

# St Nicholas Catholic Church, Boldmere Parish Environmental Group Newsletter

Some people who need no introduction, all of whom have something important to say about the environment.



You  
and  
Me

## What does 'global climate emergency' mean to you?

A record temperature of 48.8 °C in Sicily! Major storm and flood events in Britain! Are these not proof of climate change? Well, no, not in and of themselves. The reason of course is that there is a difference between weather and climate that is to do with a measure of time. Weather is about the short term, while climate is about the long term. That said, such extreme weather events, together with melting polar ice and the rise in sea levels are all part of an accumulation of evidence for what the IPCC is calling 'code red for humanity'.

## So, what is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) saying?

A lot! Here are just a few sobering thoughts ...

... global surface temperature was 1 °C higher in the decade between 2011-2020 than between 1850-1900

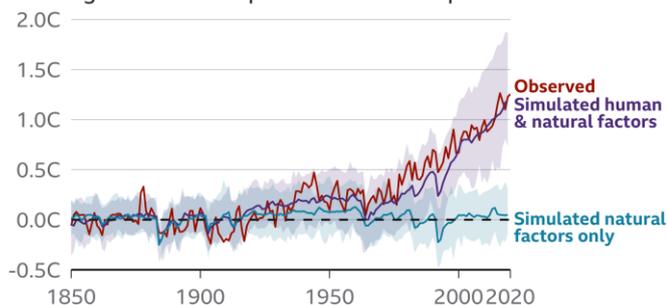
... the past five years have been the hottest on record since 1850

... the recent rate of sea level rise has nearly tripled compared with 1901-1971.

If it is true that 'a picture is worth a thousand words', then the following may help. On the left the graph shows how human activity is causing global temperatures to rise and on the right is a simplified explanation of why this is happening - the so-called 'greenhouse effect'. The increased atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) can be attributed in large part to the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas.

### Human influence has warmed the climate

Change in average global temperature relative to 1850-1900, showing observed temperatures and computer simulations

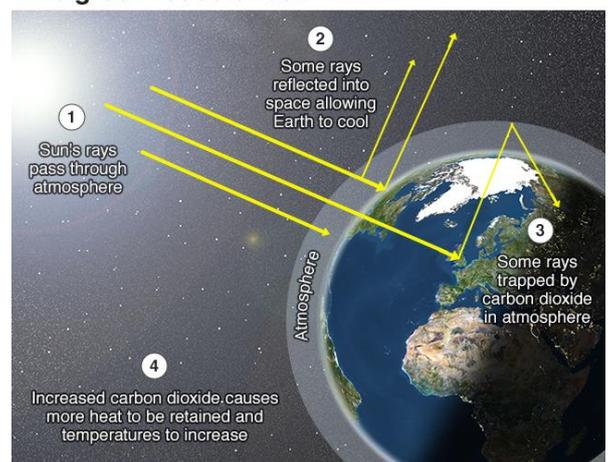


Note: Shaded areas show possible range for simulated scenarios

Source: IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers

BBC

### The greenhouse effect



BBC

While the future projections of warming are clearer than ever and many impacts simply cannot be avoided, the IPCC cautions against fatalism. Lowering global warming really minimises the likelihood of hitting climate tipping points\*. "We are not doomed."

For political leaders, the report is another in a long line of wake-up calls, but since it comes so close to November's COP26 global climate summit, it carries extra weight.

\* A tipping point is when part of the Earth's climate system undergoes an abrupt change in response to continued warming.

## The poorest in our world suffer the most

CAFOD are working to help but they need our help too. Perhaps you might consider signing CAFOD's COP26 petition. More information can be found using this link. [www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns)

## What we do matters

It's not just about Greta Thunberg, Sir David Attenborough, Pope Francis, and our Political Leaders. It's about you and me too. As Tesco remind us 'Every little helps'.

So, what can we do that will make a difference?

- Firstly, **we** can pray with Pope Francis, using his 'Prayer for our Earth' ...

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*  
Laudato Si', 246

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." St John Paul the Great.

- We may be ready as a parish to consider the CAFOD 'Live simply' programme. You can find further information on this at [www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award)

**There will be a parish meeting to chat this over on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Benedict Room. Do come along and help us take this forward.**

- When considering what to buy, we might like to consider ethical buying. For more information. [www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org)
- Becoming increasingly well informed is important too. The section below might help. I do recognise that much of what I have included is available through the internet and not everyone has that access. That said, TV, radio and newspapers do regularly report on environmental matters and with COP26 Global Climate Summit in the UK in November this year more will be in the various news media. So do try to stay in touch.

## More information

If you do have access to the internet there is a wealth of helpful information pitched at all levels. Here are some reliable sources that you might like to check out.

- What Pope Francis has to say about why our faith calls us to urgent action to care for the Earth. Go to the Vatican website [www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html) and put **Laudato si** in the search engine
- Highly recommended are the Global Healing and Global Caring films. [www.faithcafe.org/collections/ourcommonhome](http://www.faithcafe.org/collections/ourcommonhome)  
The six films are also available on YouTube. [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdu7tsNYIRxmD05GCWeCEAafqW7N0hdf2](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdu7tsNYIRxmD05GCWeCEAafqW7N0hdf2)
- For a complete listing of resources of all types for all ages you would struggle to do better than the 'Tool Kit'. [www.rcdhn.org.uk/caritas/pdfdoc/2021/GH%20Handout%20Toolkit%20and%20Resources%20v2.pdf](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/caritas/pdfdoc/2021/GH%20Handout%20Toolkit%20and%20Resources%20v2.pdf)
- To learn a little more about the science of climate change. [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24021772](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24021772)
- To read a little about what the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said [www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58138714](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58138714)

I hope that you have found this newsletter useful. If I can be of further help, please do ask.

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