

CLIMATE CHANGE-a reflection!

Japan has recently been in the world news in a positive way with the successful presentation of the Olympic and the Paralympics Games. What has also been given worldwide news is what has become known as *Climate Change*, I doubt that anyone could dispute it is a subject that needs to be addressed but to what extent is where debate happens.

In 1983 a Japanese born Catholic bishop whose name was Stephen Fumio Hamao (1930-2007) spoke these powerful words at an international conference in the Vatican; *“When we work for peace it will only be effective when all people become aware of their deep connection with the living things of nature. We must not seek to dominate nature but rather seek harmony with it. Over time we all need to be free from the frenzy of wanting to be possessive and become more partners of peace.”* Pope Francis emphasized these same sentiments in his relatively recent letter *Laudato Si*.

In so many ways God the creator has created the world as if it was a beautiful garden similar to planting the seeds that would bloom into flowers for his loved children. The whole of creation especially the air we breathe, the water we drink and the earth we walk on all need to be seen as gifts to be valued so they can be passed down to future generations. To do this effectively both individually and collectively is a challenge before us all. *Fr Martin R Maunsell*