



Eco
Congregation
Ireland

Dear Eco-Congregation Friends



Welcome to the November/December 2019 edition of the Eco-Congregation Ireland newsletter. We are journeying towards Christmas! The Eco-Congregation Ireland Committee wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and an eco-centred 2020!

Are you interested in learning more about Eco-Congregation Ireland? Perhaps your congregation or parish has an interest in the environment and has thought about becoming an Eco-Congregation? The [Eco-Congregation Committee](#) has Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Church of Ireland and Quaker representatives on it and they are happy to come to speak to your group no matter how small! The contact details are listed at the end of this newsletter and at the above link.

Would you like to start your journey towards an Eco-Congregation Ireland Award? A good way to get started is by completing our [Environmental Check Up for Your Church!](#) Send us your completed Checklist and one of our committee will be in touch to help you move towards an application for an Eco-Congregation Ireland award.

Don't forget! ECI will award two certificates in the earlier stages of your journey towards the final Eco-Congregation Ireland Award to mark stages on the way - the Awareness Certificate and the Endeavour Certificate. [Learn more on the ECI website here.](#)

ECI Awareness Certificates 2019: Since our last newsletter **St Gall's Church of Ireland, Carnalea, Co Down, Eco-Congregation Cloughjordan (an ecumenical initiative of the Church of Ireland, Methodist Church and Roman Catholic Church in Cloughjordan), Holy Rosary Parish Midleton and Church of the Immaculate Conception, Roundfort / Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Robeen / St. Joseph's Church, Carras, Co Mayo** all received their ECI Awareness Certificates!



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Would you like to volunteer with Eco-Congregation Ireland?

We are recruiting volunteers! Are you committed to promoting the message of climate justice? Due to the popularity of our [ECI Climate Justice Candle Project](#), we are expanding the project to include four candles to cover each of the four provinces of Ireland – Ulster, Munster, Connacht and Leinster. Our hope is to recruit volunteers in each province. The volunteer role will include:

- Contacting churches or groups in your area to host the Climate Justice Candle
- Organising the delivery and collection of the candle to and from each church
- Keeping in touch with ECI with updates

For further information please contact info@ecocongregationireland.com.



Our Climate Justice Candle – The Journey Continues!

The Eco-Congregation Ireland [Climate Justice Candle](#) has been weaving its ecumenical and climate justice journey around Ireland since the launch of the project in 2015. If you would like to be part of this initiative and use the new candle in a future event, simply drop us an email to info@ecocongregationireland.com. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

ECI Climate Justice Candle visits Glaslough

Rev Lorraine Capper sent ECI this report. The candle came to Glaslough being present at the Ecumenical Harvest in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church; then it travelled to Errigal Traugh Harvest followed by St. Salvator's Harvest in Glaslough and finally it visited at Glennan Presbyterian Church. Harvest, what a wonderful time to reflect on God's wonderful masterpiece of creation and for us to realise our God-given mandate to care for it. In caring for all of God's creation we will care for others not forgetting we have a responsibility to care for ourselves.



The candle also went to the local Primary School, Biliis where Rev. Lorraine took an assembly - she reminded the children of their responsibility to reduce, re-use, recycle and renew. Rev. Lorraine also did a number of talks at the local Girls' Brigade in Glaslough. The candle also attended a special assembly in the Collegiate Grammar School in Monaghan. Rev. Lorraine reminded the students that it is crucial that action is taken **NOW** — for the millions of climate refugees already suffering as a direct result of climate change, for future generations and for the whole of Creation. [Read this report in full on the ECI website.](#)

ECI Climate Justice Candle visits St Gall's, Carnalea, Co Down

The Eco-Congregation Ireland Climate Justice Candle was present at the St Gall's morning and evening services on Sunday 27th October - it also went to their Scout service in the afternoon - before being introduced to the new e-bike and the Brompton folding bike at their Eco-Congregation meeting on the Tuesday evening! St Gall's have been busy on their Eco-Congregation journey – activities include a Bike Café, an iPad Sunday to reduce paper, moving their lighting to energy saving LED bulbs and harvesting wildflower seeds. Rector Michael Parker sent ECI a full update of all their work and [you can read it here.](#)



ECI Climate Justice Candle visits St Patrick's Parish, Mayobridge, Co Down

Helena Johnston sent ECI this report: A celebration of the Season of Creation from 1st September – 4th October served as a prelude to the arrival of the Climate Justice Candle in our parish on Wednesday 30th October. The candle was lit for the first time in our parish that evening at the beginning of Mass. Following on from that, a prayer service was held around the candle which incorporated a discussion on the practical steps that could be taken to live with more eco-awareness. A number of young people in our parish are working towards the John Paul II award. As part of their award, they engaged with the Glas Og programme, exploring ways they could reduce their carbon footprint and live in a more sustainable way. The artwork they produced following on from their discussion became part of the prayer space in our church with the candle as the focal point.



