

RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION - JANUARY 2026

A NEWSLETTER INSPIRING AND ENABLING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

REVIEW OF 2025

International Negotiations:

June: U.N. Ocean Conference, Nice, France: 170+ countries supported the Nice Action Plan. Many new pledges made.

August: UN talks on plastic pollution; Geneva: ended without agreement, again. November: Climate COP30, Brazil. No progress on reducing fossil fuels burning. Some progress on finance for poorer countries, but absence of the US had a huge impact.

UK: The National Emergency Briefing, held on November 27, 2025, focused on the climate and nature crisis, presenting urgent evidence and solutions from leading experts.

<https://www.youtube.com/@nebriefing>

Church: October: Laudato Si Raising Hope Conference. Pope Leo opened this Conference. You can watch his talk here: <https://youtu.be/dplfY8MIDVk> and/or read his speech here: <https://shorturl.at/pAwrl>

At the end of his talk, Pope Leo posed this question: "I would like to conclude with a question that concerns each of us. God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that he created (cf. Gen 2:15), for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters (cf. Gen 4:9; Jn 13:34). What will be our answer?"

School Visit from Minister for Nature

Pupils from St John Fisher Catholic Primary School welcomed Mary Creagh MP, Minister for Nature, to discuss the importance of taking care of the environment and tackling climate change.

Mary spoke to Year 5 pupils about her experience at COP30 as well as some of the initiatives she is leading to improve the UK's environment as part of her role as Minister for Nature: <https://shorturl.at/3Qcbn>

2026: A NEW BEGINNING FOR ME?

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis called for each of us to undergo a Conversion, - a change of mind and heart, with regards to caring for God's creation, for nature and the environment, and caring for the poor, the most vulnerable. He repeatedly reminds us that everything is connected.

Conversion is not a one-off event. It can begin with a huge upheaval, or just a silent resolution to do something. It always must be followed up with some actions, usually small, but these must become habitual, and then we continue with a further action and so on. We persevere.

Some suggestions: read *Laudato Si*, and *Laudato Deum*; Learn to reduce, re-use, re-cycle. (reduce means to consume less and avoid waste). Walk or cycle, rather than use the car; use public transport.; many more ideas online.

Switch energy provider to Ecotricity, or similar, green energy company.

WITH OTHERS IN THE PARISH

Register for the Live Simply Award, via CAFOD. Learn to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity.

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>

Register with the Laudato Si Action Platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

Become a Laudato Si Animator: <https://laudatosimovement.org>

And PRAY. We wish you a happy, holy and successful New Year.