



CARE OF CREATION

Preparing the Church in Scotland for COP26

Sunday 3rd October - 27th Sunday of the Year

COP26 - A Christian Faith Appeal

On 7th September 2021, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby issued *A Joint Message For The Protection of Creation*.

In it they urged everyone to play their part in ‘choosing life’ for the future of the planet. Warning of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation they

...call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us.

... the current climate crisis speaks volumes about who we are and how we view and treat God’s creation. biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth’s resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them.’

Their joint declaration concludes with a clear warning:

Today, we are paying the price... Tomorrow could be worse’. Its conclusion brings home the urgency of COP26: ‘This is a critical moment. Our children’s future and the future of our common home depend on it.

The statement calls on people to pray and act.

During these final weeks until COP26 we will offer suggestions for both.

Prayer for World Leaders ahead of COP26

We pray that all world leaders may look beyond narrow self-interest and act in the interests of all who inhabit this planet.

Prayer for the People of Scotland

We pray for the courage and insight to make meaningful sacrifices for the sake of our Common Home, working together and taking responsibility for how we use our resources

For those with far-reaching responsibilities

We pray that those with responsibility for industry and commerce will choose people-centred profits and lead the transition to just and sustainable economies.



The Bishops' Conference of Scotland, Office for Care of Creation
64 Aitken Street, Airdrie, ML6 6LT





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Sunday 10th October - 28th Sunday of the Year

COP26 - Global Inequality

The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: “Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest” we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear *both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor*.

~ *Laudato Si’* 48-49

Governments . . . need to be concerned about adopting an economic model that no longer embraces consumption and waste, nor neglects the welfare of poorer nations.

~ 2021 Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Scotland on the Sixth Anniversary of *Laudato Si’*

The worst effects of climate change are being felt now by people in the poorest countries who have done little or nothing to cause this crisis. More frequent and severe droughts, floods and heatwaves, as well as rising sea-levels and ecosystem degradation are hitting the poorest people in the poorest countries hardest.

We need to hear directly from representatives of the Global South to understand what needs to happen at this year’s COP26 negotiations to make it a success.

~ Alistair Dutton, Director of SCIAF

Prayer for World Leaders ahead of COP26

We pray that all world leaders may truly listen to those whose lives are currently being devastated by the climate catastrophe even if they cannot be physically present at COP26..

Prayer for the People of Scotland

We pray for an openness to listening to and understanding the impact that climate change is having on our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

For those with far-reaching responsibilities

We pray that those with responsibility for industry and commerce will engage with people of the Global South in a just way respecting their environment and their culture.



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Sunday 17th October - 29th Sunday of the Year

COP26 - Global Justice

Climate change is also an ongoing threat to poverty reduction, and it will intensify in coming years. New analyses for this report estimate that climate change will drive 68 million to 135 million into poverty by 2030. Climate change is a particularly grave threat for countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia — the regions where most of the global poor are concentrated. The impacts of climate change can also include higher food prices, deteriorating health conditions, and exposure to disasters, such as floods, that affect both the poor and the general population.

Especially for the poorest small countries, climate change is perhaps the most vexing challenge, and the problem is not of those countries' making. Human-induced rises in global temperatures and sea levels are almost entirely a product of levels of energy use by high-income nations and large, rapidly growing middle-income countries. ~ The World Bank

As act of Global Solidarity **SCIAF** invite us to sign a petition - 3 asks, 2 weeks, 1 planet

3 Asks Pay to protect the poorest communities

Make sure financial support is given to those impacted by climate change so they can adapt and recover.

Act now to stop runaway climate change

Make sure world leaders commit to keeping rises in global temperatures below the disastrous 1.5°C threshold.

Listen to those on the frontline of the climate crisis

Make sure that people worst affected by the crisis are at the heart of the climate talks.

2 Weeks At COP26 world leaders have a fortnight to put us on track to solve the climate crisis.

1 Planet With faith, love and courage we can heal our Common Home.

Prayer for World Leaders ahead of COP26

We pray that all world leaders may look beyond narrow self-interest and act in the interests of all who inhabit this planet especially those in the Global South.

