

BONNYBROOK ECO AWARE PARISH

OCTOBER 2020

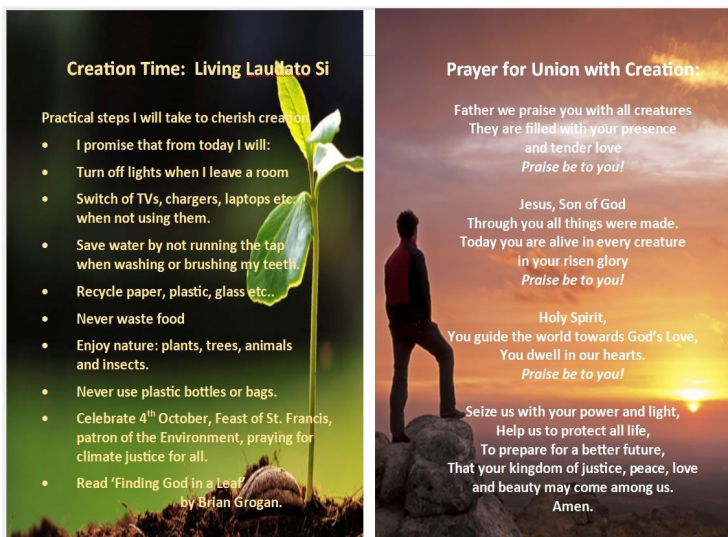


BONNYBROOK PARISH
St. Joseph the Artisan Church

This Report is the progress of Care for the Earth Ministry in our Parish since Eco Congregation Ireland awarded the first ENDEAVOUR CERTIFICATE, followed by the AWARENESS CERTIFICATE, March 2020.

SPIRITUAL

- We have continued to create an awareness of God's gift of creation and our responsibility to care for it by including specific prayers of praise/intercession at weekly liturgy gatherings.
- CREATION TIME gives a special impetus to this. Before the present closure of churches, the Sunday liturgies adapted the Irish Catholic Bishops' and other resources to highlight awareness of the gift of creation and Pope Francis's call to each of us to treasure, nurture and protect our common home.
- The YouTube video "Respect for the Planets Resources" by Pope Francis was shown at all liturgies on the weekend of 6th September 2020 and used as a starting point for the Season of Creation. This helped us create awareness of the devastating damage to our earth, while issuing a call to each of us to take concrete action in our personal/family lives to become more informed about the loss of biodiversity and the threats to the systems that sustain all life.

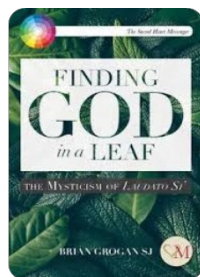


- We have a "Promise Card" prepared. COVID shutdown in Dublin has prevented the distribution of this at Sunday liturgies within Creation time. When our church reopens, we will invite each member of our parish community to take this card as a prompt to taking small, significant actions in the care of our earth and to pray "Prayer for Union with all Creation".
- We continue to employ specific ways to create awareness of the responsibility between living our Christian faith and care for the earth; for example, linking the celebration of Mothers' Day and December 8th, to care for the earth as our Mother, showing a video on the precious gift of water on World Water Day, and on International Mother Earth Day, using António Guterres, UN General Secretary General's message as basis for the sermon.



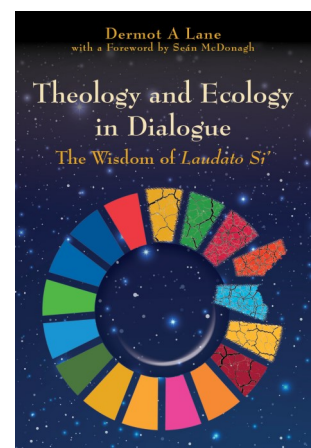
This image is used on the overhead screen each Sunday as a lead into the liturgy.

- Dedicated one evening of our Golden Jubilee retreat to raising our community's awareness of and need to take concrete actions to care for the earth in our local environment.
- Viewed Greta Thunberg's inspiring Ted Talk on climate crises.
- Set up Care for the Earth Action tree: each member of the assembly pledged themselves to one concrete action, placing that as "a leaf" on the Care for the Earth tree.
- Invited Jane Mellet, Trócaire's Laudato Si education officer, to speak at each Mass on the second weekend of Advent. She presented us with the clear call of Laudato Si to care for the earth; and made a copy of TRÓCAIRE Top Tips for Living Laudato Si available to all.



