

## ***Laudato Si'*** **Care for our common home**



**Pope Francis writes that *'we are one single human family'* and that *'we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture.'***

**The plastic we throw away is having a disastrous effect on the environment. This month we're focusing on reducing plastic waste. Here are some facts.**

- In the UK, we use 20 times more plastic now than we did 50 years ago.
- We use 35 million plastic bottles a day, of which 16 million aren't recycled.
- The large UK retailers sold 2.1 billion plastic bags last year.
- Worldwide, 8 million tonnes of plastic is dumped in the ocean each year.
- In 30 years' time there will be more plastic than fish in the sea. Millions of animals are being killed.
- Plastic is already in our food chain.



*The riverside in Reading*

**How you can help. Find out more > >**

# Ideas

## How we can help reduce plastic waste

I will use this idea

1) Buy bags that are biodegradable or reusable.

2) Choose fruit and vegetables with paper or less packaging, or take your own bag.

3) Re-use plastic bags. Remember to take them with you when you go shopping.

4) Study Reading Borough's new recycling scheme. You can now recycle plastic bottles, food trays, yoghurt and snack pots, cartons and tubs. ([www.re3.org.uk](http://www.re3.org.uk))

5) Focus on reducing your plastic waste by avoiding buying too much in one go.

6) Share your ideas with your family and friends, and on the Parish Facebook site: St James & St William of York Reading.

## Find out more ...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4\\_XAZufsGI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4_XAZufsGI&feature=youtu.be) is a really good introduction to the scale of the problem.

<https://plasticoceans.org> has very good information about the impact of plastic on marine life and human populations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmNaBqJMj3I> is a disturbing video about plastic in animals. Go there and find a useful series of following clips.

**Laudato Si' Reflection 1:** Were you able to reduce your plastic waste? Yes / No