



## POPE FRANCIS UNABLE TO ATTEND COP28



Pope Francis's announcement that he would not be travelling to the UN climate Cop28 talks in Dubai due to illness is, perhaps, no surprise. He is 87 on December 17th, has just one functioning lung and is suffering from lung inflammation. Due to his outspoken views on climate change, there has been widespread disappointment at his absence from Cop28, which he was to have attended for three days, concluding today. Maybe he has had a lucky escape. Many negotiators were hoping for a

Christmas miracle with his attendance. Sadly, not even he would have been able to salvage Cop28 now. By simply being there in such a high-profile role, moreover, he risked providing moral cover - "faithwashing", as some have called it - for a round of talks which is looking increasingly discredited. Pope Francis does not need to travel to Dubai for his views to be heard. The official Catholic position will be well represented by the Vatican, which is now a formal party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Moreover, his views on the climate crisis are no secret. He wrote his groundbreaking letter on the environment, *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be), just before the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015, which he addressed to "all people on the planet" and called on everyone to embrace the need for change. Despite significant internal opposition in some quarters, he has worked over the past eight years to advocate for "ecological conversion" and "integral ecology". He has supported the emerging *Laudato Si'* Movement (even naming it) and adopted new initiatives such as the annual Season of Creation and an online churchwide sustainability platform known as the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Since it launched in late 2022, this hugely popular platform has signed up over 8,000 Catholic institutions to create new sustainability plans. He has even spearheaded initiatives to decarbonise the Vatican state itself, starting with St Peter's Basilica. But much remains to be done to mobilise his 1.2 billion global flock, yet the foundations have now been laid. The pope's deep concern about the lack of political will in the run-up to Cop28, and the fractious global context in which climate is being discussed, has led him to double down on his climate message. On October 4th he published a new apostolic letter, *Laudate Deum* (Praise God) which caused a stir in political and church circles. In it he raised huge concerns in advance of Cop28. He called out specifically the influence of corporate interests in multilateral processes at all these Cop meetings. Perhaps surprisingly, top of his list of concerns is the increasingly complex challenge of AI and disinformation and their potential to hinder widespread action based on climate science. In the face of this, he has been at pains to explain the scientific consensus - using his unique platform as pontiff to bypass the channels of misinformation. He has concluded that the evidence is overwhelming and deeply alarming for anyone who is concerned about the future of this world. He underlines the gravity of the situation and the need for all, starting with Catholics, to act decisively on the science. Next on Francis's list is the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels. He has spoken out forcefully on the need to "keep fossil fuels in the ground" - much to the ire of the big oil producers. Many parts of the Catholic Church, and faith groups at large, have divested from fossil fuels and signed on to calls for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty. His schedule for Dubai had included a meeting with heads of state from small island nations who have signed a strong statement calling for such a treaty, an act of solidarity which would have been striking. Third on his list is the continuing failure of rich nations to finance climate action in poorer countries. Eight years after Paris the list of broken promises is long and growing. High on that list of promises was the loss and damage fund, agreed last year at Cop27 in Egypt's Sharm El-Sheikh. This was designed to finance reparations for losses due to climate change - yet one year later this fund still remains only an idea. Countries including Ireland are being asked now to accelerate capitalisation of this fund at Cop28.

Other faith leaders will hopefully be there in force - especially as, for the first time ever, there will be a dedicated Faith Pavilion. One can only hope and pray that, despite his absence, the courage and fighting spirit of Francis will inspire those at Cop28 in Dubai to acknowledge what is at stake and act before it is too late. Dr Lorna Gold is chief

executive of FaithInvest and a member of the *Laudato Si'* working group of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

*Courtesy: Dr. Lorna Gold, Irish Times*

## Annual Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

Today we take up the Annual Collection for the St. Vincent de Paul. Please be as generous as you can. The money collected will be spent here in the parish. If you would like to contribute online to our local SVP here is the [link](#)



## Crosscare Christmas Appeal

Crosscare, the Archdiocese's social care agency, is seeking support for its Christmas Food Poverty Appeal at this challenging time for many families and individuals. This year, they have worked with almost 1,000 families and their children, not just giving them essential food and supplies but advising them and guiding them out of food poverty in the long term, giving them a hand up, not just a handout. Anyone wishing to contribute can donate online at [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie) or call 01 8360011 or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 St Mary's Place North, D07 Y768, Dublin.



## More Christmas events in D8

[#WinterinDublin](#) [#LoveD8](#)

## MASS OF ENROLEMNT FOR 1ST COMMUNION

### Penitential Rite

Thank you Jesus, for your love. We are sorry for the times we were not kind.

Lord have mercy: Lord have mercy

Thank you Jesus, for your love. We are sorry for the times we did not love others.

Christ have mercy: Christ have mercy

Thank you Jesus, for your generosity. We are sorry for the times we were not generous and did not share.

Lord have mercy: Lord have mercy

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sin and bring us to heaven. Amen

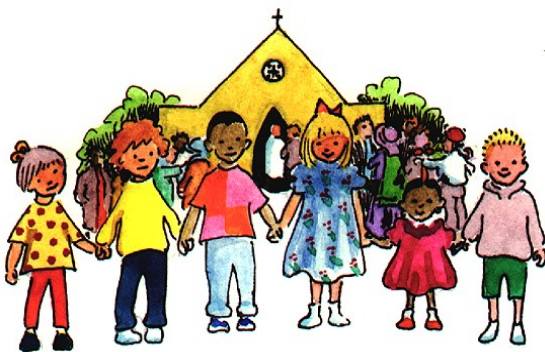
### A Story from the Bible

You, Jesus went up a hill. He stayed there all night. He said his prayers. Next morning he came down. He called twelve of his followers and called them apostles. They were to go out and tell people about Jesus. They were to help people who were sick. They were to show people how to be kind and how to love each other.

A big crowd was all around Jesus. A message was sent in to him. It said, your mother and brothers are outside. But Jesus said, who are my mother and brothers? He looked at the crowd. He said, these are my mother and brothers. They are friends with God.

This is the end of God's Story

Thanks be to God



### Ceremony of Enrolment

Fr. Martin: I ask the girls & boys who are making First Communion to stand up.

Fr. Martin: Girls & boys, you are getting ready to make your First Holy Communion. Will you try to be good followers of Jesus?

Children: We will.

Fr. Martin: Will you listen to your parents and teachers and do what they say?

Children: We will.

Fr. Martin: I ask the Parents and Guardians to stand. Parents/Guardians, when you brought your children to be christened, they were only babies. Because you loved them, you promised to look after them always and show them God's love. Now that they are preparing to make First Holy Communion, will you support them with your love and help them to be good friends with Jesus and help them to be part of God's Family?

Parents: We will.

Fr. Martin: I ask the congregation here present, will you pray for these young girls & boys and their families.

People: We will.

Fr. Martin: Will you show them what it means to be a follower of Jesus by the example of your own lives?

People: We will.

Fr. Martin: As God's family, will you accept these children as candidates for First Holy Communion?

People: We will.

### Prayer of the Faithful

Lord God, you call everyone to be part of your family. We thank you.

Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us

Lord Jesus, open our eyes and our hearts to those who are poor.

Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us

Holy Spirit, help us to be kind even to people we do not like us.

Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us

We are sad when think of those belong to us who have died. But we are happy also because we know they with God in heaven.

Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us

For a moment we stay very quiet, and remember the people who need us to pray for them and help them.

Lord hear us: Lord graciously hear us



**There's room for everyone in God's Family**