

# RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF CREATION - FEBRUARY 2023

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

## FACT

**The Lifecycle of Plastics.** Plastic is everywhere but it's only existed for the last 60-70 years. It's designed to last hence why it's used so widely but that also means it takes a long time to decompose. Below is a list of common objects and the number of years it takes for them to break down:

**Plastic Bag - 20 years**

**Coffee Cup - 30 years**

**Plastic Water Bottle - 450 years**

**Coffee Pod - 500 years**

**Plastic Toothbrush - 500 years**

Fact Source: WWF



## NEWS, EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Join the Green Heart Campaign**, an initiative run by the Climate Coalition - the UK's largest group of people dedicated to climate action

Show the love for our planet this Valentine's Day by making and wearing a green heart to promote conversations, and get involved further by writing to your MP asking them to champion action on the climate, nature and cost of living crises. For more information and help with writing to your MP go to:

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

**Get involved in climate action in your parish.** See if a climate action group exists that you can join and if not get in touch to see how we can support you to create one.

## LIVE SIMPLY

**Low Energy Sundays.** We often make a conscious effort to keep Sundays quiet to rest but do we let our devices and ultimately the planet do the same? Try swapping your current activities for lower energy alternatives. For example, you could swap watching TV for reading books and going shopping for going for walks or spending time outside.

## LIVE SUSTAINABLY

**Reduce your transport carbon footprint.**

Try to make a conscious effort to reduce your carbon footprint caused by transport alone. Walk, cycle, use public transport or car share where possible. Try to group jobs into a single journey and think whether each journey in a vehicle is necessary. You could even combine this challenge with fundraising and join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk! See their website for more details.

## LIVE IN SOLIDARITY

**Find more ethical alternatives for three items from your weekly shop.** We affect the planet and other peoples' lives through every purchase that we make. So take a look at your regular shopping list and see if you can find a greener and/or more ethical alternative for three of your regular items. Think: plastic-free, Fairtrade (or equivalent), more local, and organic.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED IN CLIMATE ACTION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM, PLEASE CONTACT [CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK](mailto:CLIMATEACTION@RCAOB.ORG.UK)