

Today is World Youth Sunday and Pope Francis has a crucial message for us all. He wants us to stand up and be witnesses. He wants to hear our voices. So, I am taking this opportunity to speak to you today.

Recently, Pope Francis sent a message to world leaders at the UN climate talks in Glasgow – known as COP26. He called on them to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Our global sisters and brothers do the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they are the ones most affected by it. Pope Francis said that “every crisis calls for vision to rethink the future of the world.”

Throughout the year, people in schools and parishes have been responding to the climate crisis and have been calling for politicians to show the leadership we need to tackle the huge problems caused by climate change. But now that the official talks are over, we need to ensure that our government keeps their own promises to do all we can to help those poor communities at the frontline of the climate crisis. As Pope Francis says: “moments of difficulty like these also present opportunities that we must not waste.”

We have been gifted a beautiful world and all that God asks of us is that we care for it – it’s that simple! So today I am taking on Pope Francis’ challenge to stand up and be a witness. I am pledging my voice to share this message, to stand up, and to speak out for a world where everyone can flourish. I hope that you will join me.

Thank you.