

### **Bishop Theotonius Gomes**

Bishop Theotonius Gomes C.S.C is Auxiliary Bishop (emeritus) of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Born in Dhaka, he was educated in Bangladesh, the United States and Italy. He received his doctorate from the Gregorian University, Rome in 1979 and has an honorary doctorate from King's College, USA. Bishop Gomes was ordained as a priest in 1964, and in 1979 he became Bishop of Dinajpur where he served for 17 years. He was appointed Auxillary Bishop of Dhaka in 1996. For twenty years he served as Secretary General to the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Bangladesh and in 2006 he became the President of Caritas Bangladesh.

Bishop Gomes is a strong advocate for the needs of the poorest and actively participates in delegations at UN meetings. He has attended climate negotiations in Poznan (2008), Copenhagen (2009), Warsaw (2013), and Lima (2014) and participated in Rio+20 in 2012.

### **Phil Kingston**

Phil Kingston is a grandfather and a founder member of Grandparents for a Safe Earth, a network of grandparents and elders who care deeply about the world their descendants will inherit and who campaign for action to ensure that Earth's eco-systems are kept as intact as possible. They are based in England and believe in taking direct action, in a spirit of non-violence and respect. Grandparents for a Safe Earth are concerned about banks' investments in fossils fuels and have highlighted this through actions including demonstrations and occupations.

Phil is also a founding member of Christian Climate Action, a network of Christians who are concerned about the effects of climate change on the future of our one planet and its inhabitants.

His career was in Probation and Children's Departments before becoming a lecturer in Social Work at Bristol University. He has been a volunteer with CAFOD for 35 years. After retiring he became a full-time activist in Justice and Peace, now almost entirely in relation to care of the Earth.

### **Fr Sean McDonagh**

Sean McDonagh was born in Nenagh and studied for the priesthood in St. Columban's College, Dalgan Park, Navan. Ordained in 1969 he was sent as a Columban missionary to Mindanao in the Philippines the same year. He worked with various communities in the Philippines and in response to the destruction of local forests in T'boli country, McDonagh began his ecological activism, which culminated in the pioneering book *To Care for the Earth* (1985). It called for a new theology which would give at least as much prominence to creation as to redemption. In 1990 he wrote *The Greening of the Church*, which focused on developing a theology of creation.

He studied linguistics and anthropology in USA, and in 2006 was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council of Ireland (HETAC) on the basis of his published works. In 2009 he was awarded a Doctoral Degree Honoris Causa by the Universidad Nacional de Cajamarca, Peru.

### **Dr Áine Ryall**

Dr Áine Ryall is a graduate of UCC and of the London School of Economics. She holds a PhD in environmental law from the European University Institute, Florence. She is also a barrister and was called to the Irish Bar in 1995. Áine's research interests are primarily in the fields of international & EU

environmental law, in particular access to environmental justice, implementation of the Aarhus Convention, environmental impact assessment and environmental law enforcement.

In 2013, Áine was appointed to the Advisory Committee to the Environmental Protection Agency for a three year term. Áine is a member of the Board of the Irish Centre for European Law (ICEL), a member of the Royal Irish Academy's Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee and the European Commission Expert Group of Academics on Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.