Celebrating and Protecting Creation.

In his message for the 1990 World Peace Day, Pope John Paul II called for an ecological conversion. Many of us have seen first-hand the effects, especially on the poor, of the unthinking destruction of God’s creation and as a result have experienced the ecological collapse that the Pope called for two decades ago.

Extreme weather is one of the clearest signals that climate change is happening. During the first part of August, we were keenly aware of extreme weather in various parts of the world was seldom off the headlines.

Pakistan is having its worst floods in 80 years. Mudslides in North Western China are destroying villages and displacing thousands of people. Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic have also been hit by extreme weather events. Further east in Russia the problem is not excessive rain or floods, but the opposite, a prolonged heat wave with temperatures at record levels of 38 leading to forest and peat fires and all the resulting destruction this brings.

Our own Winter experienced its coldest Winter in a good number of years, with parts of the country brought to a standstill due to freezing temperatures and snow, while the UK has just recorded the driest 6 months in ninety-six years. It is the rising average temperature and freak weather events such as hurricanes, tornades and flash floods, which give climate change a concrete concern. This concern was noted in the Irish Bishops’ Pastoral Letter CRY OF THE EARTH, which was launched in November last year. This states God has given us the gift of this beautiful earth to live on. God’s earth provides for us by giving us everything we need to live.

Said Jesus: “Give us the intelligence and skill to care for the earth, Creation is both a gift and a responsibility. It seems that many of us have lost the capacity to relate with reverence to the natural world. It is a spiritual crisis. We need to rediscover a sense of awe and wonder at God’s creation. Only then will we have the sustained energy to change our attitude and way of living.

Churches throughout Ireland and elsewhere are being urged to take time to celebrate creation and to consider how they care for the earth. This runs from September 1 to October 31.

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Pathways: Exploring Faith & Ministry. Is it that time of year when you think you might like to study for a certificate, diploma or other qualifications? Many of us have seen first-hand the effects, especially on the poor, of the unthinking destruction of God’s creation and as a result have experienced the ecological collapse that the Pope called for two decades ago.

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

1. All that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; serve Him with gladness of heart and with songs.
2. Give us the intelligence and skill to care for the earth, Creation is both a gift and a responsibility. It seems that many of us have lost the capacity to relate with reverence to the natural world.
3. We need to rediscover a sense of awe and wonder at God’s creation. Only then will we have the sustained energy to change our attitude and way of living.

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