On Saturday 9th November, at our 6.15pm Mass, Sr. Catherine Brennan from Eco-Congregation Ireland spoke to our parishioners about climate justice and ways that we can help to slow down climate change. She spoke about the Great Green Wall initiative and intergenerational justice, reminding all present that we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors but rather we borrow it from our children. A proposal is to be made at the next Parish Pastoral Council meeting that the parish completes the Eco-Congregation Ireland checklist to apply for an Awareness Certificate. It is also hoped that eco-awareness will form part of the five-year parish plan in order to sustain and develop the work that has already begun.

Welcome to Eco-Congregation Cloughjordan!

Clifford Guest sent ECI this report: Cloughjordan is one of the latest communities to come together and form an Eco-Congregation. Unusually for such a small settlement in North Tipperary, Cloughjordan has three churches. Members of the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches have come together to form this ecumenical initiative. It builds on strong community ties and a shared interest in linking environmental issues and Christian faith.



The first meeting in August 2019 was addressed by the Chair of the ECI Committee, the Rev. Andrew Orr who gave an excellent overview of what ECI do and gave an introduction to Eco Theology. A subsequent meeting saw the three churches registering their interests in becoming an Eco-Congregation jointly. At the end of November, a further step was taken when we linked up with Eco-Congregation Westport through video conferencing. Caroline Goucher and Brid McAuley spoke of the initiatives they have been involved in, promoting all denominations to take an environmental approach in their churches and their personal lives. We are very grateful for the inspiration and guidance given to us from Westport and hope to link up with them again in the future. A steering committee has now been formed which will plan how Cloughjordan Eco-Congregation will progress and develop over the following months and years. Well done to all!

ECI committee welcomes 2nd Methodist Representative!

Bill Patterson is based in Bangor, Co Down and has a background in employment relations and has a degree in Geography from QUB. Bill has a particular interest in how we experience the world around us. Welcome to ECI Bill! All contact details for the [ECI committee can be found here](#).



Holy Faith Sisters' Biodiversity Garden in Glasnevin

Maureen Ferguson sent ECI this update: The Holy Faith Sisters' biodiversity garden is situated in the same grounds as their Marian House Nursing home and St Mary's Secondary School, as well as the local community. As a result, they get some volunteer labour on tap! Among other gardening chores the students plant sunflowers from seed each year while the sisters get down to more basic grubbing. The most recent additions to the garden are the pathways with raised beds and very solid seats fashioned from recycled plastic (which will, no



doubt, outlive us all). The object is to make the garden more accessible to wheelchair users and other less able people, as well as other visitors.



A Report from Climate Fest Castlebar 2019

Climate Fest Castlebar was born out of desire to bring an action-focused Climate Change event to the locality of Castlebar so that the phrase ‘act locally and think globally’ could become a reality in local people’s efforts to play their part in averting the ‘Climate Change Emergency’ facing our world today. The venue was GMIT Castlebar, the title of the event ‘Climate Fest’ and the date, Saturday 27th September, the last Saturday of Creation time, which runs from 1st September – 4th October was decided. The workshop topics were: ‘Sustainable Fashion’, ‘Tips for Sorting, Recycling and Reducing Food Waste in the Home’, Energy Hacks for the Home’ and ‘Becoming an Eco community/Eco Parish’ – these appealed to different age groups and interests. [You can read their report in full here and view lots of photos](#) which give a feel of this inspiring event.