Two members of Care for the Earth ministry group attended input by Brian Grogan SJ, on "Finding God in a Leaf".

- Two members of Care for Earth Ministry Group participated in seminar on "Brigid, Woman of Wisdom, Woman of Peace" on February 1st
- In Lent 2020, invited all to "Reduce the use of Plastic Bottles" by placing a poster on the notice board in our church.
- A member of Care for the Earth Ministry attended a session on "The Mysticism of Laudato Si".
- Two members of the Care for the Earth Ministry participated in the six-week book club zoom input on Theology and Ecology in dialogue, "The wisdom of Laudato Si".



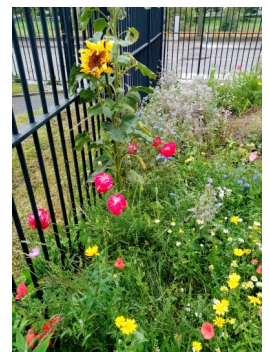
- Two members participated in the weeklong summer school organised by the Diocesan Office for Evangelisation with a special focus on the Bible and Ecology.
- In response to ECI suggestion, we set up a Justice Candle, shared it online through ECI and displayed it in our sacred space in the church.



PRACTICAL

***“To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence
is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope” (Laudato Si’ 85)***

- This is one of 36 quotations placed in the parish newsletter to link our practical actions with living our faith.
- With the help of contribution of seedlings, the wildflower garden and meadow continue to develop. Soon the cowslips, that were the inspiration to creating this garden, will put up their green shoots again.
- The sensory garden continues to expand (slowly, due to lockdown). Neighbours drop off the extra plants and/or shrubs they no longer need in their own gardens. These contribute to the beginning of an herbaceous border of montbretia, white lilies, dog daisies, pyracantha, and summer campanula.
- The neglected rose bushes along the perimeter wall of this area have been reclaimed from the choking of bindweed and have gladdened our hearts with beautiful blooms all summer.
- The pollinator friendly flowers in our wildflower garden – borage, lavender, poppies, etc. have encouraged others to plant wildflower gardens at their own homes
- When we can gather together again, we will revisit our wildflower and wild meadow garden in preparation for next year.
- The bird feeders near wildflower garden drew sparrows, blue and great tits, gold and green finches, with robins, blackbirds, dunnocks and pigeons foraging underneath and the occasional flock of sparrows, a few rooks, jackdaws, magpies and hooded crows alighting from time to time.



- The positioning of bird feeders and bug hotels on the tree in front of the family centre led some community members to create or buy bird feeders and bug hotels in their own gardens



- Planted Millennium Tree during celebrations of parish Golden Jubilee.
- The memorial grotto and the rose gardens around the church continue to be maintained.
- Planted a copper acer tree in the church grounds to celebrate Earth Day.



- The temporary labyrinth in the park has been replaced with a permanent labyrinth (see below) and is now used by the community to assist with meditation, and inviting people into the park to enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



We care for our common home by
*“avoiding the use of plastics and paper,
 reducing water consumption, separating
 refuse, cooking only what can be reasonably
 consumed, showing care or all living
 beings.” (LS221)*

- Many have purchased water butts or use buckets to harvest water.
- Purchased composts bins to create rich soil for planting.
- Old clothes have been reused by contributing them for shredding using “clobber bags”
- Some boil lemons to use as air freshener.
- Excess good quality clothing and other suitable items, no longer needed are contributed to local charity shops.

- Some clothes are donated to local groups in their fundraising ventures.
- Some members of our community have substituted bars of soap and solid shampoo instead of purchasing items in plastic containers.
- Many are using vinegar and lemon in lieu of commercial cleaning agents; for example, using WINNIE eco-friendly floor cleaner.
- During the first lockdown, many parishioners began to cultivate their own gardens and came to appreciate the wonder of nature and its simple beauty in healing the human spirit.

