

Reflection Tuesday week 28 - 2021

“The heavens proclaim the glory of God, and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.” (Ps 18/19:2) says the psalmist. While St Paul writes: *Ever since God created the world his everlasting power and deity – however invisible – have been there for the mind to see in the things he has made.* (Rm 1:20) These readings suggest that we can find the truths and presence of God in his creation. All the more reason for us to work harder to heal our creation by living more simply, recycling, reusing and being less wasteful.

We can also pray that Cop26 will hear our cry, the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor to make greater efforts to become a greener nation and help others do the same. In 2015, the nations of the world agreed to limit climate change caused by human release of Green House Gases (GHGs) to a global warming of 2C degrees above pre-industrial levels, and hopefully to 1.5C. Some degree of climate change and shifting weather patterns is now inevitable due to adding 50% more GHGs than present historically. The lower limit will mitigate against catastrophic impacts upon humanity and the whole community of creation. To do this, we need to cease producing GHGs after 2050 to a point called net zero carbon.

Prayer for the COP26 climate summit (CAFOD)

Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.

Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.