



## WEATHER



Torrential hurricanes, devastating droughts, crippling ice storms, and raging heat waves—all are extreme weather phenomena that can claim lives and cause untold damage. Climate change influences severe weather by causing longer droughts and higher temperatures in some regions and more intense deluges in others, say climate experts. Among the most vulnerable are communities in exposed mountain and coastal regions. In those settings worldwide, citizens are adjusting to new weather realities by strengthening warning, shelter, and protection systems.

### CATASTROPHES ON THE RISE

Meteorological records show a rise in weather-related disasters since 1980. Climate change affects some weather, but experts caution against blaming it for every extreme event.

### RISING SEAS, RISING CONCERNS

Climate change may not cause a particular storm, but rising sea levels can worsen its impact. In 2012 a nine-foot storm surge from Hurricane Sandy hit New York City at high tide, making the water 14 feet higher than normal at the tip of Manhattan.

### SUCCUMBING TO HEAT

The global average temperature in May 2015 was the highest on record. In India some 2,200 people perished during a ten-day heat wave when reported highs hit 113°F (45°C). [National Geographic](#)

The UK is feeling the impacts of the climate crisis and is taking action to stop it.

“We are seeing a trend towards warmer winters and hotter summers, sea levels around our coast are rising by around 3mm a year, and there is emerging evidence of changing rainfall patterns,” [the UK government said in a 2017 report to Parliament](#).

### Church Teaching

- The heavens declare the glory of God, The vault of heaven proclaims his handiwork’ Psalm 19.1
- ‘God asks us to look at our lifestyles and to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with those in poverty Populorum Progressio [http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_26031967\\_populorum.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_26031967_populorum.html)
- “I would like us all to make a serious commitment to respect and protect creation, to be attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste and disposable, to promote a culture of solidarity and of encounter.” Pope Francis. General Audience June 5th, 2013. [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2013/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130605\\_udienza-generale.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130605_udienza-generale.html)



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### Ideas for Action:

- Protect Our Winters – [Make changes, Influence others, Be sustainable, Invest responsibly](#)
- National Geographic - [5 Ways to curb climate change](#)
- Call for a climate action plan in your local area - [Petition](#)
- Catholic Ecology - [10 ways to protect the environment](#)
- Tell the UK government to take urgent climate action - [Petition](#)

### Liturgical Resources:

[CAFOD - Care for creation liturgies and prayers](#)

[St Andrew's & Edinburgh Diocese - Season of Creation liturgy resource](#)

[Australian Catholic - Liturgical Resource](#)

[Sisters Of Mercy - Laudato Si and Sisters of Mercy's Critical Concerns](#)

[Peacemeal - Liturgy ideas for sharing a meal.](#)

[Global Catholic Climate Movement - Liturgical, prayer and spiritual resources.](#)