Social Justice Calendar Dates

- 22 Mar: World Day for Water
- 24 Mar: International Day for Right to Truth
- 31 Mar: International Trans Day of Visibility
- April: Sexual Assault month
- 07 Apr: World Health Day
- 12 Apr: International Day for Street Children

Caritas Supports the Red Dust Healing Program

Tom Powell is the Founder of the Red Dust Healing Program. Tom Powell is a Warramunga Man from the Wiradjuri Nation in NSW.

Red Dust Healing is a specific cultural healing program, written from an Indigenous perspective, and targeted at Indigenous Men, women and families to address family and community violence, suicide, rejection, addictions, grief and loss and mental health issues

The program encompasses learning modules, linking Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures, to help participants with their individual insights on the journey of personal growth and wellbeing. The Red Dust Healing program has been delivered to over 16,000 people in over 400 communities, in Australia and overseas.

Climate Rally By Paul Crowley

Another climate rally was held in Glebe Park in late February. There were a number of speakers ranging from a senior fire fighter, the organiser for the first ACT school climate strike, a young mother, an ACT MLA, a union representative among others.

Here is a summary of some of the main points presented:

This summer's fires highlighted that fire fighters need better equipment and are going to need more volunteers in the future to fight fires. They especially need better quality breathing equipment. Fire fighters do not need any convincing that the climate is changing.

Employers forced far too many people to work outside in during the extremely hazardous bushfire smoke that we've experienced this summer. People need to be better informed about the dangers of smoke exposure and their rights at work. The effect of bushfire smoke on children's development and more generally, what sort of world will our children live in?

On the plus side they discussed the great opportunities that are available for new industries using clean energy and retraining people affected by the closing down of fossil fuel industries. Australia is blessed with abundant sun and wind for starters compared to Germany who are a successful example of this transition.

We are in the final years to avert the worst effects of a rapidly warming planet, affecting Australia up front. Summers get longer as Australia warms more than the rest of the world

<https://thenewdaily.com.au/weather/2020/03/02/australia-warming-climate/>

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

Social Justice Calendar Dates (continued)

- 17 Apr Youth Homelessness Matters Day
- 22 Apr: Earth Day
- 28 Apr: Pay it Forward Day