Ballynature Day, Co Antrim – 29th Feb 2020

Eco-congregation Ireland will have a stand at the next Ballynature Day on 29th Feb 2020. Come along and say hello. The event is growing year on year and is a great opportunity to engage the public. There will be over 60 stands in 2020, some come along and join in the environmental fun. [All information on the ECI website here.](#)



Tralee Boys’ Brigade Biodiversity Garden

David Tough sent ECI this update: The 1st Tralee Company Boys’ Brigade, Church of St. John the Evangelist, has sponsored a Pollinator Friendly Garden in the church grounds as part of a biodiversity project including their Beach Garden, Bird Table and Bug Hotels. The garden has been planted with pollinator friendly bulbs for next spring and will be developed in time with additional planting. A mural depicting a friendly bumble bee and the slogan “Be Bee Friendly” was painted on the church wall. We were delighted to show this to The Archbishop of Armagh, The



Most Rev Richard Clarke and Bishop Kenneth Kearon at the recent Bicentenary and Harvest Thanksgiving Service in St. John's Church. The Girls and Boys are looking forward to seeing who books into our BB Bug B&B in the coming months.

An Tairseach Winter Solstice Celebration – Saturday 21st December 2019

In direct contrast to the summer solstice, the winter solstice, or midwinter occurs when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the sun. This is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year. This year, [An Tairseach Dominican Ecology Centre](#)'s Winter Solstice Celebration will take place on Saturday 21st December, 4pm to 6pm. There will be a small ceremony and light refreshments afterwards. Please register here >> <https://bit.ly/2JOxXBC>. All are welcome!



Latest news from Christian Aid Ireland

Everyone at Christian Aid Ireland has been inspired by Greta Thunberg's courage. But in case you thought all climate activists kept their hair in a long plait, here are some new hatchlings, sporting a variety of different hairstyles!

Ahead of the UK General Election, Christian Aid shared their Guide to the General Election which includes questions for you to ask your candidates on your doorstep or at hustings events. This is available online at caid.ie/generalelection alongside Christian Aid's manifesto which seeks solutions that address the underlying drivers of climate change, global inequality and poverty, and which put us on track to a more just and sustainable world. Around 40 Christian Aid supporters attended their climate campaign training day in November, held at St John's Orangefield Church of Ireland where they made plans to lobby their MPs, local authorities and church denominations for urgent action to avert a climate catastrophe. For further information, contact Helen Newell on hnewell@christian-aid.org



Tearfund Ireland, the Church of Ireland and Christian Aid team up to produce 'Caring for Creation: A Resource Pack for Christian Youth'

Tearfund Ireland have recently teamed up with the Church of Ireland and Christian Aid to put together a series of workshops on climate. They're primarily for youth leaders to use with groups but they might be of interest to a wider audience as well. It's called "Caring for Creation: A Resource Pack for Christian Youth". This is a link to their website where the resource is located <https://www.tearfund.ie/get-involved/resource-hub/development-education/climate-justice/>



Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing in Lacken, Blessington, Co Wicklow

Carmel O'Neill sent ECI this update: the annual Mass of Harvest Thanksgiving and Blessing took place in Lacken Church on Sat Oct 26th. Deacon Gerry Malone blessed the stock in the week prior to the mass. Our farming community were then invited to join in our celebration Mass. The First Communion children brought up the harvest symbols and gifts while the confirmation children read the prayers of thanksgiving. Deacon Gerry said the prayers of blessing for all our work in the months ahead. At the end of the Mass the confirmation children made a pledge to care for the earth and these were displayed on the church wall. All the donations of food were sold after Mass with the proceeds going to improve the grounds and create a biodiversity garden around Lacken Church.



Update from St Finbarr's South Chapel, Cork

Maria Young sent ECI this update: Eco-Congregation St Finbarr's South Chapel, Dunbar Street, Cork hosted a very successful Eco-Congregation meeting of several Eco-Congregations in the Cork area in October. We first had a wonderful talk by Fr. Donal Dorr, called 'Finding God in Nature', followed by small group discussions before all coming together again to have a large group discussion on how we might move forward with some initiatives together, how we might give each other support. It was a lovely night, wonderful to meet so many active groups. Those involved feel they have found new friends to help further our common love of caring for our planet. A big thank you to Fr Eoin Whooley for providing the space and to the members of the various Eco-Congregations who turned up and all who attended that special night.



Latest news from Carrigaline Parish

Janet Twomey sent ECI this update: The compost tumbler is settling well into our Parish Centre. Vegetable and fruit food scraps, tea bags and coffee grounds are among some of the items which are being composted. Joanne O'Sullivan, a member of our [Parish Care for the Earth group](#) has been supporting the Sick of Plastic campaign recently in our local Dunnes Stores where over 600 signatures were gathered to encourage our supermarkets to try and get rid of plastic packaging once and for all. Fran Deasy, a member of our group loves to spend time in the parish garden planting bulbs. We try to adorn our church altar with local grown flowers from the parish garden.



