



Green Team Eco Warriors: Faith in Action

Inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, which calls us to care for God's Earth, and his message on the importance of putting our faith into action, St Philomena's is embracing the opportunity to protect and nurture the environment. Our Green Team Eco Warriors are working together to live sustainably, reduce our carbon footprint and build a better future for generations to come.

Our journey began with a commitment to reducing waste and protecting wildlife. Children have engaged in various projects, including creating birdhouses, planting vegetable gardens, constructing a recycling woodwork bin and celebrating British Food Week by cooking recipes with locally sourced produce. Additionally, children have participated in upcycling old t-shirts, turning them into creative new designs, promoting the values of reusing and recycling. Children were awarded the prestigious Blue Peter Green badges in recognition of their work.

The Green Team are working towards the CAFOD Live Simply Award, which recognises communities that live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with the poor. This award provides a framework for our ongoing commitment to both local and global environmental and social justice issues, and we aim to demonstrate our dedication by engaging in actions that support this vision.

Catholic Social Teaching

Our actions are deeply rooted in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, particularly Stewardship and Solidarity. The principle of Stewardship calls us to care for the Earth, recognising it as a gift from God that we must protect and cultivate for future generations. This idea reflects our duty to responsibly manage the planet's resources, ensuring that they are shared fairly and not depleted or harmed.

Additionally, the principle of Solidarity urges us to stand with those who are most vulnerable to environmental harm, especially the poor and marginalised communities who often face the brunt of ecological degradation. By embracing these principles, our Green Team is living out our faith through actions that honour God's creation and build a more just, sustainable world for all.

Faith in Action

Our Catholic faith is at the heart of everything we do. *Laudato Si'* reminds us that the Earth is God's creation, and we are its stewards. We believe that caring for creation is an essential part of living out the Gospel. Our actions reflect the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), particularly *Solidarity* and *Care for God's Creation*. Our children have learned that, through small, intentional acts, they can make a significant difference in caring for the planet and for the poorest members of our global family.

Our Action Plan

To support our application for the CAFOD Live Simply Award, we will continue our commitment to sustainable living, including:

- Participating in **CAFOD's Big Lent Walk**, where the whole school will take part in a sponsored walk to raise funds for CAFOD's global efforts.
- Engaging in **CAFOD Fast Days and Brighten Up events** to raise funds for the world's poorest communities.

- Taking part in **global climate justice campaigns**, supporting CAFOD’s advocacy for those most impacted by climate change, and contacting political leaders to ensure that the poorest communities are heard.
- Supporting **Fairtrade initiatives** through activities such as holding a Fairtrade stall, switching to Fairtrade products in our school kitchen, and encouraging families to make the swap.
- Supporting **CAFOD’s World Gifts**, with pupils involved in fundraising to purchase items such as solar lights and clean water for communities in need.

We will involve the wider community, including governors, families, and local parishioners, to make our impact more significant. To support our fundraising efforts, we plan to invite a CAFOD visitor to speak with us about their work and inspire our actions.

Through these initiatives, our pupils will deepen their understanding of how their actions can have a meaningful impact on both the environment and society. They will learn how sustainable choices contribute to the global community, and how, by living simply, they can follow in the footsteps of Jesus’ call to love and serve others.

In addition to environmental education, St Philomena’s will incorporate the teachings of scripture and quotes from saints and popes, encouraging pupils to reflect on how they can integrate faith and action. Pope Francis’ words in *Laudato Si’*—“Let us protect with love all that God has given us”—serve as an inspiration to continue our journey toward living sustainably and justly.