

# #pennies4plastics

Lent  
2019

## Information

**Reconnect with God, with Others and with Creation**

[WWW.BISHOPSAPPEAL.IRELAND.ANGLICAN.ORG/GET-INVOLVED](http://WWW.BISHOPSAPPEAL.IRELAND.ANGLICAN.ORG/GET-INVOLVED)



# #pennies<sup>4</sup>plastics



## Information:

This Lent Eco-Congregation, Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal and the Representative Church Body are joining forces to lead an exciting initiative called **#Pennies4Plastics**

## What is #Pennies4Plastics?

- 1. REDUCE:** We are encouraging individuals, parishes, small groups, children's clubs and schools to think of simple and creative ways to reduce the amount of single-use plastic they buy and use.
- 2. SPEAK OUT:** Alongside this, we are encouraging everyone to raise their voices about the amount of single-use plastics being used in products and packaging. So contacting your local supermarket, or an offending company or your local TD/MP looking for better legislation might be part of your Lenten Reflection.
- 3. DONATE:** Over the six weeks of Lent, we are encouraging people to collect coins in a recyclable jar so that we can raise vital funds for a Waste Aid project in the Gambia, which reduces the amount of plastics that are burned and that end up in the oceans. It also provides employment and improves health for people in poorer communities. Read more here: <https://wasteaid.org/>

## What are single-use plastics?

**Single-use plastics**, often also referred to as disposable plastics, include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These include, among other items, grocery bags, food packaging, bottles, straws, containers, cups and cutlery.

## Why are single-use plastics so bad for the environment?

Shopping bags, coffee cups and bottles of water and juice that can be grabbed on the go are really, really handy. Their convenience means we use them... a lot. So what's the harm? Take a look at some of the reasons why we're focusing on this topic. As Christians, who believe the earth and all that is in it is God's Handiwork, we are particularly compelled to take action.

Over 90% of plastics produced are never recycled.

**9 REASONS TO REFUSE SINGLE-USE PLASTIC**

- 1** Made from fossil fuels
- 2** Huge carbon footprint
- 3** Will still be here in hundreds of years
- 4** Only a tiny percentage is recycled
- 5** Leaches toxins into food & drink
- 6** Causes hormone disruption & cancers
- 7** Pollutes our oceans
- 8** Kills marine animals and birds
- 9** Enters our food chain

**LESS PLASTIC.**

[WWW.LESSPLASTIC.CO.UK](http://WWW.LESSPLASTIC.CO.UK)





## Information:

If we hone in on even one of these nine reasons to reduce our plastics, we see that the problem is global and, quite literally, choking our planet:

Scientists estimate that around 8 million tonnes of plastic is ending up in the ocean each year - that's the weight of roughly a billion elephants or 47 million blue whales.



## How is Ireland doing with its plastic waste?

Ireland is certainly recycling more than ever before. We need more education on what we can put in our recycling bins as a lot of our efforts are contaminated. However, as much as we support recycling, we are still buying and consuming far more plastic waste than other countries. Often, this is because of the options we are presented with, and part of this initiative is to encourage the call for better, more sustainable options.

## How can we respond?

Check out the Action Sheet for lots of Ideas about how you can get involved and make a difference... starting today.

This can be overwhelming and the lack of options, especially for people on tight budgets or time schedules can be quite deflating. Choose a couple of small changes and be consistent with them this Lent. Give of your time to raise the issue with people who have the power to create change. **And pray.** Pray for God's world. Pray for the greed and the ignorance that is destroying it. Pray for those who suffer most from the consequences of it: the communities, the eco-systems, the generations to come.