

## People of Hope

### Can I do anything? - Just Me?

Remember... I have family, friends, neighbours, my parish and local community groups:

[www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie)  
[www.transitionkerry.org](http://www.transitionkerry.org)  
[www.cef.ie](http://www.cef.ie)  
[www.glan.ie](http://www.glan.ie)

### Together... let's care for 'Our Common Home'



O God of the poor, help us to rescue  
the abandoned and forgotten of this earth  
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives  
that we may protect the world  
and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty,  
not pollution and destruction.

Pope Francis

## Resources

*"Social problems must be addressed by  
**community networks** and not simply by  
the sum of individual good deeds."*

*Laudato Si #219*



#### National:

[www.justiceandpeace.ie/environmental-justice](http://www.justiceandpeace.ie/environmental-justice)  
[www.voiceireland.org](http://www.voiceireland.org)  
[www.foe.ie](http://www.foe.ie)  
[www.cleancoasts.org](http://www.cleancoasts.org)  
[www.greennews.ie](http://www.greennews.ie)

#### International:

[www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)  
[www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org](http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org)  
[www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org](http://www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org)

#### Films:

[www.strawsfilm.com](http://www.strawsfilm.com)  
<https://plasticoceans.org>



[www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie)



## Diocese of Kerry Season of Creation



## Be part of the solution to plastic pollution

The family needs a home, a fit environment in which to develop its proper relationships. For the human family, this home is the earth, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit with creativity and responsibility. We need to care for the environment.

- Pope Benedict

## Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and acting responsibly amidst the challenges of modern society. One of the themes of CST is 'Care for God's Creation'. Our faith reminds us that we are partners in caring for creation and so we, as Catholics, are called to live out this faith in relationship with all of God's creation.



In his letter '*Laudato Si on Care for our Common Home*', Pope Francis says that 'our Sister, Mother Earth...cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.'

This is why the **Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)** committee of our Diocese has chosen 'PLASTIC POLLUTION' as our theme for the Season of Creation. We all need to urgently and drastically reduce our use of plastic if we are to protect 'Our Common Home' from irreparable harm.

We hope this brochure will help and encourage you to **refuse** plastic where you can or, if not, to **reduce** the amount of plastic you use.

## Reality

Plastic pollution is destroying our planet. It is choking our oceans, poisoning our food and water supply and causing havoc to the health and well-being of both humans and wildlife.



### Did you know?

- Ireland is the EU's top producer of plastic waste.
- 91% of plastic is not recycled, it is dumped.
- It takes 500—1,000 years for plastic to decompose.
- Tiny plastic 'microbeads' used in personal care and laundry products are not captured at wastewater treatment plants, therefore, they make their way into our waterways and oceans.
- 13 million tonnes of plastic leaks into the world's oceans each year to be ingested by sea birds, fish and other organisms.

## Actions

During the five week **Season of Creation** from September 1st – October 4th, and throughout the year, we urge you to deepen your faith in action by committing to one or more of these actions:



- Refuse single use plastics  
e.g. clingfilm / straws / plastic cutlery
- Switch to reusable water bottle / travel cup
- Avoid plastic wrapping when possible
- Use dishes or glass jars to store food
- Bring your own container when buying meat / fish
- Use cloth bags for shopping
- Participate in a parish / community clean-up
- Check for microbeads in products
- Read *Laudato Si* in your Book Club
- Learn more about local recycling

# 5

**REFUSE**  
**REDUCE**  
**REUSE**  
**REPURPOSE**  
**RECYCLE**