

GOOD NEWS

GERMANY: Gives a cultural gift to citizens. Germany is the latest country to announce such an initiative.

200 euros are to be offered to those turning 18 next year, in a bid to get young people interested in the diversity of culture in the country. France, Spain and Italy already do something similar.

RIO DE JANEIRO: Digging is continuing to create the world's largest urban garden which will feed low income families, on brick Favela rubbish dumps frequented by drug users.

55 gardens in schools and vulnerable neighbourhoods produce organic food for locals. One is 4 football fields long and provides 80 tons of food annually.

Two existing gardens are to be joined up to make a garden the size of 15 football pitches which will give food security to 50,000 locals.

BRAZIL: You would not believe this, but school children are being urged to grow mosquitos in margarine cartons. Why?? Well Dengue is a serious illness caused by mosquitos, affecting 400 million people a year and killing many thousands.

The school children are breeding mosquitos which have been infected with bacterium Wolbachia, which stops mosquitos passing on the infection to humans. The mosquitos bred by the children, under the auspices of the World Mosquito Programme, then breed with the wild population which then can't pass on Dengue.

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

BLACK FRIDAY: Which? consumer body did a survey and found that 98% goods on sale at a reduced price were in fact not reduced at all.

It has been suggested that Black Friday be replaced by BUY NOTHING DAY during which the following is to be promoted:

- 1: Buy nothing
- 2: Get something repaired
- 3: Plant some bulbs. (It the best time to plant tulips)
- 4: Swap stuff
- 5: Give away thing you don't need to a charity shop.
- 6: Buy some cabbage. Due to the wet warm weather, there is a glut of cabbage. Buy some to save it going to waste and create a healthy dish of vegetables.

UK YOUTH CLIMATE COALITION (UKYCC): The Mission of the UK Youth Climate Coalition is to mobilise and empower young people to take positive action for global climate justice. They are a group of 18 – 29-year campaigners who volunteer and collaborate to work towards creating their vision of a just sustainable world in which current and future generations enjoy and protect a healthy environment. To learn more about their campaigns, check out their website: www.ukycc.com. UKYCC is a non-profit volunteer group who rely on donations to run.

SHELTERBOX AND CLIMATE DISASTERS: The impact of extreme weather events are a significant part of the work of ShelterBox. In 2020, 30 million people were displaced by climate disasters like floods and tropical storms. That is more than one person forced to flee every second. Droughts and increasing temperatures, contribute to worsening conditions. Vulnerable families are on the front line of the climate crisis. The unpredictability makes it difficult to plan – yields are affected which in turn puts a strain on food supplies. If extreme weather events continue to increase at current rates climate scientists estimate 167 million homes will be lost by 2040. That's the equivalent of all our homes in the UK wiped out six times. ShelterBox are urging our government to commit to immediate action. Visit <https://shelterbox.org/climate-change-hub/> for ways to support or write to your MP.

ShelterBox (based in Truro) is a charity that delivers aid to families devastated by conflict or disaster to give them durable shelter and the tools to rebuild communities.

G20: The recent G20 meetings in Bali, Indonesia, saw the heads of the most advanced economies in the world gather together to jointly promote policy that sets the world on the path of sustainable and integral development.

On the sidelines of one of the many events of the G20, Vatican News spoke to Michel Kurtyka, the former president of COP 24 and first minister of climate in Poland who upheld the concept of 5P's; people, planet, partnerships, prosperity and peace as central on the path toward economic growth a guide to the progress and development of society.

SUSTAINABILITY FOR CHRISTMAS:

I am:

- Growing Christmas cacti and cyclamen dug from the garden a few weeks ago to give away.
- Recycling used candles and trimmings of wax from our church and All Saints up the road, to make Christmas candles.
- Using the nature photos I took in Spring and summer to make greeting cards as gifts.
- Putting Christmas tops on the chutney, and lemon and lime marmalade labelled "Specially For You".

ACTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

ADVENT IS HERE: This first week brings us a message of HOPE.

How can I bring a glimmer of the light of Christ into our world to someone in need of encouragement and hope?

How can I make ethical sustainable choices this Christmas?

I would be very grateful for your ideas re the above actions to share in next week's news.

Advent blessings

Mary Bradley