I recently attended a talk with Fr Pat Fogarty, Parish Priest of Carrigaline, entitled 'Finding God in Nature' which was delivered by Fr Donal Dorr, and organised by Maria Young of Eco-Congregation St. Finbarr's South Parish. It was a great evening of listening, discussion and sharing to hear from other Eco-Congregations in Cork City, to meet with one another, network and share ideas. Members of our group also attended the Inter-generational Conference on Climate Justice in Cork City Hall on 13 November, which was a superb gathering organised by groups in Cork who care about the earth, and President Higgins addressed the event also during the day.

Creation Spirituality Events at Drumalis 2020

Drumalis has two events coming up in 2020 that are of particular interest to ECI friends. Firstly, the annual [Re-inhabiting the Earth Spring Conference](#) will take place at Drumalis from Friday, 14 – Sunday, 16 February 2020. The theme will be “Hope for the Planet”. It is a particularly significant weekend in the Re-inhabiting the Earth series as it will also see the launch of a new partnership between Drumalis and A Rocha – a venture in the journey of working together for the sake of our planet. This will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, 15 February during the conference. The keynote speaker for the weekend is Andy Lester, Head of Conservation for A Rocha UK. [Your invitation to Hope for the Planet: A New Partnership is here](#). Then, in the summer, Sr Margaret Rose, Sr Anne Harnett and team will lead their annual Creation Spirituality retreat from 6-11 July – the title of which is “[Dying to Live](#)”. All information at these links.



Low Memorial Presbyterian Church Eco Committee holds first meeting!

Rachel Quigley sent ECI this report: [Low Memorial Presbyterian Church](#) Eco Committee in Finaghy, Belfast had their first meeting on 21st October 2019. Whilst we were a select (but enthusiastic!) few on the night, there were plenty of others who expressed an interest in what we were doing.



We discussed how we could go about completing the Eco-Congregation Ireland Checklist as a starting point and we are still working on this. We also discussed doing something eco-themed at the Christmas Fair and decided we would make beeswax wraps to sell and compile a list of eco tips that people could take away with them.

We've also met with Christian Aid who are keen to help us on our journey and get us involved in their Climate Justice campaign. They've agreed to speak at a Sunday service in the New Year on the subject of Climate Justice and we are really excited about this. It's still early days for us as a church but we are full of ideas and so far these have been well received! At our second meeting we had twice as many people and at the Christmas Fair we sold all our beeswax wraps and had a lot of great conversations on the subject of environmental matters which was very encouraging. Well done to all!

Sr Bernadette Nyam's reflection and poems from An Tairseach

Sr Bernadette Nyam is a Nigerian Religious from the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary who has completed the Sabbatical Programme at An Tairseach in the autumn of 2019. Sr Bernadette has shared with ECI her reflections on the programme along with her poems, inspired by her time at An Tairseach. [You can read them in full here](#).

No Longer the Same

It is no longer business as usual,
No more speculations
Blame games,
Now is the time,
Either I change,
Or die.
It is no longer business as usual
Eating, drinking and buying,

Destroying the earth
With my garbage,
Waste
Filth.
Taking and taking, more and more,
For me, myself and I, and mine,
And giving back nothing,
Without perception,
Blind and deaf,
Senseless.
Nothing is the same anymore,
The moment of truth is now,
The scales removed, I see,
I look into the mirror,
The universe is me,
Looking at me.
No longer business as usual,
In her death my death,
Her life my life
To choose life
Is change.
Conversion.

Sr Bernadette Nyam



EcoQuaker Ireland Conference ‘Love & Despair: Action & Responses to Climate Breakdown’

On 19th October South Belfast Quaker Meeting House was delighted to play host to the EcoQuaker Ireland conference ‘Love & Despair – Action & Responses to Climate Breakdown’. Guest speakers included Lynn Finnegan, Writer for ‘UN Earth Negotiations Bulletin’ and Member of EcoQuakers Committee; Lindsey Fielder-Cook, Quaker United Nations Office Representative for Climate Change; and John Barry, Professor of Green Political Economy, Queen’s University Belfast.



Over 60 people attended the day. Reviewing the day, one person wrote ‘Inaction is not an option. Business as usual is not an option. But neither is despair – whether it is the despair of hopelessness and powerlessness, or the despair of denial (which are of course linked). We owe it to our children, and the children of the world not to stay inactive through denial and despair’. John Barry said ‘What if we are the people we’ve been waiting for?’ Fran Brady, EcoQuaker Representative on the Eco Congregation Ireland Committee [provided a report on the conference](#).

