

World Environment Day – June 5th

In part of our Congregational documents we are reminded and challenged to hold in reflection and prayer the sacredness of all creation. Each of us needs to ask how are we living on our planet?

‘Beat Plastic Pollution’, the theme for this year’s World Environment Day, is a call to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. We are challenged to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife and our health.

While plastic has many valuable uses we have become over reliant on single use or disposal plastic, with severe environmental consequences. Around the world one million plastic bottles are purchased every minute. Five hundred billion disposal plastic bags are used worldwide. Fifty per cent of the plastic we use is single use. Almost one third of the plastic packaging we use escapes collection, which means that it ends up clogging our city drains and polluting our natural environment. Every year thirteen million tons of plastic leak into our oceans where it smothers coral reefs and threatens marine wild life. The plastic that ends up in the oceans can circle the earth four times in a single year and it can take up to a thousand years before it fully disintegrates.

Plastic also makes its way into our water supply – and therefore our bodies. Scientists are unsure about what harm it causes but plastic contains a number of chemicals, many of which are toxic.

IF YOU CAN’T REUSE IT, REFUSE it...

Wednesday 5th June provides each of us with an opportunity to embrace the many ways we can help rid plastic pollution around the world. Here are just a few practical suggestions:

- when shopping for vegetables and fruit take small cloth bags or if you must use plastic, wash the bags and reuse them
- recycle plastic bags at Woolworths/ Coles or whatever is the supermarket in your area
- shop where food is not packaged eg butchers and greengrocers
- buy ‘keep cups’ for take away coffee.

For more information about World Environment Day click on this link:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/un-environment-event/world-environment-day-2018>

A last word: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has”. Margaret Meade