*"By learning to see and appreciate beauty, we learn to reject self-interest...
We (must) strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings,
life, society and our relationship with nature" (LS 215)*

COMMUNITY

- The Parish Pastoral Council has been a source of strength and inspiration to this work of making our parish a green parish. At their suggestion, a review of ministries took place and it was from this initiative that the care for the earth ministry emerged. At a subsequent meeting, convened by our parish moderator, a group gathered to consider what we might do as members of care for the earth ministry group.
- It was suggested that each newsletter contain an inspirational quotation, under the heading: *Help us put the bonny back into Bonnybrook*" And so began the practice of taking relevant quotes from Laudato Si' and other appropriate places to help create awareness and the involvement of parishioners. These quotes are also placed on the home page of our parish website: www.bonnybrookparish.ie



Help us put the **BONNY into
Bonnybrook**

"To sense each creature
singing the hymn of its
existence is to live joyfully in God's
love and hope." (Laudato Si' 85)



- Sought advice and funding from Dublin City Council to develop a Sensory Garden at the back of the Family Centre.
- Began to plant pollinator friendly trees, herbs and wildflowers.
- Pauline O'Shaughnessy (member of Care for the Earth Ministry) obtained the help of the local parks committee to help with this work.
- Many families have erected bird feeders and bug hotels in their own gardens.
- Some use Eco friendly products as cleaning agents and cut down on single use plastics.
- During the major renovation of our church the walls were insulated and the windows replaced so as to conserve the heat in our church and cut down on energy usage.
- Some families have installed water butts to harvest rain water.



- Lena Kenny (member of Care for the Earth Ministry) points to the water butt which is used to harvest water for use in our sensory and wildflower garden.

- Awareness & Endeavour Certificates are on display in our Church and Parish Office.

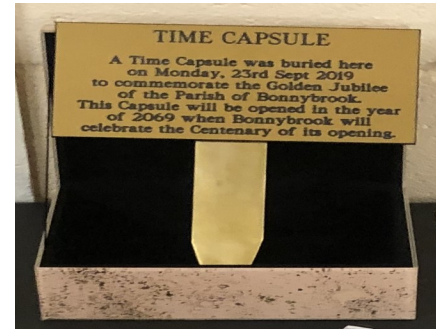


- Kathleen Reid (member of the Care for the Earth Ministry) spoke about her experience and encouraged others to take on the responsibility of caring for their own environment: cleaning up local areas, planting flowers to attract butterflies and bees, taking small steps to protect our environment.

There is a nobility in the duty to care for all creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about Real changes in lifestyle (LS 211)

- A package of seeds from our wildflower garden was placed in our Golden Jubilee Memory Capsule

Golden Jubilee Memory Capsule
buried in church grounds.



- Showed SMA video on Laudato Si' to Sixth Class and assembled Mass congregation on Earth Day and followed up with discussions.
- On WORLD WATER DAY showed a video on Water to sixth class and those present at Mass.
- Presented Care for the Earth as key element in six class confirmation programmes.

Our Local School's Project

Ms Campbell's 6th class learned much about the school's environment as they prepared to participate in the Science Blast Exposition at the RDS. Their enthusiasm and energy produced some wonderful practical work, two examples of which are below.



Bug Hotel made by 6th Class



Web of Life made by 6th Class

GLOBAL

- Our motto is: “Think globally, act locally.”
- Our work at the local level contributes to the national and global efforts to care for the earth and act for climate justice.
- Some families buy Fair Trade products.
- The Parish has contributed to Trócaire’s work.
- Sr. Margo Delaney, member of Care for the Earth Ministry did the 4 weeks training as a Laudato Si facilitator, joined Global Catholic Network, participated in WWF project, Act Now and Make a Difference which challenged world leaders at their virtual summit on nature, joined the fridaysforfuture.org/ September 25th virtual strikes for climate justice, tuned into Earthbeat: Lens on Creation and Earth hour, both weekly input on various environmental and ecological issues: contributed to 350.0rg climate change movement which calls for a just recovery from COVID 19, putting people’s health and wellbeing first and providing relief for the most vulnerable.
- At each Eucharist on World Mother Earth Day, adapted Andrew Hamilton’s article, “This year Mother Earth invites us to consider one of the smallest of her creatures – the coronavirus” as core message in each sermon. Andrew Hamilton is consulting editor at Eureka Street.

