

Reflection Thursday Week 33 – 2021

Recently Cop26 took place in Glasgow and our Government were the hosts. The Media focused on the failures of this gathering, ignoring the many small successes that took place. Search the CAFOD website for the gains; small but still significant. However, the voice of Jesus can also be heard concerning opportunities missed. Jesus is referring to the sacking and destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in 70 CE. We face the same challenge in terms of our climate running out of control which will lead not just to the loss of a city but to the destruction of our planet. And as Jesus said: *all because you did not recognise your opportunity when God offered it!* The future lies in our hands. We must lobby the government to keep its promises. Now Boris Johnson has to promote and encourage all the nations that took part to keep their promises too. It will help him to know that the nation will support him in this, whatever the cost. Those present at Cop26 were inspired by the energy and commitment of the many young people present and their desire to do everything in their power to save the planet for their future and the future of those who will come after them. Our duty now is not to let them down!!

Prayer after COP26.

Sovereign Lord, author of history, we trust fully in your good plans and purposes for your world. We are thankful for COP26 and the participation of the world's leaders. We are grateful to have heard voices from around the world of those who are already impacted by a changing climate. We pray that the commitments made by our politicians and industry leaders will be upheld with transparency and integrity. May we, as citizens and consumers, hold our leaders to account, while committing ourselves and our churches to uphold our responsibility as stewards of God's creation. The earth and all of us are yours, Lord! God of creation we place our hope in you and in your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

An old man had to carry a heavy bundle of sticks for many miles through harsh terrain. After many days, he could bear it no longer. His feet were blistered, his throat dry, and he could no longer move. In his misery, he called for Death.

Death appeared clad in a black robe and carrying his scythe. The old man fell to his knees. "Thank you so much for coming to me in my time of need!" He cried with joy.

"You can help me carry these sticks!"