



ST JOSEPH, ST BENILDUS & ST MARY'S PARISH ECO-ACTION GROUP 2025 NEWSLETTER



Biodiversity Corridor Development

The development of the B Corridor is going from strength to strength. This year, we held a biodiversity workshop with Grace O'Sullivan, enjoyed summer biodiversity walks with Brian Jacob and applied for a Community Foundation for Ireland grant to engage an ecologist to create a 5 year Biodiversity Action Plan for the B Corridor area.

Parish Litter Picking Group



A big 'Thank You' to all of our litter picking volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated and is an inspiration to our entire community. The group is always open to new volunteers joining them just telephone the parish office on 051-348077.

Parish Eco Award



We were delighted and honoured to be presented with the Eco Congregation Ireland award recently. This award is presented to parishes that make a considerable effort to improve eco-practices in their environment. To celebrate this achievement, we gathered in the parish hall as a community, where, following a service on the theme of Peace with Creation, Sr Anna Byrne of ECI presented the award and all present enjoyed refreshments including a celebratory piece of cake! This award acknowledges that our parish is trying hard to improve our eco-practices and encourages us to do more to take care of our environment

Contemplative Walks in Nature

Our second season of walks visited St John's River, Portally Cove, Crough Woods and Dunhill Castle. Each walk included time to meditate and appreciate the beauty of our environment. We're looking forward to our next series of summer walks in 2026!



Pollinator-Friendly Gardening Workshop

As part of our celebration of the season of Creation, we welcomed ecologist, Katrina Bent, who showed us how we can encourage more biodiversity in our gardens. Participants had an opportunity to plant some pots with cuttings and plants. It was a memorable experience, where we shared knowledge and learned new practices for gardens and public spaces.

Solar Panels

Twenty-seven solar panels were installed on the south-facing roof of St Mary's Church. They have been performing even better than expected. Indications show that the panels are meeting around 70% of our electricity needs, which is already helping to reduce our carbon footprint.



Liturgy Group

Our liturgies throughout the year have included Eco themes in prayers, reflections and our altar displays. The Liturgy and Eco Groups worked together again this year during the Season of Creation in organising an ecumenical service with the theme "Peace with Creation".



Weekly Newsletter Eco Tips

Throughout the year, we include regular eco-messages in the parish newsletter. These short tips have encouraged actions such as reusing gift wrap, upcycling household items, creating small water "puddles" for bees, taking part in "No Mow May," choosing Fairtrade and organic products, and many other small steps that care for creation.

The Parish Eco Group would be delighted to welcome new members - please contact the Parish Office at 051-348077



Parish Pollinator Patch

In March a group of volunteers worked hard on creating our Pollinator Patch in the grounds of St Joseph and St Benildus church. The plants were carefully chosen to provide for our pollinators throughout the seasons and will also provide joy for all who pass by. From day one the patch has been a very popular site for our busy pollinator friends.

