



HOLY SPIRIT SOCIAL JUSTICE

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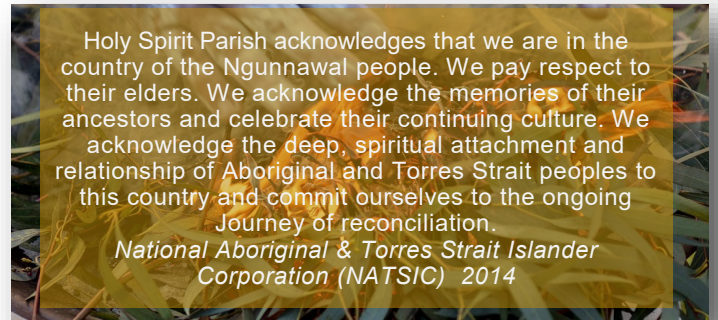
PEACE AND WAR

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September 2023, His Holiness Pope Francis wrote:

During this Season of Creation, let us dwell on those heartbeats: our own and those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are prevented from drinking from that mighty river. Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.'

How do we wage war on God's creation? Is it the great tragedies of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza unfolding before our eyes? Yes – these are blights on God's creation and here Pope Francis goes further and looks at all the challenges our neighbours and our planet face – not just the devastation of political war but war on our existence through acceptance of poverty, social injustice and the degradation of our planet.

What can you do? Pope Francis says we should open our hearts to the needs of others. One suggestion we might consider is the Prayer of St Francis. Pray about how you might act to help achieve peace.



Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is error, truth; Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, Grant that I may no so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born into eternal life.
St. Francis of Assisi

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2023

The World Day of the Poor is on Sunday, 19 November.

This is a day not just to remember the poor of the world and to pray for them, but to think about what we can do to alleviate their position.

In his message for the 2023 World Day of the Poor Pope Francis quotes from the Book of Tobit – "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor"(Tob 4:7).

He goes on to say: "The parable of the Good Samaritan (cf. Luke 10:25-27) is not simply a story from the past; it continues to challenge each of us in the here and now of our daily lives. It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian is to become personally involved."

There are a variety of poor. If you have been watching the news you know that there are people suffering from war and famine in different parts of the world and thousands of people have been displaced from their homes.

In other parts of the world people are suffering from natural disasters and the consequences they bring.

We can also see the plight of workers and labourers in some countries who have to toil for inadequate wages, often in unsafe conditions.

Even in the 'Lucky Country' of Australia there are many people who are finding it hard to just get by. The most recent report of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) showed that there were over 3 million Australians living below the poverty line, including over 750,000 children. Just on 50% of people living in poverty were in households reliant on social security. Those who are on

government benefits often can't afford the cost of current rents, leading to more homelessness.

An even more recent report, the Foodbank Hunger Report 2023, states that 3.7 million households in Australia experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months, with food insecurity now being experienced in homes it has never touched before. This means that 1 in 3 households in Australia are struggling just to put food on the table.

Indigenous Australians, particularly those living in remote communities often live in poverty, with impacts on their educational and employment opportunities, as well as access to appropriate housing (see the recent report of the Productivity Commission on the Closing the Gap initiatives).

At a local level your Saint Vincent de Paul Conference has visited hundreds of people this year to provide help in the way of food, clothing and other forms of assistance to people in our own parish who are struggling to deal with the rising cost of living in our country.

How can you make a difference?

You might think about supporting the various charities that seek to help the poor of the world, including Catholic charities like Saint Vincent de Paul, Caritas Australia and the Australian Catholic Missions. Other charities supporting the poor include the Salvation Army, Foodbank and the Smith Family.

You might also consider supporting the Raise the Rate for Good campaign sponsored by ACOSS, which aims to raise the rates of the lowest government social security payments to at least the poverty level.

[ACOSS \(raisetherate.org.au\)](https://www.acoss.org.au/raisetherate.org.au)

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK 2023

WHAT ARE YOU ABOUT TO THROW AWAY?

Did you know that Australia produces one of the highest levels of waste in the world and recycles less than most other developed nations? Planet Ark research over the past year found that there was about 2.5 million tonnes of waste sent to landfill in Australia. It is estimated that 9–18% of this waste was likely recyclable. More importantly, 41–52% of this waste could have been composted.

