

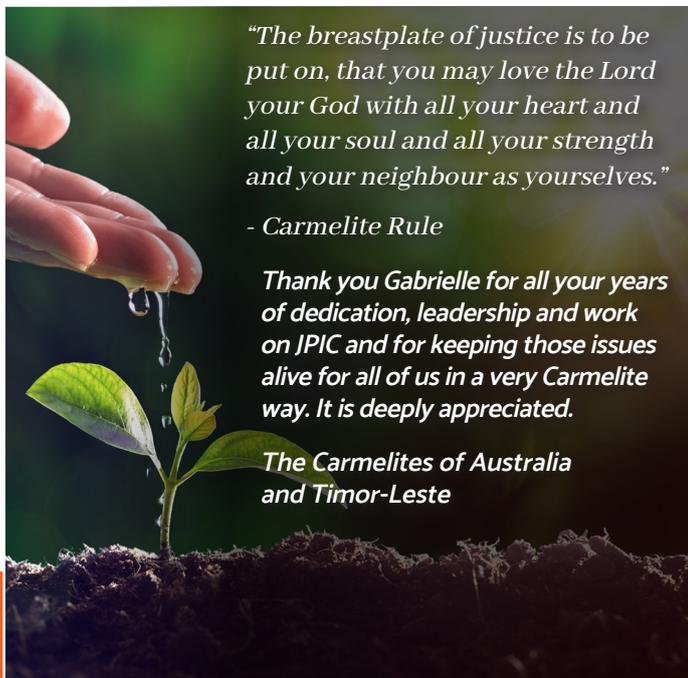
Message from the JPIC Team

Every three years the Carmelites are called to a Chapter where all positions are relinquished and new or renewed appointments are made. And so it is that the Australia & Timor Leste Province has concluded its Chapter and our Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission becomes open to a new team.

After 13 years on this team I will no longer be serving in this ministry acknowledging that it is time for a change, but grateful that the passion is still burning for God's work in helping to make the world a better place. It has been enlivening and a privilege to bring before you the need for all of us to live out our faith in justice and in peace, as demonstrated with the vision and inspiring words of Pope Francis', captured so beautifully in 'Let us Dream'. I would like to acknowledge the persistent and dedicated work of those in the previous JPIC Team: Peter Thomas, Josh Vujcich, Paul Sireh O.Carm and past member Agedo Bento O.Carm.

I also pay tribute to one of our JPIC supporters, Peter Clarke, a local in my home Parish of SS Peter & Paul Kiama. Peter, recently deceased, was a great support to myself and Carmelite JPIC offering encouragement and writing several articles over the years, sharing his environmental knowledge and passion, activism, and love of Gospel values. He has shown us the face of God in his genuine love of creation and all that is good on our planet.

Gabrielle Fogarty
Coordinator JPIC Team



"The breastplate of justice is to be put on, that you may love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and your neighbour as yourselves."

- Carmelite Rule

Thank you Gabrielle for all your years of dedication, leadership and work on JPIC and for keeping those issues alive for all of us in a very Carmelite way. It is deeply appreciated.

The Carmelites of Australia and Timor-Leste



COP 27, stagnation & progress

Eduardo Agosta Scarel, O.Carm
(Carmelite NGO in partnership with Laudato Si' Movement)

Stagnation

Let us recall that the 2015 Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, and ideally to 1.5°C. Also that fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) are the first and foremost cause of global warming.

It was only at COP 26 in Glasgow last year that something about the problem of fossil fuels was included for the first time in the official text governing the climate commitments of the Paris Agreement. It was a major achievement, albeit with loopholes.

That COP 26 outcome document offered the intention to "phase down unabated" and "phase out inefficient oil subsidies", without any specification of terms.

For example, what does "unabated coal" mean? The term is not defined and lends itself to abuse by the fossil fuel industry and producing countries to justify continued coal production. Nor does the term mention oil and gas. Also, the term "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies" was used 13 years ago at a G20 meeting in 2009, but it was never made clear what makes a fossil fuel subsidy "efficient". Since then, the term has been misused to cover up the continued public financing of coal, oil and gas.

For this reason, the Holy See expressed its concern at the time about the existence of "several gaps" in the COP 26 document in the areas of mitigation, adaptation and financing", elements that are "fundamental to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement". The Church understands that mitigation of climate change unflinchingly passes through the phasing out of fossil fuels, as climate science indicates (cf. Laudato Si', 165).

