

The following are some of the points that came up in plenary and group discussion:

Is climate change reversible? It is a function of what happened in the Industrial Revolution. If we set up a huge reforestation programme this would make an impact. But we will have to engage at many levels: agriculture, housing, transport, etc. But if we don't meet our targets by 2030 it will not be reversible.

How can individuals move things forward after today's conference? In Laudata 'Si: An Irish Reponse Sean McDonagh suggested holding a 3-year synod in Ireland that involves everyone, except clergy. Year One: analyse the issues; Year Two: involve everyone. Year Three: come up with proposals: e.g. how will heat our cathedrals, parish houses, etc?

Dympna Mallon: How can act in my own parish as a person who wants change, but without disrupting my community? If I truly believe that I am uniquely created by God to communicate something of God's love to all around me, it is almost impossible to act in a way that is judgemental, condemnatory. I am not saying that I have achieved that, but getting there is my life's goal. God loves each person here, and you are precious beyond measure to the Creator. But I struggle applying this to myself. Yet it is this inner ownership of this belief that will affect the change in me. As Gandhi said: Be the change that you want to happen.

I have been a long-term advocate for marriage equality, but as a reader in church I often have to read a prayer of the faithful to support traditional marriage. By the time you come to read the prayer of the faithful it's too late to change it. Language is a huge issue and we have not even begun to engage with it. The new translation does not use inclusive language.

Why do people not concern themselves with the impact of climate change on developing countries? They feel invincible. They can do what they want and climate change will never touch them. But when it does it will be too late. Very often people don't see the impact. I was in the Phillipines when storm Hien hit. 200 mph winds. 5000 killed. There is a huge drought in East Africa because of climate change. If our temperature increases by 3-4% there will be places in the world which will not be liveable in. There are places in Pakistan where the temperatures are above 50 on over 10 days in the year.

Are the young people on the planet doing something specific? My club does walks to pick up rubbish. I've done a project with young people on climate change, and then picked up rubbish in the area. We keep the scrap metal and try to re-use it or sell it for money to use on more projects.

Do young people feel that older people have let you down? Yes. And I will leave it at that! Young people were talking about clothes being so cheap and disposable. But how connected are you to where your things come from, and what do you do to conscientise other young people about this? Personally, I just buy clothes and want to know how long it will last. But I would not be thinking about how I could dispose of it. But in the end I will look for a clothes bank to dispose of it. I'm part of a group in the estate that tries to recycle the clothes. I try to not buy animal products because people abuse them. People kill sharks and throw them back into the ocean, even though they are a vital part of the eco-system.

Our group were very impressed with the way Dympna connected climate change and hope. The part of the title of the seminar: Climate Change IN the Church may not have been seen by many.

Do you feel the Holy Spirit is on the side of the Church that we grew up in or do you think he is standing to one side to let it fall?

Dympna Mallon: I am very convinced that She is with us. It is not possible for any organism to remain unchanged: everything changes. To me what is happening in the Church is a shift from the way things were done at one point in time. It worked in the past, but does not work now. We are beginning to embrace Vatican II. And one of its big points was that the Church engages with the world. And the world as it is today needs the Church more than ever. But it is a question as to whether we can become that church. It is happening in individuals and in small groups. It is not happening yet in the institutional church. I found that many of the changes that took place after the IPC was set up in 1992 that the Holy Spirit was with these changes which were outside the Church. The Church has not engaged

with the phrase: 'All species have intrinsic value'. It is in Laudata 'Si but was not in Church documents before that. The Holy Spirit is trying to give people hope in the future so that people will start walking towards it. Bad things will happen. In the 14th century almost 20,000 died in Dublin. So it is not about everything being rosy. If 40% of women were bishops you might have had something about the natural world in Vatican II but that did not happen then.

Is there something that the panel would suggest that I take back to my parish community? Turn lights off. Put a jumper on and turn down the heat. Small things like this can help. The best thing the Church can do is to set a three year period in which the local church will educate themselves about these issues. And then move from local parish to national level. I would like to see every parish engage with Laudata 'Si: read it, explore it and find ways to implement it. Let every parish make Laudata 'Si their mission statement. In reality at the moment it is the poor relation of Francis' three documents. But in fact Laudata 'Si is the most about who we are and how we live. So I would like to see people go to the priest and tell them this is what we are going to do, and we wanted to let you know about it. Should it be ecumenical? Yes, but we will find that other churches may be ahead of us. Try to inspire people.