



## A Rubbish Assembly!

*A School Assembly or Homily Idea that deals with issues of Food Waste, suitable for Harvest!*

### **Preparation**

Prepare a black refuse bag full of 'rubbish' – but inside the bag is perfectly good food – fresh fruit and vegetables, maybe a few ready meals, carton of fruit juice, box of eggs.

### **Introduction**

Tell the young people that you have a great treat for them today. You have brought something that you would like to share with them. Show them the bag but not what's inside it.

You may want to ask them to guess what's in the bag!

Tell them that actually you have brought your weekly rubbish bag. Inside this bag are all the things you've thrown out this week. Perhaps open the bag and take a big sniff and say how 'nice' the rubbish smells! Perhaps ask for a volunteer who is willing to place their hand into your rubbish bag without looking to take out an item.

### **Explanation**

In the UK, householders throw away 6.7 m tonnes of unwanted food every year at a cost to us of £8bn. That's the equivalent of throwing away one bag of food for every three that we buy.

Around 40% of it is fresh fruit and vegetables:

- nearly 4.5 million apples
- more than 5m potatoes

- 1.5 m bananas
- 3m tomatoes

We waste so much food and, as a result, so much money. We fill land fill sites where the food and refuse rots, producing methane, a greenhouse gas more than 20 times more damaging than carbon dioxide.

God has given us so many things, so many good gifts, and we often end up wasting them, throwing them away, discarding them. We are called to be good stewards of everything that God had given us. To be responsible with the gifts he has given. Just think of the good we could do for the environment if we didn't waste and throw away so much. Just think what we could do with the money that we waste on throwaway food, the number of hungry people that could be fed in the world.

### **Reading**

Matthew 14:15-21 - The Feeding of the 5,000

Jesus fed the hungry and he produced so much food that there was plenty left over. But none of it was wasted. It was all gathered up and placed into baskets.

How we shop, how we eat, what we do with our food and money is not just an environmental issue, it is an issue that affects our relationship with God and shows what we really think of the gifts he has given us.

### **Prayer**

God,  
We really are such wasters!  
We waste so much in terms of food, money and resources.  
Help us to be responsible and thoughtful, to value everything that you have given us, and to share what we have with those in need  
so that we rather than wasting things can make this world a better place,  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.