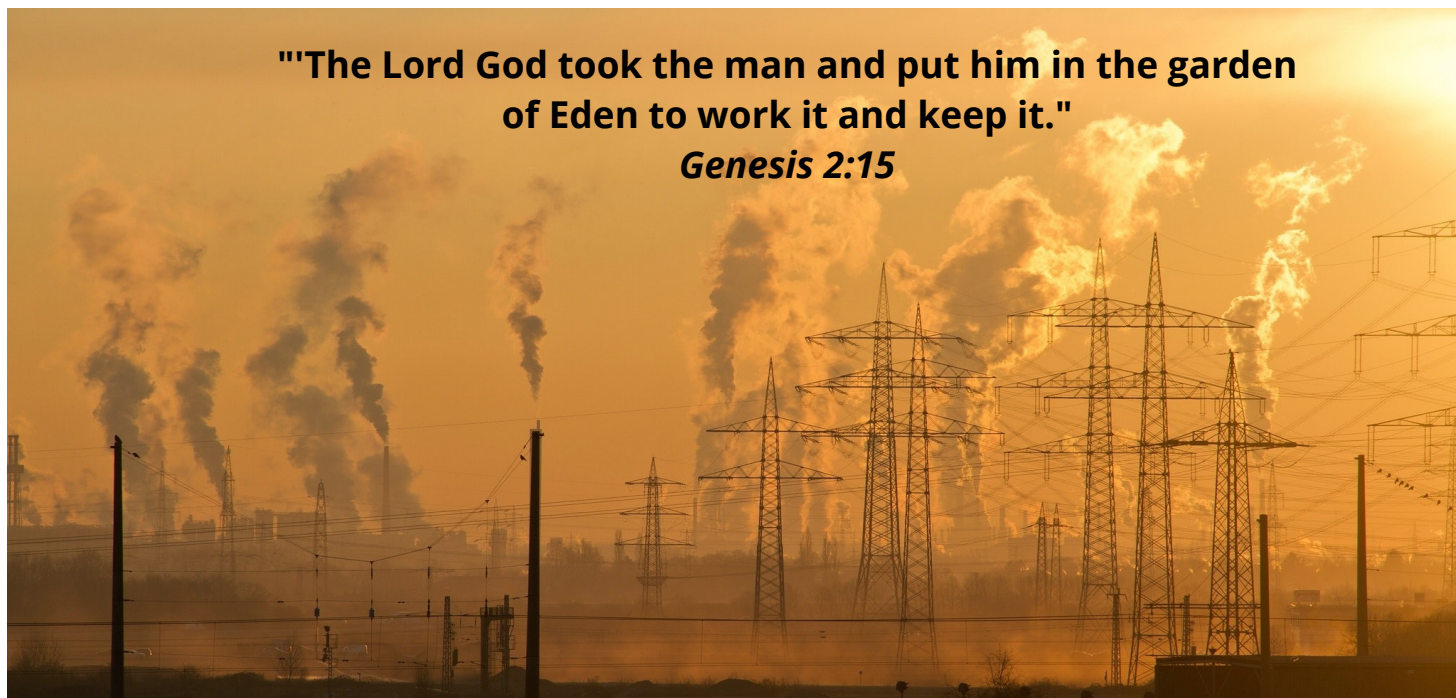


SENIOR SCHOOL

St Mary's Fortnightly Sunday School Newsletter

**"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."
Genesis 2:15**



WHAT'S GOING ON @ ST MARYS

Advent starts on 28th November. It's not just about opening up windows to see which chocolate is behind it: we prepare our souls for the celebration of Christmas. Clear out rubbish; put on love.

A SAINT TO KNOW

On Tuesday 30th, we celebrate St Andrew's Day. He is the brother of Simon Peter and was called with Him by Jesus to leave behind worldly cares. We his diagonal cross ('the saltire') on the Scottish Flag which shows us the shape of the Cross on which Andrew died. May he pray for us.

DID YOU KNOW?

When the whole world thought the earth was flat the Bible was telling us it was round 'sits enthroned above the circle of the earth' (Isaiah 42:20) and that 'He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters at the boundary of light and darkness' (Job 26:10)

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THE EARTH?

Climate change, global warming, floods, droughts, ice cap melting. There's not a week that goes by when we don't hear some sad and frightening news about the permanent effect human's daily activities are having on ourselves, the earth and animals around us.

It can make us feel helpless. What can we do? What is our responsibility? God created this wonderful world we live in full of millions of species of plants and animals each an amazing miracle of life that we can never fully understand. He tells us we are in charge and we have a responsibility to look after this precious gift.

"Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28

So what can we do? We know what to do. I bet you could think of 20 things right now. Pick up litter, don't use plastic bags, plant trees, donate to charities, re-use and recycle things around you. But are you willing to do these things, make space in your life and put time aside for these tasks that may be boring, a bit of a hassle and something that doesn't have an immediate benefit we can see.

This is what God asks of us. To do the right thing with our actions, thoughts words and deeds. To show love and compassion to those around us and trust God to do the rest. He doesn't leave us alone to do what seems like impossible tasks, remember he is always right beside us willing us on with love and patience.

"What is impossible with men is possible with God." - Luke 18:27



OUR FAITH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

by *Father Morris*

We remember we have a duty to care for the earth and ensure its plenty can be enjoyed by all people, especially the poorest. This view is shared by many good people. However our faith in God will teach us distinctive things about this issue.

For example, we know there is enough in the world for everyone because it is made by a generous God. There's a danger that amid all the talk of how the climate is changing we feel nervous about living on earth, as if we're not really meant to be here or as if we're living on some sort of time bomb. God doesn't want us to have this uneasiness in the world He has made for us to enjoy, He wants us to feel at home here.

When we remember the plight of the world's poorest, it's not because God didn't make enough but because of the selfishness of some. The scale of the problem is enormous once we start considering whether our actions will make a difference. God asks us to look at our soul and see if His Kingdom is living there as much as it could be. St Theresa of Calcutta said, "If you can't help a hundred people, help one," and there's great wisdom there.

Another difference our faith makes is that we know the world is going to end one day and we're cool about that. Life on earth is not meant to go on for ever because we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth where we dwell in perfect union with God (Apocalypse 21). For this we were created. Our efforts to preserve the planet must not make us gods, who will determine whether the world will end or not.

We're also called by Jesus never to worry (St Matthew 6:25-34). We will be passionate about things and driven in our desire to live our lives faithfully. But don't worry: it won't give anyone an extra day of life, least of all you.

TAKING ACTION

The impact of climate change is wide ranging, but undoubtedly as well as animals and plants it is other people in various communities around the world that are suffering too. Whether it's floods destroying homes or droughts killing food sources God above all asks us to have to love one another as he does for us.

So in the forefront of our minds on this issue is how we can show compassion to others who are suffering as a result of environment changes not of their own making.

So while we might not be feeling the effects of climate change it won't be long before it starts making our lives uncomfortable too.

A Prayer for climate change

Dear Lord

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. 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.

Source: <https://caritas.org.nz/>

Keep in touch with us at St Marys
<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysLansdowneRoad/>
Email: s.marysoffice@btinternet.com
Website:
<https://www.smarystottenham.org/>
Phone: +4420 8808 6644