

# Listening to the Cries of the Earth and the Poor



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 Oct 11



In Laudato Si, Pope Francis exhorts us all to "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

## The Climate Emergency

We are currently in the grip of multiple global emergencies. Probably, most prominent are the terrible global pandemic and the climate crisis. As we continue to battle against Covid-19 and strive to save lives, an appreciation of

the vital importance of mental well-being in order to do this effectively is rising. So too is the link between mental health and access to green spaces.

Yet our environment is under grave threat, and humanity is fast approaching a tipping point. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2018 report warned of the climate catastrophe that will be unleashed if we do not restrict increases in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius: the risk of extreme temperatures, rising sea-levels, droughts. The UN has warned that we have just 10 years to take decisive action to avert this human and environmental disaster.

## Taking the Right Path

It is very easy to justify lack of action on an issue on the basis that others choose not to do anything, and so one's individual efforts will make no difference. Yet as Christians, we are called to stand up, and not simply take the easier path, even when it seems that the odds are against us. It is in those very circumstances that our action counts most.

We can look to the clear example of St Joseph, after whom our beautiful church is named, as evidence of this. When St Joseph learnt of his

betrothed's pregnancy, he was faced with the prospect of doing what was right and what was easy. And he did not take the easy route. Many others would have taken that avenue, especially given the strongly patriarchal and oppressive society of that time. But St Joseph did not abandon his betrothed, Our Lady, Mary. He did not act rashly and turn her away. When he fell asleep, he listened to the words revealed by the Angel, that the conception had come about by the Holy Spirit.

St Joseph was an honourable man; humble and brave. He stood by his wife and the infant Jesus, our Lord and Saviour of the world, because he knew this was God's call for him.

So, when we witness the destruction that is occurring to our beautiful, life-supporting home, this planet Earth, we can choose to carry on with business as usual. We can choose to put short-term economic growth before all else. Or we can reflect on that which is of far higher worth: a planet in which all life can flourish, and which can offer a safe and healthy environment for our children, our nieces and nephews, our grandchildren, all children-to-come, for them to grow old in.



## Hearing the Cry of the Poor

It is crucial to realise that action on the climate crisis is about intragenerational fairness as well as intergenerational fairness. Pope Francis calls on us to hear the cry of the poor, and it is the poorest people in the world who will suffer the most from the impending climate catastrophe, which is not of their making. And in this context, the words in Matthew 25 can speak to us with striking clarity, when the world falls away and we truly listen to our own consciences: "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me".

*...To Be Continued.*

**Katie de Kauwe, 9 October 2020.**

*Katie is an environmental lawyer at Friends of the Earth, and is working on the organisation's Heathrow legal challenge. The opinions expressed in this article are her personal views.*

# CONFESSİON



*(based upon Psalm 23 and Isaiah 25:1-9)*

One: Good Shepherd, with you as our shepherd we lack nothing and yet there is so much we want.

**Many: Forgive us when we doubt your provision. Subdue our restless hearts.**

One: The world feels chaotic and unstable and sometimes we can't help but scoff at the thought of green pastures and still waters.

**Many: Forgive us when we allow the valley to consume us. Remove the shroud that inhibits our imagination.**

One: You have prepared an abundant table for all your people and yet sometimes we make light of your invitation and even greet it with violence and hostility.

**Many: Forgive us when we reject your call to unity and peace. Swallow up our pride and shame.**



# 2020 First Holy Communion

**SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER**  
**Group A Mass: at 11:00am**  
**Group B Mass: at 12:30pm**

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding  
as we accommodate our First Holy Communicants and  
their families to ensure proper social distancing.

# BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT MASS

[https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/  
/highgate/events/](https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/)

A link is also available via the parish website.

## Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 7PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM, 12 NOON & 7PM

Weekdays 9:30AM

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10AM - 10:30AM

6:30PM - 6:45PM

Weekdays Immediately  
after Mass (On request)

# Thank You

We can't exist without the generosity of the people that call Holy Joes home. When you give generously, we share in the true nature of God's abundant love. Last week's collection amounted to £1070. Thank you very much.

# CHILDREN'S LITURGY



We'll be thinking about

Listening to God's word.

How does God invite us  
to heaven?



We'll be talking about...

Have any of you been to a wedding or another big celebration before?  
How do we prepare for the celebration?  
How we can be kind and invite others to our celebration?



We'll be praying for...

The church and  
how we feel welcome  
here

Help to live our  
lives well



Our Gospel is about...

Jesus tells the story of the wedding feast. A king invited his people for his son's wedding, some were too busy and did not go so the King invited everyone else. Some people chose to come and join the king in his celebration. Jesus says, "Many are invited but few are chosen."



## Anniversaries

Dan Murphy

Margaret (Peggy) Coyle

David Stirling

Mary Faherty

Annie Cardiff

## Lately Dead

+ Jackie Taylor

+ Anthony Nolan

+ Sr. Teresa Ryan

+ Frank Joyce

+ Thomas Goldrick

+ Michael Carragher

+ Hugh Gillen

+ Phyllis Joan Gardiner



## **CAFOD Family Fast Day**

This week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Please pray for all those affected by the pandemic and bless others with your generosity (use one of the envelopes after Mass).



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NHS Track and Trace App.