Prayer for the People of Scotland

We pray for the courage and insight to make meaningful sacrifices as a gesture of solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South.

For those with far-reaching responsibilities

We pray that those with responsibility for industry and commerce will seek ways to work with those in the Global South that gives them dignity and economic justice.



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CARE OF CREATION

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Sunday 24th October - 30th Sunday of the Year

COP26 - Responding to Code Red Report for Humanity

In **August 2021** the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, compiled by more than 230 climate scientists, warned that major climate disruption is inevitable and, in many instances, irreversible. The UN Secretary General António Guterres said:

Today's IPCC Working Group 1 Report is a 'Code Red' for humanity... This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.

In **June 2018** Pope Francis said:

As you know, in December 2015, 196 Nations negotiated and adopted the Paris Agreement, with a firm resolve to limit the growth in global warming to below 2° centigrade, based on preindustrial levels, and, if possible, to below 1.5° centigrade. Some two and a half years later, carbon dioxide emissions and atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases remain very high. This is disturbing and a cause for real concern.

Yet even more worrying is the continued search for new fossil fuel reserves, whereas the Paris Agreement clearly urged keeping most fossil fuels underground. This is why we need to talk together – industry, investors, researchers and consumers – about transition and the search for alternatives. **Civilization requires energy, but energy use must not destroy civilization!**

In their 2021 Pastoral Letter on the Sixth Anniversary of Laudato Si' the Bishops of Scotland stated:

The dioceses of Scotland are in the process of divesting from fossil fuel investments. The Bishops' Conference is aiming for carbon neutrality for its agencies, as are the dioceses in as sustainable and timely a way as possible.

Prayer for World Leaders ahead of COP26

We pray that all world leaders may take the necessary action to abandon the extraction and use of coal and fossil fuels.

Prayer for the People of Scotland

We pray that we may demand that our political leaders seek alternative, environmentally friendly and sustainable energy sources for all.

For those with far-reaching responsibilities

We pray that those with responsibility for industry and commerce will urgently divest from any investment in fossil fuels and seek ways of developing environmentally and sustainable energy sources for all.



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CARE OF CREATION

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Sunday 31st October - 31st Sunday of the Year

COP26 - Let it be Compassionate, Creative and Courageous.

God has honoured us by giving humanity the task of being a co-operator in the work of creation. In recent years we have seen in our brothers and sisters throughout the world a growing determination to change the destructive practices of the past. This gives us hope. Like the Creator, we look at what God has created and see that it is very good. A sense of gratitude compels us to ensure that human activity enhances and builds up that creation.

~Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of Scotland on the Sixth Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pentecost 2021

The current environmental situation calls us to act now with urgency to become ever more responsible stewards of creation and to restore the nature that we have been damaging and exploiting for too long. when we look around ourselves, what do we see? We see crisis leading to crisis. We see the destruction of nature, as well as a global pandemic leading to the death of millions of people. We see the unjust consequences of some aspects of our current economic systems and numerous catastrophic climate crises that produce grave effects on human societies and even mass extinction of species.

The many “warnings” we are experiencing, among which we can see Covid-19 and global warming, are pushing us to take urgent action. I hope that the COP26 on climate change, to be held in Glasgow next November, will help to give us the right answers to restore ecosystems both through a strengthened climate action and a spread of awareness and consciousness.

Restoring the nature we have damaged means, in the first place, restoring ourselves. let us be compassionate, creative and courageous.

~ Pope Francis, Message for the Launching of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, May 2021

Prayer for World Leaders ahead of COP26

We pray that all world leaders may be compassionate, creative and courageous as they seek to respond to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor.

Prayer for the People of Scotland

We pray that we may come together as a nation and seek compassionate, creative and courageous ways to address the climate emergency for the good of all who inhabit our Common Home.

For those with far-reaching responsibilities

We pray that those with responsibility for industry and commerce will place the common good of all who inhabit our Common Home above the economic gain of the few.



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