On Sunday 17th November South Belfast Quaker Meeting held a conversation after the morning Meeting. A number of the NaturesKeepers videos were shown (<http://www.natures-keepers.org/northernireland/>) produced by Friends of the Earth highlighting local people doing small things in their areas to try and protect nature locally, and had a discussion about how they could best respond as a Meeting and as individuals.

Selesian Cosmology Group Autumn Conference – Climate Change: A Limerick Response

Teresa Devine sent ECI this update: Nellie McLoughlin RSM did a very interesting and practical presentation on Climate Change. She initiated her presentation with a quote from Hannah Hamilton, sustainability consultant specialising in biodiversity, conversation and environmental communications from the Irish Times 2019, 'The organs of the earth are showing signs of failure and there is no transplant, no planetary dialysis machine, no intergalactic surgical wizardry that can fix them'.



Nellie, quoting Pope Francis reminded us of our interconnectedness with the entire community of life. 'We are in constant interaction with nature'. We live out of abundance, not scarcity, but the earth's resources are finite and the living systems – sun, water, air, soil cannot be preserved or mended with money! These systems are our natural richness. The group had an opportunity to divide into groups that might carry forward concrete actions and make a difference to preserving a healthy environment for the present and future generations. Thanks to all who gave time to attend this conference, it is up to each of us to keep the momentum in place and make challenging changes!

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church, Co Down holds Tools for Solidarity collection

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church held a Tools for Solidarity collection as part of their Harvest Festival. 10 sewing machines and 2 trailer loads of a variety of hand and power tools were delivered to the workshop. These will be restored and sent out to various projects in Africa.



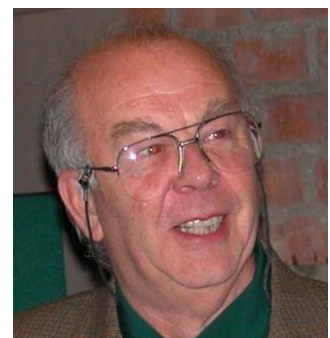
Northern Ireland Creation Care Network meets in Regent Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards, Co Down

The Northern Ireland Creation Care Network convened its 14th Meeting on Saturday 12th October 2019 in Regent Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards, Co Down. Bertie Stirling, a member of the Network sent ECI a report on what was discussed at this meeting at and [you can read it in full here on the ECI website](#). The next meeting of the Network will be in early 2020 and all are welcome to attend. More information from bertie.stirling@arocha.org.



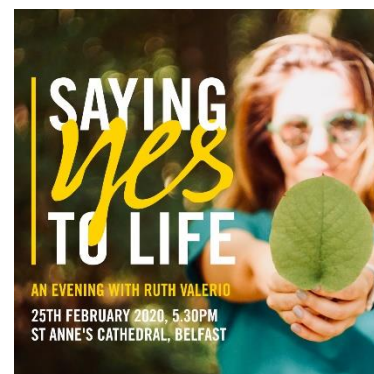
Article by Joe Furphy in Presbyterian Herald

Joe Furphy is an elder in Lowe Memorial Presbyterian Church, Finaghy, Belfast and is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Stewardship of Creation Panel. He is the PCI representative on Eco-Congregation Ireland. He is a retired environmentalist. In the March 2019 edition of the Presbyterian Herald Rev. Dr Allen Sleith (a fellow member of the PCI Stewardship of Creation Panel) superbly set out the accepted scientific wisdom on climate change and raised many of the challenges we face. In this article Joe adds to the concerns he raised. [Read Joe's article here](#).



Saying Yes to Life: An Evening with Ruth Valerio

An evening of conversation with Dr Ruth Valerio, Tearfund's Advocacy and Influencing Director, exploring the themes of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book. With inspiration from around the world, Ruth will draw from the themes of creation to consider what it means to be made in the image of God and entrusted to look after what he has made: a thoughtful and stimulating way to begin Lent 2020. Details: St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on Tuesday 25 February 2020. Please join Tearfund for light refreshments at 5.30pm, for a 6.00pm start.



An invitation to a Conversation from Joe Murray

Joe Murray is Director of Afri - a small justice, peace and human rights organisation, founded in 1975. Militarisation/war and climate change are among Afri's key issues - around which they campaign and have developed an educational programme for secondary schools and third level students. He was the JPIC Coordinator with St. Patrick's Missionary Society from 2009 to 2013.



