

ST GEORGE'S LAUDATO SI GROUP

SEASON OF CREATION UPDATE

Our parish group hopes to answer the call of Pope Francis and our Diocese to care for our Common Home and the people we share it with.

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SEASON OF CREATION

1st September (World Day of Prayer for Creation) – 4th October (Feast of St Francis)

The Christian family unites worldwide for prayer and action during the Season of Creation. This year's theme is **"Let Justice and Peace Flow"** inspired by the Old Testament

Prophet Amos who declares,

"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream!" (Amos 5:24).



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

We would like to invite everyone in the parish to join us at any of the following events.

Saturday 2nd September

Wild Swimming at Pool Bridge Farm. Setting off after morning Mass.

Details in the parish bulletin and on Facebook

Sunday 3rd September

Laudato Si Reflection Group – 9am in church. This group will meet monthly for the next seven months to read and reflect on Pope Francis's encyclical "Laudato Si".

Fairtrade Stall after Mass – a chance to buy fairly traded tea, coffee, chocolate and other products that support producers, farmers and workers around the world.

Saturday 9th September

Pilgrimage for the Planet – 10am Prayer Service in York Minster

11am Join other Christians from York on a circular pilgrimage around our city. For details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pilgrimage-for-the-planet-york-tickets>

Sunday 10th September

Parish walk (stroll!) to Millenium Bridge down the river path after morning Mass. Suitable for families, push chairs and dogs on leads. About 20 minutes approx.

Sunday 24th September – at St Lawrence's from 2.30pm

Ecumenical prayer and outdoor service for all the family with our friends from St Lawrence's. Followed by refreshments.

MEETINGS

Our group meets monthly in the sacristy to plan activities – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Check the parish bulletin and social media for details. Everyone is welcome.

Our Laudato Si Group is currently working towards achieving CAFOD's LiveSimply Award by showing how our parish lives simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in poverty.

Caring for our Common Home: something to reflect on this month

For the next seven months, the Laudato Si group will be suggesting areas of our lives where we might try to pay better attention to 'Caring for Our Common Home'.

We will seek to help develop an awareness of making choices for the good of the planet and its people, rather than continuing with our comfortable, carbon rich, consumer orientated, planet warming, unsustainable lifestyles!

It has been estimated that if all the world consumed as much as the average UK citizen, we would need 3 planets to sustain us!

So perhaps we can all try to do even small things that make a difference, for example:

- asking whether we really need what we are proposing to buy even if we can afford it;
- buying less; looking for Fairtrade and organic when we can;
- recycling more and buying secondhand (or preloved!).

We are asking parishioners to support St Nicks Environment Centre in recycling some items not recycled by City of York Council. So we will supply recycling bins for:

1. spent plastic pens and markers,
2. old plastic toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes,
3. wires, cables and charging leads
4. candles, melts and wax waste,
5. coffee packaging.

St Nicks do recycle other things which you can find out about on their webpage:

www.stnicks.org.uk under Waste and Sustainability, Tricky Materials.

Above all, let us use our God-given gifts to work together to find solutions to the present climate crisis. As Pope Francis says in Laudato Si, **"Let us sing as we go and find joy in everything we do"**.

Here is a prayer from Rachel McCarthy at CAFOD to use this Season of Creation.

Living God,
have mercy on us,
for the times we forget
that we belong to each other.
You call us to be still,
to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,
to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun,
& to be nourished by our Mother Earth.

Renew us in your healing love.
Inspire us to water the earth,
and nurture one another,
so all may flourish.
Together, as one family,
may we always sing your praise.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Please read and recycle this newsletter or pass it on to someone else!