

reclaim our common home

Why Reclaim Our Common Home?

"Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality." Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, #7

In 2020, we experienced the worst global health crisis in a century. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated lives and shattered families in Britain and across the world, with disastrous consequences for people's jobs and livelihoods.

The pandemic exposed many of the inadequacies of how our world currently works. It has proved that we need greater cooperation between nations, solidarity between people and a greater focus on the poorest in society.

Pope Francis, and popes before him, have consistently called for a transformation of the way our global economy works and the ideology upon which it is built. For too long, it has been based on the pursuit of profit and growth, above care for people and our planet.

A system based on unregulated free markets has created extreme inequalities, and has allowed some countries and companies to become wealthy at the expense of others while the precious gifts of climate, nature and biodiversity have been destroyed.

Did you know that?

As a result of the pandemic, **150 million people** are set to fall into extreme poverty and an additional **130 million people** will be left hungry.

Let's do something about it.

Our campaign is a response to Pope Francis's call for a new way of thinking about the world, and to take an active part in renewing our troubled societies by embracing the universal values of solidarity and fraternity. He tells us this moment of extraordinary turmoil is the time "to rethink the future of our common home and our common project" and, in doing so, address the causes of poverty, inequality and the climate emergency.

To begin the journey of reclaiming our common home this year, we invite you and your parish to work towards achieving three major goals.

1

**Tackling
the climate
crisis**
Global
solidarity

2

**Ending
unjust debts**
Global
justice

3

**Holding
business
accountable**
Global
responsibility

Pope Francis tell us *"the world is itself crying out in rebellion"*.

What are we going to do about it?

As Catholics, we are called not to stay silent and not to be passive. This is why *Reclaim Our Common Home* is a call to action! It's a call to participate both individually and collectively in rebuilding a more dignified and sustainable world after the pandemic. To do this we need to:

- **RECLAIM nature** so that everyone can breathe clean air and be protected from the threat of climate disasters.
- **RECLAIM the world's land and resources** so they are more fairly distributed and all our brothers and sisters around the world can live in dignity.
- **RECLAIM power** so that everyone can be involved in decision making and have control over their own lives.

Why 2021 must be a year of transformation

"Global society is suffering from grave structural deficiencies that cannot be resolved by piecemeal solutions or quick fixes. Much needs to change, through fundamental reform and major renewal." Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, #179

As the host of two major international conferences, the British Government has a crucial role to play in 2021. In the summer, Britain will host the G7 annual meeting where the leaders of

the seven richest countries will gather to discuss how to rebuild after the pandemic. This will be followed by the UN 'COP26' climate talks taking place in Glasgow in November, where world leaders will come together to agree how they will work towards ending the climate crisis.

As the eyes of the world will be on Britain this year, it is vital that we all come together to raise our voices and ensure that our government listens. We have a duty to ensure that the Government uses this moment to bring in the necessary changes towards building a more sustainable world.

Did you know that?

The British Government has spent over **£3.9 billion** supporting climate-destroying fossil fuel infrastructure around the world since the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Let's do something about it.

How you can get involved

"Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes." Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, #77

Did you know that?

African countries will pay out more than **\$10 billion in debt** repayments in 2020 and 2021 alone. More than half will go to firms such as HSBC and BlackRock, some of the richest companies in the world.

Let's do something about it.

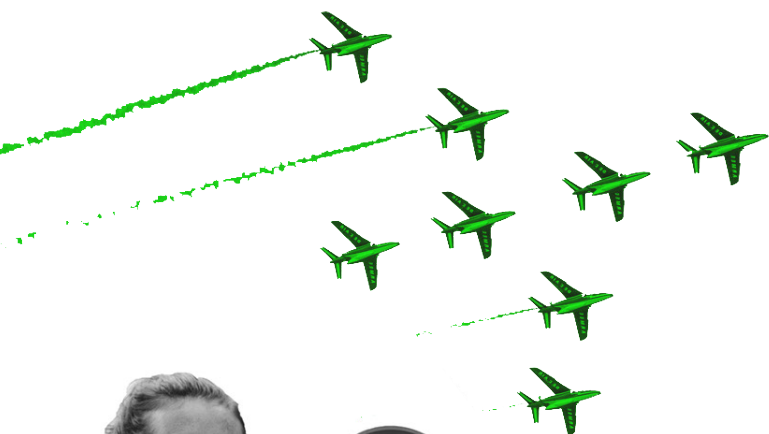
Wherever you are, you have a role to play in helping to address these issues:

- **Tackling the climate crisis** by urging world leaders to use this year's climate talks to agree ambitious goals that address the scale of the climate emergency and ensure that those countries least responsible do not end up paying the highest price.
- **Ending unjust debts** by pushing for full debt cancellation for low and middle-income countries. This will free up vital resources so that they can tackle the health and economic impacts of the pandemic.
- **Holding business accountable** for practices throughout their supply chains to ensure that communities are protected from human rights abuses and environmental destruction carried out by multinational businesses.

We will have ways for everyone to join the campaign throughout the year including our petition to the Prime Minister ahead of COP26, lobbying our MPs to get the most out of the G7, organising parish campaign activities and mobilising for the climate talks in Glasgow.

Stay in touch

To join our campaigns this year, sign up at cafod.org.uk/actionnews



RECLAIM THE
WORLD'S LAND
AND RESOURCES

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