



Let's share the gift of Jesus this Christmas

As we approach the end of another year of climate extremes, war and famine around the world, let us reflect upon how much we depend and wait upon Jesus who "makes all things new" (Revelation 21:5). As we journey through the Season of Advent which tells us of Jesus' coming, let's commit to sharing Jesus, God's gift to the world, with those around us this Christmas.



Laudato Si' Action Platform – Reflection document

The *Laudato Si' Action Platform* invites Catholic families, parishes, schools and organisations to join in a seven-year Action Plan towards ecological justice and sustainability. We are finalising a **Reflection** document as we enter the program. We have been working with Principals and staff of our parish primary schools, and would appreciate your comments. We have placed copies of the draft document in the Church foyers. Please take a copy and let us know what you think: are we focussing on the right issues? Are there other things our parishes should be doing?

A Voice to Parliament

The 2017 *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, written by indigenous leaders from around Australia, pleaded for "a rightful place in our own country". It was a cry from the heart for fuller recognition of indigenous people and fuller participation in the life of modern Australia through change to the Constitution and structural reform. The Australian Catholic Bishops have endorsed the Statement. Prime Minister Albanese has committed to holding a referendum to amend the Constitution to include an indigenous voice to Parliament during the current term of Parliament, that is before mid-2025.



Noel Pearson, a lawyer and national leader representing the rights of indigenous Australians is working to design the indigenous voice to Parliament. He says "a 'Yes' vote in the referendum will guarantee that Indigenous peoples will always have a say in laws and policies made about them". He is delivering the ABCs 2022 Boyer Lecture,

on the topic of the Voice to Parliament. You can watch the lecture at <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/boyer-lecture-2022-noel-pearson>

Recycling soft plastics





It was disappointing to hear of the temporary suspension of the Redcycle¹ recycling program, due to lack of demand for the recycled plastic. The program was suspended after it was revealed soft plastic items collected at Woolworths and Coles had been stockpiled for months in warehouses and not recycled.



Government groups will meet with Coles and Woolies to find alternatives to the current situation. The collapse of the scheme may have a positive outcome if it leads to State and Federal governments and big business coming together to develop real solutions to the overall plastic menace. Let's hope the soft plastic recycle program will re-commence soon.

Single use plastic items to be banned

From February 1 2023, the State Government is banning the sale and supply of single-use plastic items including:

-  Plastic drinking straws and stirrers
-  Plastic cutlery and plates
-  Expanded polystyrene food and drink containers
-  Cotton bud sticks



Try and take your own reusable containers, straws and cutlery when purchasing takeaway food and drink. For more information and resources, visit Reducing plastic pollution starts with us | Victorian Government (www.vic.gov.au)

A Christmas Prayer

*But the Bethlehem star may lead me
To the sight of Him Who freed me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord: Thou art Holy;
Make me meek, Lord: Thou wert lowly;
Now beginning, and always,
Now begin, on Christmas day.*

-Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.

¹ <https://redcycle.net.au/>