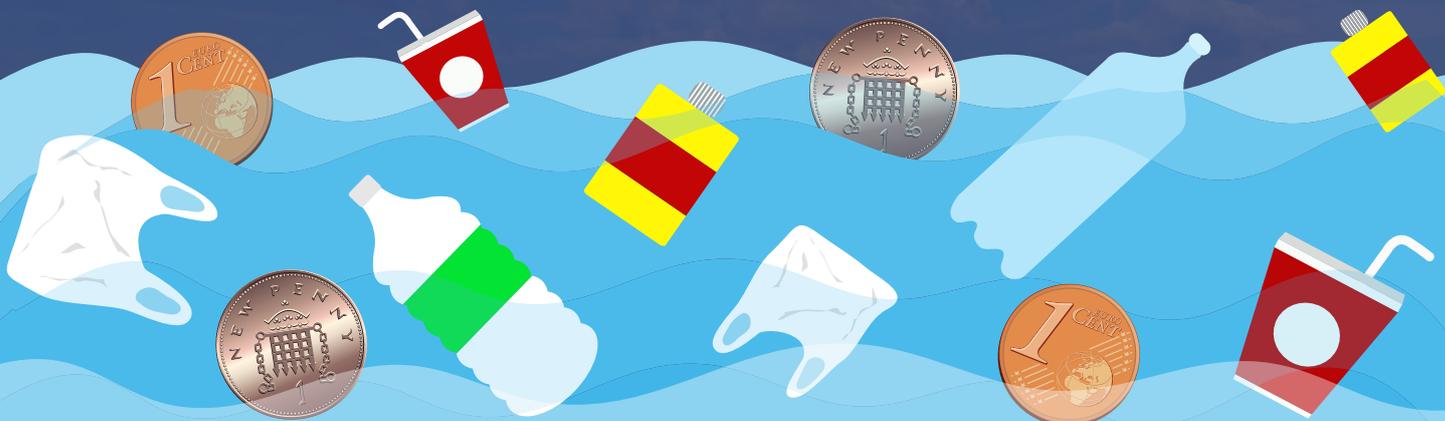


#pennies4plastics

Lent 2019

School Assembly & All Age Service Resources



Reconnect with God, with Others and with Creation

WWW.BISHOPSAPPEAL.IRELAND.ANGLICAN.ORG/GET-INVOLVED



With thanks to Jacqui Wilkinson, Church of Ireland Centre, DCU



School Assembly & All Age Service Resources:



One leader could read the whole assembly/service or pupils/children could read parts as suggested.

Song Suggestions:

- God in his love for us lent us this planet (48 Church Hymnal)
- All things bright and beautiful (25 Church Hymnal)
- Think of a world without any flowers (50 Church Hymnal)

Reader 1/Leader:

In Assembly/Church today we are going to think about a country which is 6,550 km away from Ireland, located on the west coast of Africa. It would take you 78 hours to drive there. The Gambia is the country with the smallest population in Africa with only 2 million people and is a very poor country.

Reader 2:

We are also going to think about rubbish. We are lucky in Ireland that our rubbish gets collected from our homes and schools and is recycled or managed in special facilities.

Reader 3:

In the town of Gunjur in Gambia there is no waste management. People burn or dump their waste. People even burn plastic which lets off toxic smoke and fumes which can harm eyes, skin and damage people's breathing systems. Plastic dumped in rivers leads to flooding and diseases. If animals eat toxic rubbish they get ill and can die.

Reader 4:

What do you know about the damage caused by single-use plastics to our world?

Reader 5:

8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the ocean each year - that's the weight of about a billion elephants or 47 million blue whales. This plastic kills marine animals and birds and pollutes our oceans. You may add other facts/display posters or artwork.

Leader:

Close your eyes for a minute and think of your favourite natural place in the world - a beach, a mountain, a river, a lake, the sea, your garden or farmland. Imagine that being destroyed. How sad would you feel?



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Reader 1:

The very first book of the Bible tells a story of how God made the world. It describes the beauty of the world that God created. Sometimes we sing a song in church/ assembly which talks about this beautiful world - *All things bright and beautiful*. The last verse says 'He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell, how great is God almighty who has made all things well'.

Reader 2:

Psalms 8 is an ancient song from the Bible which talks about God's greatness and reminds people that he gave them responsibility to take care of the creation.

Psalm 8 1,3-9

**O LORD, our Lord,
your greatness is seen in all the world!
Your praise reaches up to the heavens;**

When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and the stars, which you set in their places - what are human beings, that you think of them; mere mortals, that you care for them? Yet you made them inferior only to yourself; you crowned them with glory and honour.

**You appointed them rulers over everything you made; you placed them over all creation: sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too; the birds and the fish and the creatures in the seas.
O LORD, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world! (Good News Bible)**

Reader 3:

All of us have responsibility to protect the world, the plants, the seas, the animals and birds so we can all see the beauty, and not just us now but our children and future generations. This is a responsibility which Christians believe God has given them.

Reader 4:

What do we do in our school/church?

If your school has or is working for Green flags it would be useful to give an update on the work in progress. What do we do in school/church to recycle plastics? Do we have straws/ plastic bottles/cups?

Reader 5:

Let's think about the Gambia again. What can be done there about rubbish?



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Reader 1:

An organisation called Waste Aid has started a plastics recycling programme in the Gambia. Plastic waste from Gunjur is being turned into useful products such as paving tiles which are cheaper and better than concrete tiles. This is good news for the people of Gunjur.

Reader 2:

Waste Aid is also training people to recycle in the Gambia. One woman Isatou Ceesay began the One Bag Movement to get people to reduce plastic bag waste and to recycle village waste. Over the past 17 years her projects have reduced waste and employed hundreds of women.

Reader 3:

Did you know that people in Ireland are collecting money to help train people in Gunjur and in other parts of the Gambia to recycle their plastic waste. We can help too by collecting coins in recyclable jars and giving them to **#Pennies4Plastics**. This also reminds us to play our part in recycling and not using single-use plastics in our schools and homes too.

Prayers:

Lord Jesus you taught your disciples that everyone is their neighbour. We pray for the people of the Gambia who need help to solve the problems of their waste. Help those leaders like Isatou who are giving their time to train people to recycle and clean up their beautiful country. Amen

Dear God, when we look at the polluted seas and think of the poisoned and injured birds and animals because of plastic waste we are sad. Help us to each play our part in being responsible for our use of plastics, because together we can make things much better. Amen

O God our Father, thank you for the world that we live in. Thank you for all the beautiful things we see each day, the mountains and the rivers, the sea and wildlife. Help us always to remember to keep the world beautiful and not to make it ugly or dirty. Help us to preserve our beautiful world for generations to come. Amen



School Assembly & All Age Service Resources:

Note: Links to RE lessons in Follow Me books:

When fundraising or thinking about topics such as the **#Pennies4Plastics** project it is worth schools linking the information into RE lessons. The Follow Me series frequently links to mission organisations in the second term and also to topics of creation and stewardship in the first term. Loving God and loving our neighbours is a theme which encompasses much of the work of organisations such as the Bishops' Appeal and can be illustrated by many Bible stories of helping others.

Follow Me Lessons which could link in well with the resource material are Fit for life Lessons 5 and 6; On Line lesson 2.

The material also links into SESE strands and any work being undertaken for Green Flags in school.

Extra Resource:

A spoken aloud version of the book 'One Plastic Bag' about Women Initiative the Gambia founder Isatou Cheesay is available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHskUChyKgs> (Story begins at 1:06)

