

JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY TO 2030



The Journey to 2030: How will it work?

This is a lay initiative, but done in full collaboration with the church.

Why 2030? We have, according to the United Nations body responsible for evaluating climate change science, a decade to make unprecedented changes to stabilise our climate. The UN also hope to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It is a realistic target for us in the Catholic church to make a sustained and meaningful change.

It is a commitment to a journey over a decade, not a quick campaign but a move to a more considered way of being, growing in relationship with God, our neighbour and the Earth itself.

Why would anyone get involved?

The ecological crisis involves everyone. We need to show that we are tackling it together in unity and with urgency. We are working together on a common goal, as the Church, and leading through faith, not responding through necessity.

We change our lifestyles in solidarity, not out of selfishness. “Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it [LS, 19].”

We will use everybody’s skills to work together to tackle this ecological crisis and foster caring communities, rooted in the joy of the Gospel.

We aim to provide help in making a difference as an individual, and in engaging congregations.

What does it look like?

In a nutshell, a simple website providing a calendar of events and opportunities, practical information on the ecological conversion, and relevant (selected) resources to help implement the Bishop's environmental position paper. It will form a campaign against a countdown clock to 2030.

Journey to 2030 provides a focal point for different Catholic groups working in the field to co-promote their work, and an opportunity to keep signatories accountable to their pledges, and encouraged and supported in their ambitions.

Each year will be themed, to bring attention to a different aspect of the ecological conversion. This will not necessarily impact the individual targets set, but will provide context for the year.

We plan the first year to be the year of the cockerel. A wake up call, and a reflection on Peter denying the Lord three times even when he knew the truth. Three denials. three broken relationships. God, our neighbour and our planet.

Matthew 26

“are you still sleeping and resting?”

‘this very night before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times’.

Luke 12: 54-56

“When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. 55 And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. 56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?”

"having heard all of this you may choose to look the other way but you can never again say that you did not know." - William Wilberforce

I am a Diocese. What happens if I sign on?

- A commitment to the ten year journey.
- An expectation that the diocese would have a person or group in place to help promote ecological awareness in the diocese, and ensure a plan is developed to respond to the Bishops' call to 'act with urgency.'
- A commitment to identify and set yearly targets based on local context and priority.
- A commitment to review this progress yearly, and set targets for the next year. The diocese needs to ensure a mechanism for this review is in place.
- An expectation that good practice will be fed back to the group to help other dioceses.

- We would ask that each diocese that commits to put their logo on the site as a visual notice that they are committed to the journey.

What do I receive?

- Support in implementing the themes of the Bishop's environmental position paper.
- A calendar of events and activities to implement in the diocese.
- A space to collaborate and share/receive ideas on best practice. Conferences to allow networking of diocesan ecological officers.

I am a Church/School/Chaplaincy/Diocesan project. What happens if I sign on?

- A commitment to the ten year journey.
- The expectation that you will initiate an environment group to ensure that projects are undertaken. This could be a new group or a combination of CAFOD, J&P, SVP etc. The purpose is to get people working together and increase participation.
- Schools will be expected to implement the Ecological Conversion Group's sixth form RE syllabus.

What do I receive?

- Advice on ways to engage communities. Positive local impact. A greater sense of local community engagement.
- The Live Simply and Global Healing resources.
- A network of communities on the same Journey.
- Advice on projects.

As an individual? (no need to sign on).

- Guides, books and magazines on better understanding integral ecology and the ecological conversion. These will be practical and based on lifestyle change.
- Online courses.
- Aim of growing in joy and holiness through sustainable considered living. Applying the virtues and beatitudes to everyday life.

I am a religious order. What happens if I sign on?

- The same as a diocese.
- We would require help to structure our international development projects.

Opportunities to engage in our international project.

- The ecological crisis is global, and many of the issues are founded in exploitation of poorer communities, and solutions need to be found in allowing their development in a sustainable way.
- Religious orders are often found in these communities. By linking churches at a deanery level with participating orders, we can fund projects that help stop environmental destruction and advance clean development. This could be solar farms, education or sustainable forestry.
- This is not a new idea, but reengages religious orders in the UK with local parishes, raises awareness of their work overseas and helps provide support where it is needed most.

Who is leading the project?

The main work will be done by the Ecological Conversion Group (ECG), a small group of young Catholics who have been working on promotion of Laudato Si and encouraging practical responses. To steer the Journey to 2030 itself the ECG is forming an Ecological Emergency Committee (EEC), a dedicated UK Catholic ecological crisis response committee, gathering together experts and enthusiasts from a range of disciplines.

What is the relationship with CBCEW and the EAG?

This is intentionally a lay led project, but with assistance from the Environmental Advisory Group, who will be involved in an advisory capacity.

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(coming soon)

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