FUTURE PLANS

- Invite community to contribute seedlings, cuttings, bulbs for our sensory garden – which they have done.
- Create a special Creation Time display to focus on this season of prayer and gratitude for the gifts of creation.



Season of Creation Display in our church.

- Continue to create awareness of our need to care for the earth and live the invitation of Laudato Si in our daily lives.
- Use all opportunities within our Liturgies to respond to Pope Francis call to care for the earth in our daily living.
- Develop a Link on our website displaying all the good work that is taking place in our parish to remind each of us of our responsibility to care for the earth.



Help us put the **BONNY** into
Bonnybrook

"Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is.... Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." Pope Francis



**Some examples of quotations from Laudato Si'
used in the parish newsletter 2019 – February 2020**

Never have we hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. The problem is we still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis.

(LS Number 53)

Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the suffering of the excluded.

(LS, Number 13)

Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home, to work together to resolve the effects of environmental destruction on our world and on the world's poorest.

(LS 13)

Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism to sell all its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending.

(LS 203)

The emptier a person's heart is, the he or she needs things to buy, own and consume.

(LS 204)

A great cultural and spiritual challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.

(LS 202)

*We care for our common home by:
"avoiding the use of plastics and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can be reasonably consumed, showing care for all living beings"*

(LS221)

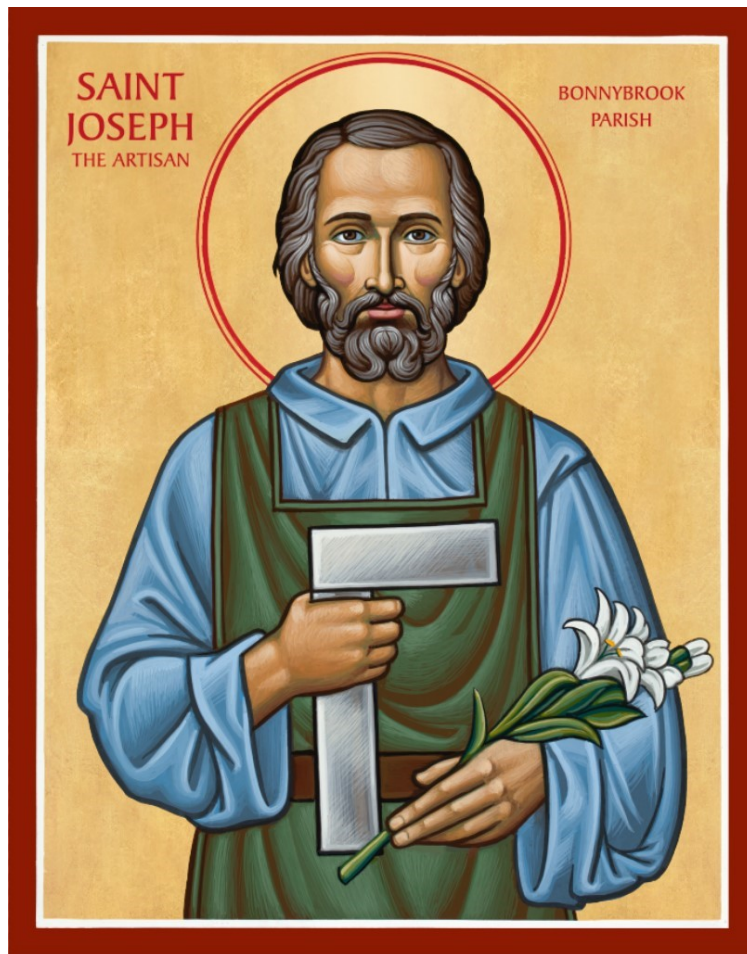
An integral ecology is made up of simple daily gestures which break the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.

(LS 230)

Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.

(LS231)

St Joseph “can teach us how to care; he can show and inspire us to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting the world which God has entrusted to us.” (LS 242)



CARE FOR THE EARTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

- Sr. Margo Delaney
- Sr. Irene Dunne
- Kathleen Reid
- Pauline O'Shaughnessy
- Lena Kenny
- Fr. Joe Jones

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