

Gathering and Welcome

It's a good idea to display copies of the **Reclaim the Future!** poster around the Church – perhaps even designing banners that highlight some words.

A warm welcome goes a long way – so invite young people to greet parishioners as they enter the church, handing out service sheets or hymn books as they come in.

Idea

Many parishioners enjoy a time of quiet prayer and personal reflection as they arrive for Mass, so it's important to respect this. But you may also wish to invite people to make *livesimply* promises or **Reclaim the Future!** commitments as they arrive, the week before or with the Mass sheet and explain it all later. You'll obviously need to explain the reasons for this as they enter the building – but that in itself can be a good way to explain the theme of your celebration. You can display these commitments somewhere in the church.

As the Mass begins, some words of introduction and welcome from groups of young people can make a very positive impact, too. Find some brave volunteers!

You may wish to process things which represent the parish, and especially the life, energy and commitment of young people in the parish.

Things that symbolise the **Reclaim the Future!** theme could be presented. For example: a globe, energy saving light bulbs, recycling containers, fairly traded goods, pictures of people from different parts of the global community, and so on.

If you have invited the congregation to make *livesimply* promises or **Reclaim the Future!** commitment pledges, these could be presented too.