In this COP 27, the much-talked-about negotiations were extended overtime, until the morning of Sunday, November 20, more than a day and a half longer than stipulated. However, the final document ended up being a hopeless copy and paste on this key issue of fossil fuels. The same words and the same loopholes and inaccuracies that leave room for any interpretation, such as greenwashing and reliance on as yet unproven technology. Could it be that there are some who think of climate geo-engineering as a solution to the problem? Let us hope this is not the case. We will talk about this subject on another occasion.



What is clear, however, is that some countries are stubbornly refusing to heed the warnings of climate science, which clearly stated in the latest report of the Panel of Experts (IPCC) that it is urgent to halve carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.

The important thing to note is that these are about twenty countries with strong oil interests that until the last moment monopolized the discussion to water down the language of the document (they said: “the convention should address emissions and not the origin of emissions”). On the contrary, more than 80 countries officially stated the need to put an end to the fossil fuel era at this COP 27.

Progress

Some important points have been achieved in Egypt on the Climate Change Loss and Damage agenda. Countries have decided “to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable” to the impacts of climate change, including a fund and the mobilisation of new and additional resources, “recognising the need for support from a wide variety of sources, including innovative sources”.

The EU during the negotiations floated the idea of contributions from oil and gas companies, as well as levies on air tickets and shipping containers, to go towards a loss and damage fund. The creation of the fund is to be established by a transitional committee over the next year.

Another not minor positive aspect of COP27 was the launch of a new work program that includes an annual meeting of ministers to discuss the just transition to alternative energies, providing a forum for the talks that have already begun on the issue of fossil fuels.

Together with Pope Francis, seven years after the encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the Paris Agreement, we conclude by saying sadly that “with regard to climate change, the advances have been regrettably few.” (Cf. *Laudato Si'* 169).



Letter of the Prior General for World Youth Day 2023

“Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some .”

- Pope Francis, Christus Vivi

When we hear the name Portugal we often think of Fatima and of the many beautiful events Carmelites have had there over the years. This time Portugal means Lisbon, a beautiful city in which there have been Carmelite communities since 1387. The Carmelites in Portugal are getting ready to welcome the participants at the Carmelite Day that will take place on the 2nd August 2023, the day before the main event.

This time the theme of the WYD centres on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in her response to God. As she became aware of God’s “voice” within her, Mary responded, with her whole heart and soul and mind.

“May the Blessed Virgin Mary who arose and went to Elisabeth inspire as many people as possible to take part in this event designed to fill young people with the joy of friendship and a new discovery of the word of God in their lives.”

- Fr. Miceal O'Neill, O.Carm, Prior General

Visit carmelites.org.au to read the complete letter



Pope's Prayer Intention for December

popesprayer.va

For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.

I. TOWARDS A NEW LIFESTYLE

203. Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. Compulsive consumerism is one example of how the techno-economic paradigm affects individuals.

- Pope Francis, Laudato Si'

What if this year you did your Christmas shopping differently, with love for our common home?

Five rules that might inspire you this year.

- **Avoid over-consumption**
- **Choose to offer an activity or service**
- **Favour local products**
- **Respect Creation**
- **Adopt eco-friendly packaging**

Laudato Si' lists many simple things we can do, including "avoiding the use of plastic and paper" (No. 211). Millions of pounds of gift wrapping paper are thrown away each year at Christmas time. Most metallized, glittery and plasticized packaging is not recyclable. To protect the environment, the best way is to wrap your gifts in a sustainable and ecological way (Furoshiki wrapping cloth, brown paper, knitting, used wrapping paper, etc.).

Advent with Pope Francis and Laudato Si': Preparing for the Good News

"The Lord, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter. He comes not from above, but from within, he comes that we might find him in this world of ours." Pope Francis (LS 236)

During Advent, we embark on a journey of preparation for our encounter with God, Jesus Christ who comes to meet us within Creation – this is the Good News! We anticipate with hope and joy the renewal of all Creation through the Incarnation as Jesus takes on the material life we share with all creatures.

In this Advent retreat we will be bringing special attention to how we share this path of preparation in communion with Creation, who also eagerly awaits for redemption (cf. Rm 8:19-23). We will be guided by the words of Pope Francis and the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, his special letter to us all about the call to care for our common home.

Each week you will be invited to reflect on a specific theme through a short video from The Letter – a documentary with Pope Francis about the *Laudato Si'*, a short reflection on that theme and a prayer. Each week you will also be invited to a call to action, a concrete way to prepare for Christmas more sustainably.

As Pope Francis reminds us, "*Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.*" (LS 217)

Join us as we eagerly await Christ's coming, crying out with Creation for the light of the world to come!

<https://hozana.org/en/community/11261-advent-with-pope-francis-and-laudato-si>