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK 13 TO 19 NOVEMBER

Sponsored by the Planet Ark Environmental Foundation since 1996, this week serves to remind all Australians of the importance of the saying 'Reduce, reuse, recycle'. The theme is 'What goes around comes around'.

- The first step is to consider what we are consuming – do we really need it?
- The second step is to reuse things that we no longer need instead of sending them to landfill.
- The third step is to recycle things that can be made into new products instead of going to waste.

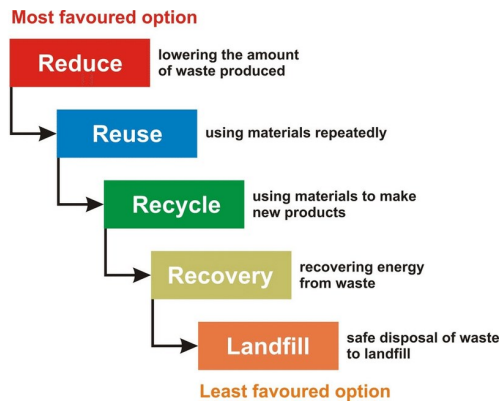
So where do we start?

We probably start with our bins, especially the **yellow and green bins**.

OUR YELLOW BINS can be used for recycling things like glass jars and bottles, aluminium cans, foil and trays, most rigid plastic containers, paper and cardboard, steel cans and empty aerosols.

OUR GREEN BINS can be used for grass clippings, leaves, small branches, flowers and garden prunings.

There is a range of other recycling options in the ACT.



You can even get a financial return from the **ACT Container Deposit Scheme**, where you can get a 10 cent payment for every eligible bottle and can you recycle.

FIND YOUR LOCAL CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME AND RECYCLING CENTRES:

[Deposit Scheme](#) centres are located at Amaroo and Nicholls. [Recycling Centres](#) at Mitchell and Gungahlin and [The Green Shed](#) near the tip in Mitchell.

Try the **bike library at Taylor**. This is a free service run out of the Margaret Hendry School by **Pedal Power ACT**. Anyone can go there and borrow a bike for as long as it is needed. **The library is always looking for more preloved bikes**. More details are available at <https://www.pedalpower.org.au/the-bike-library>. The library is open on Tuesdays from 11am to 2pm, at 100 Sutherland Crescent Taylor.

All of us need to think about what we can do to help. At a very local level you can contribute to the compost bins at our **Parish Community Garden**. We are always looking for vegetable and fruit scraps (no rice, bread, meat or fat because they attract vermin). If you want to know more about the Community Garden you can contact Theivani at the Parish Office theivani@holyspiritgungahlin.org.au



The Parish Community Garden

IS OUR WORLD UNDER THREAT FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT IT?

In October this year the Pope issued a follow up message to his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, where he urged Catholics and others to care for creation, including the land, the oceans, the flora and fauna of the world and, most importantly, our fellow human beings, especially the poor and impoverished of this world. The new message is titled *Laudate Deum* (Praise God) "[Laudate Deum](#)": [Apostolic Exhortation to all people of good will on the climate crisis \(4 October 2023\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#).

The Pope's message is that things have become much more urgent because we have not made enough progress in dealing with the problem of climate change. **Laudate Deum** exhorts the people of the world to take action before it is too late. If nothing is done soon there will be a crisis point in the next generation. What kind of world do we want to leave to our children and grandchildren? The Pope's message acknowledges that there will be a cost to the measures that we can take, but the cost will be even greater the longer we wait.

We can all do small things ourselves to help our planet. We can recycle, we can consume less, we can reduce our waste, of food and other things. From little things like this big things can grow.

We can also lobby our politicians to do more to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and to move to renewable energy options. The COP United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in November/December this year. We can urge our Australian delegates to support a sustainable future.

At a local level we have a Parish *Laudato Si'* Action Plan that aims to do some practical things that can make a difference. The Action Plan is available on the Parish website under the heading News and Events – Social Justice Group News.

We would love to hear from any parishioners who may have an interest in these matters. If you would like to help us implement the Parish *Laudato Si'* Action Plan [Social Justice Group News Archives – Holy Spirit Catholic Parish \(holyspiritgungahlin.org.au\)](#) please contact Peter Peterson at peterimantpeterson@gmail.com.