



On Saturday evening (28 Nov) there was a bevy of journalists and cameras as the French Minister for the Environment opened our event at St Christopher's Inn, Gare du Nord. The weather has been grey since we arrived, so the picture of the venue does it some justice! The French Government are major sponsors of the event, and are taking some interest, especially as many of the other side events have been cancelled for security reasons.

The programme did not really start until Sunday evening, so Nigel and I attended St George's Anglican Church (<http://www.stgeorgesparis.com>) in the morning, with Fr Andrew Bigg presiding, and the Parish Priest, Fr Matthew Harrison delivering an excellent sermon on climate change. We were warmly welcomed by the parish, and finally left the 10.30 am service at 2.30 pm after an excellent lunch.

On Sunday evening the first business item on the programme was a panel discussion of the role of the media in talking about climate change. It was interesting more for the larger issues that seemed obvious to me, but were not discussed. First, almost everyone at the Event is from the global north; I think Fr Nigel is the only Pacific Islander present, though there are a couple of people here from the Indian Ocean, and a few people from Africa. But 90%

would be from the global north. Yet this disparity has not yet been commented on and it certainly merits exploration. I have also observed different approaches to climate change topics being taken by English speakers compared to non-English speakers, which I think reflects the differing cultural approaches to philosophical and artistic issues. Once again, it will be interesting to see how this works itself out in the next few days, and whether or not it is of great importance.

Monday and Tuesday are looking fairly light, so it might give us a chance to look at what is happening around Paris outside of the event venue and Nigel might meet up with government delegates from the Solomon Islands and elsewhere. In the meantime, we are busy preparing to speak later this week. More later!

*Dr Keith Joseph  
Dean of Darwin*