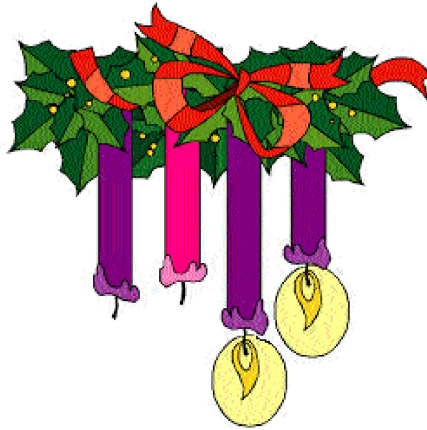


When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned,  
only then will we realize that one cannot eat money.  
Cree Proverb

Isaiah 11.9

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the  
knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand  
as a signal for the peoples



ADVENT SECOND WEEK:  
The Threat of Rising Consumerism

Every effort to protect  
and improve our world  
entails profound  
changes in 'lifestyle,  
in models of production  
and consumption.

*Laudato Si 5*

What can I do?

- ◆ Wrapping paper cannot be recycled and will go straight to landfill. Be aware of this when wrapping gifts. Use brown paper instead.
- ◆ In the run-up to Christmas and the January sales, consider need versus want when shopping. Every little helps!
- ◆ At election time, make your politicians aware of these very urgent concerns.

'Future We Need' is a faith based  
group

This leaflet was prepared by members  
from [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)  
[www.columbansisters.org](http://www.columbansisters.org).



# The Threat of Rising Consumerism

## Consumerism and Overexploitation

Overexploitation and ever-expanding agriculture are driven by spiralling human consumption. Over the past 50 years our Ecological Footprint - has increased by about 190%. Creating a more sustainable system will require major changes to production, supply and consumption activities.

SDG 12 aims to achieve long term sustainability for earth and its people. Each country must have a national framework for energy and resource efficiency; consumption and production patterns; sound business practices and sustainable waste management.



SDG 12

**ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS**



## Possession Obsession

Business Group Retail Ireland has said it expects Irish households to spend an average of €2,654 in shops this Christmas. Shopping days such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday, contribute to this figure.

*"We have a possession obsession. Obsessed with what we own, and defined by what we possess."*

***Irish Examiner 5/5/2013***

**" A constant flow of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment..... Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little."**

*Pope Francis ,Laudato Si 222*



LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING ECONOMY



CIRCULAR ECONOMY



The **CIRCULAR ECONOMY** is one where we extract maximum use and value from all resources.

Waste products are recovered and regenerated, mirroring nature, where nothing is wasted!

## Resources

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/true-north/2017/jul/17/neoliberalism-has-conned-us-into-fighting-climate-change-as-individuals>

[https://www.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_report\\_2018/](https://www.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/30/humanity-wiped-out-animals-since-1970-major-report-finds>