



## March Newsletter 2018

Welcome!

In this edition, we are focusing this issue on **PLASTICS**.

We plan to publish a newsletter three times a year and are looking forward to your suggestions and contributions.

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### Taking Action on Plastics

Ireland is the EU's top producer of plastic waste and until recently we, along with other European countries, have been exporting it to China. In 2016, China took 95% of our plastic waste, but, in 2017, announced that it would no longer take this waste from European countries. One of the main reasons for this is that the plastic was often poorly sorted and even contaminated because it was not clean when packaged for export. A Chinese government campaign – *Operation Green Fence* – begun in 2013 led to a clamp down on the import of low quality waste through improved inspections of container ships. These new regulations impacted on Ireland last year when 160 containers of green bin waste from Ireland *en route* to China were stopped in Rotterdam because of contamination. China's refusal to take Europe's waste is a wake-up call. We can't continue exporting the problem, so we need to address it at home.

Our government recently announced new recycling guidelines in order to clarify what exactly we can put into the Green Bin. These guidelines will, hopefully, help us to cleanly recycle what we can; but what if we could cut down altogether? We all know the amount of packaging there is on most things now...much of it plastic.....and, sadly, what is not recycled ends up in landfill and in our waterways and oceans.

Liz Byrne

***"Think about it. Why would you make something that you're going to use for a few minutes out of a material that's basically going to last forever, and you're just going to throw it away. What's up with that?"***

**Jeb Berrier,**

**BagIt Movie**

## Some Notable Days

### MARCH

21<sup>st</sup> Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination

22<sup>nd</sup> World Water

24<sup>th</sup> Oscar Romero &  
Laudato Si Reflection  
Beaufort 11-1:00

### APRIL

22<sup>nd</sup> World Earth Day

### JUNE

5<sup>th</sup> World Environment Day

20 World Refugee Day

## It's not all bad news though!

### See what others are doing.

For the adven-  
turous.....log on to  
**Friends of the Earth  
Ireland** and find out  
about their plastics cam-  
paign. Follow the link  
here: [https://www.foe.ie/  
takeaction/break-free-  
from-plastic/](https://www.foe.ie/takeaction/break-free-from-plastic/)

Watch the story of one  
young man from the  
Netherlands who founded  
**The Ocean Clean Up**

**Be inspired! The  
new list for Recy-  
cling. Follow the  
link here:**

**www.recyclinglistireland.  
ie**

## What Can We Do

### Some Practical Suggestions

1. Use a cloth bags, a basket or recyclable plastic bag when shopping.
2. Resist buying food and other products with excess packaging.
3. Encourage retailers, where you can, to recycle plastic containers.
4. Use a refillable water bottle and glass food jars.
5. Drink freshly prepared juices instead of buying juice in plastic bottles.
6. For that take away cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate bring your own cup!
7. Avoid the use of plastic straws and plastic cutlery.
8. Buy washing powder in boxes as the cardboard is easier to recycle.
9. Make your own cleaning products that will be less toxic and eliminate the need for multiple plastic bottles of cleaner.
10. Whenever possible use items not made from plastic.
11. When possible, opt for natural fibre clothing (like cotton, wool, hemp, linen, etc) over synthetics like polyester, lycra, etc.

Friends,

Since November 2017, we have gathered twice to share our reflections on Laudato Si. This sharing group is open - please feel free to join us for any of the remaining meetings.

The JPIC Coordinating Team is looking forward to receiving your suggestions and contributions. As it is our function is to represent the JPIC Loreto family in Ireland, we need your input. Blessings,

Mary Burkart

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