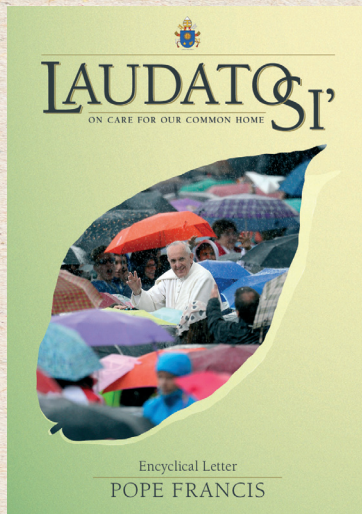


CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF LAUDATO SI'

has been announced by Pope Francis.
It runs from 24th May 2020 - 24th May 2021



'It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church's social teaching can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face.' (*Laudato Si'* 15)

We are called:

- to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation
- to hear the two cries: the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth and to respond.

'The climate crisis requires our decisive action, here and now and the church is fully committed to playing her part' (Pope Francis 2019)

AT HOME, IN OUR PARISHES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Pray

- Common Prayer for the 5th Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*
 - 'Prayer for Our Earth' (LS 246)
 - The *Laudato Si'* Chaplet
 - Prayer before meals
- Find all these prayers at www.catholicbishops.ie (Search 'Season of Creation').

Reflect

- Examine your relationship with God's creation (www.ecologicalexamen.org)
- Join or set up a *Laudato Si'* Reading Group
- Include *Laudato Si'* quotes in your parish bulletin and
- Put some in your garden or on church grounds
- Mark the following dates in parish liturgies: Earth Hour, National Tree Week, Earth Day, Biodiversity Week.

Act

- Set up a 'Care for Creation' group in your parish.
- Create a biodiversity area on church grounds
- Plant a tree in your parish to mark the Season of Creation
- Host the Eco Congregation's Climate Justice Candle in your parish (www.ecocongregationireland.com)
- Work on joint actions and projects with other Christian churches in your area.

This leaflet is brought to you by the Diocese of Kerry JPIC Committee & the *Laudato Si'* Working Group of the Council for Catechetics.



CULTIVATING HOPE

A Faith Response to the Climate Crisis

Special Anniversary Year of *Laudato Si'*

SEASON OF CREATION
1st September - 4th October 2020



BIODIVERSITY

Cultivate hope as you garden at home, in your parish or community garden

Get to know what's in your garden area:

- grass, plants, hedges, shrubs, trees, water,
- insect, bird and animal life
- walls, stones, shady corners, log piles

What could you protect?



'St. Francis asked that part of the friary garden be left untouched, so that wild flowers & herbs could grow there & those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.' (LS 12)

What could you add?

- small apple trees
- pollinator friendly plants eg snowdrops, native bluebells, heather, willow (See 'Resources for Faith Communities' on www.pollinators.ie/communities/faith-communities)
- Leave a log pile and put up a sign- a home for other creatures
- Reduce grass mowing, leave a strip of longer grass
- Never use sprays
- Have a plant or seed swap day in your parish.

Sit and enjoy nature. Let it become a sacred space for you, for your family and for all creatures in our Common Home.

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF FOOD

Cultivate hope by the way you buy, prepare, and eat food

- Grow some of your own
- Support local producers
- Buy local, Irish and in season
- Avoid excessive packaging
- Use Fairtrade products
- Give thanks and welcome others to your table
- Plan your shopping. Make a list
- 'Purchasing is always a moral - and not simply economic act.' (LS 206)
- Avoid food waste (www.stopfoodwaste.ie)
- Learn to compost.



'Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.' (LS 202)

In Genesis 2:15 we were called to till and keep the garden of Eden.

'Laudato Si reminds us that 'tilling' refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while 'keeping' means caring, protecting, overseeing & preserving. This implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature.' (LS 67).

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION & CLIMATE CRISIS

Cultivate hope by your actions

Personal:

- Always carry your keep cup/refill bottle
- Bring your reusable bag to the shop
- Avoid impulse purchases
- Conserve and reduce energy and water use

Parish:

- Plan to avoid single use plastic
- Use Fairtrade products at parish celebrations
- Audit Parish events for plastic, packaging, recycling, unhealthy food
- Put Think Before You Flush signs in parish toilets (www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org)
- Refer to Ireland's official guide to managing your waste (www.mywaste.ie)
- Consider an energy audit of your parish buildings. Check www.seai.ie for advice/help.



Together let's Care for our Common Home