



Season of Creation Archbishop Dermot Farrell publishes pastoral letter on the climate crisis 64 page pastoral *The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the Poor* now available in Veritas bookshop. “Faith

and science are not opponents; in a truly Christian view, faith and reason—*fides et ratio*—go hand in hand” – Archbishop Farrell We are living on the edge of huge historical change. Our common home, indeed our only home—this planet—is under threat. Our lifestyles, and the economies which support them are contributing significantly to climate change, and to the crisis it is causing: the many wildfires raging in these days, the melting of the polar caps, the rise of sea levels, the loss of biodiversity, and the depletion of the soil on which life depends. The future of life on this earth, which God created and which “he saw was good” (Genesis 1:21, 25), hangs in the balance. Humans are unequivocally driving global warming. It is beyond doubt that climate change is being caused by what we have done—and continue to do—in upsetting nature’s equilibrium and balance. Over the past eighteen months, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought home to us—in frightening and tragic ways—the fragility of our lives, and how fleeting are many of the networks on which we have come to depend. Our planet and its social organisation are as fragile as they are complex. What we need to realise is that, over the coming decades, the issues currently arising from climate change will impact far more on us than those from the coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, the havoc of the pandemic will pale when compared to that of climate change. This pastoral letter, which I have titled, *The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the Poor*, approaches the climate catastrophe from the perspective of faith. That is not to say, it excludes the insights and contribution of the natural sciences. On the contrary, healthy faith takes on board what God says through creation (see *Dei Verbum* §3). Faith and science are not opponents; in a truly Christian view, faith and reason—*fides et ratio*—go hand in hand. God reveals himself through the world. That is the heart of our Catholic faith. Scientists have issued a “code red” not just for the environment, but for humanity itself. God now calls us, individually and collectively, to work for the good of the planet *and* the good of

all. Let us not fool ourselves: there can be no enduring response to the cry of the earth without responding to the need for justice and dignity. This pastoral is an extended engagement with the vast and complex reality of climate. A long document, it seeks to dialogue with the varied views and voices, both religious and cultural, which seek to cast light on the crisis. All too often ‘religion’ appears as if it is no more than an intellectual failure of nerve. However, true religion is not a flight from the world: faith that is alive provides a framework for people to make decisions and take action. As a Church, and as a society, we need to reflect with greater depth, urgency, and seriousness about what we must do. This extensive pastoral is in the service of that deeper reflection. If not for your own sake, then for the sake of your children, and for the world’s children, consider dedicating some time to the issues raised in its pages. One possible next step for communities and parishes might be to consider signing the ‘*Healthy Planet—Healthy People*’ petition. Endorsed by the Holy See, this petition, aimed at the UN Climate Conference (COP 26), advocates for an agreement that limits warming to 1.5 degrees, while protecting and supporting those most affected by the climate crisis. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor go hand in hand. For the Holy See the ‘*Healthy Planet—Healthy People*’ petition is a key advocacy action for this year’s Season of Creation. Communities, people in parishes and dioceses, as well as religious congregations, are encouraged to sign the petition at www.healthyplanetandpeople.org. It is important to be clear: there is a cost in addressing the climate crisis. As well as financial cost, we will have to embrace lifestyle change. It requires many perspective shifts—political, social, economic and ecclesial. The challenge is to discover how we can live more sustainably, more responsibly, and more humanly in our common home. Christ came not only to call us to a new way of living, but He came to empower us to live in that new way. Christ has not left us; our Lord has not abandoned us, for—in the words of Pope Francis: Christ has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. (LS §245) May Christ’s faith and courage, give us the hope and strength to embrace what we *now* have to do, in the face of what has become humanity’s defining challenge.

A short prayer as we return to school

Loving God, our creator, the source of our blessings, our companion, bless the journey of a new school year that we now begin. Bless our teachers and friends as we make our way back to the classrooms for another

Remembered In Mass		
Donoughmore		
Sat 4th	7 pm	Billy Brosnahan (20th) 80th Birthday
Mon 5th	10 am	
Tue 6th	10 am	No Mass
Fri 10th	10 am	No Mass
Sat 11th	7 pm	Eileen Keary
Knockea		
Sun 5th	11am	Intentions of the Parish
Wed 8th	10am	
Sun 12th	11am	Brian Clancy. Dan Godfrey
Roxboro		



year. Help everyone to feel the excitement and joy in the promise of a new start. Give us everything we need to start our classes. Give us imagination and creativity to make wonders out of what we do have. We ask you to refresh our souls and renew our spirits. We welcome those who are new to our school community and may they settle in well during the coming days and weeks. Strengthen all of us to share the wonderful gifts you have given to each of us. We ask you to gently guide and direct everyone each day in your loving care. We ask this in your name. Amen ***Congratulations all round to the class of 2021 on their Leaving Cert results***

After 18 months of ‘winter’, we’ve learned to live with the virus and recognise there is

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hope. On Tuesday evening the Taoiseach’s announcement that the main raft of Covid measures was coming to an end over the next few weeks and, in short, the main battle was over. There was a point last year when the words of Seamus Heaney came back into common use, although the man is now eight years gone. They read: “If we can winter this one out we can summer anywhere.” They were words that proved a deep and profound thing for us all as we voyaged through an 18-month journey that has taken our loved ones, ravaged our economy and curtailed our personal freedoms.

Weekly Parish Lotto: No Winner €5,200 winning No. 3,11,13,19. lucky dips- 1Conor Keane. 2. David O’Neill 3. Alan McDonagh 4. Bridlang 5. Gerard O’Riordan 6. Rosemary Carey Next week’s jackpot €5,300, next draw will take place at 9.30pm on Tuesday 7th Sept. at the Cat’s Cradle Thank you