As religious practice declines in Ireland, I believe there should be a conversation – perhaps this is already taking place– around how best Church land and property is used, in terms not only of its monetary value but also of how it can contribute to promoting biodiversity and sustainability and keeping the delicate ecosystems of our planet in balance. An example might be that every religious house to which land is attached would set aside a part of that land to be used as a nature reserve, a source of biodiversity or a wilderness, of which we have less and less in our cobble-lock and manicured-lawn obsessed society.

I think it would be a great tragedy if over the next quarter-century many religious-owned properties become 'property developments' or golf courses. I do, of course, also recognise the need for Religious to find the resources needed to look after their elderly members as well as society's need for affordable housing – the inclusion of which added a positive dimension to the sale of Clonliffe College. Perhaps the 'bottom line' in this conversation would be how Religious can continue to make a positive contribution to the long term good of our Planet, by means of the resources within their own control.

As stated in Laudato Si: 'So what they (Christians) need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience'. You can contact Joe at joe@afri.ie.

Eco Challenge!

Christmas is coming and it's so easy to get caught up in the consumerism, consumption and frenzy of the season. However, there are many organisations out there where we can purchase ethical and eco-friendly presents for our loved ones and at the same time help the poor and the earth at this materialistic time of year. Let's try this Christmas to support as many fair trade and earth friendly organisations as we can! Here are a few links to begin with: [Traidcraft](#);

[Trócaire Gifts](#); [Christian Aid Gifts](#); [Tear Fund Living Gifts](#); [Bóthar](#). [Irish Methodist World Development and Relief](#). I am sure we can all think of many more. Let us think before we spend this Christmas.



Prayer for the Earth

Fr Hugh O'Donnell is a poet and ministers with the Salesian community in the parish of Sean McDermott Street in Dublin. He has taken the beautiful photo on the right – November sunset at Lissadell. Fr Hugh shares the following Advent reflection with us:



We still call it Palm Sunday the day on which the donkey who first appears in a Bethlehem stable is recast walking in the Jerusalem parade amid cheering fans. Which reminds me of another. This one placed centre stage in a painting by Orazio Gentileschi whose large head appears above the wall where the exhausted family are resting on their flight into Egypt; Joseph stretched out on the ground and the baby suckling. It's as if the artist could be saying 'don't forget the one who carries them'.

As a 'beast of burden' the ass reminds us that Jesus, too, will be sent packing – 'not my problem; his kind don't belong here anyway'. He goes to his death as one whom nobody is prepared to stand up for. 'Then they came for the Jews', wrote Martin Niemöller, 'and I did not speak out – because I was not a Jew'.

To a Father who notices the fall of a sparrow, the ass is more than 'a dumb beast'. He, too, is loved by the Father who suffers, in some way, with all his creation, including the animals we lord it over, oblivious of how they are mistreated in a food production system stretching from birth-pen to abattoir. But Brother Donkey is an essential part of the story and well-chosen to accompany the one who 'emptied himself' on our behalf; raising every creature in the process – 'even the fleeting life of the tiniest' – to the dignity of fellow-pilgrims, their standing in God's affection assured. Amen.



Some useful Advent Prayer resources are available from the [Global Catholic Climate Movement here](#).

Rev David Coleman, Environmental Chaplain at [Eco-Congregation Scotland](#), is offering an Advent devotional project: an online video Advent Calendar based on the Lectionary readings for Advent. Items will appear at 00.01 on each day of Advent, lasting a minute or less. To 'subscribe' simply go to Facebook and 'like' the page [Advent with the Eco-Chaplain](#). The material is largely out of his own life and work, in his travels among the churches of Scotland.



This prayer was used at the last meeting of the Northern Ireland Creation Care Network at their meeting on 12 October 2019 in Regent Street Presbyterian Church, Newtownards, Co Down:

Father of creation, we thank you for all that you have made;
For the joy and glimpses of you we find in nature's beauty,
For the variety of all you have provided through its resources.
Help us to tread lightly and use wisely,
Valuing the needs of all creation, above our own desires.
Challenge us where we need to change our lifestyles,
Convict us when we need to speak out on behalf of your world
And soften us where we have stood in judgement of others.
Father, change us and use us for the restoration of your creation,
and the protection of all your children. Amen.



With kindest regards,

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