



Laudato Si' Action Plan 2023+

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What is Laudato Si'?

With the words "Laudato Si', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord" – Pope Francis quotes a famous prayer by St Francis of Assisi and begins his landmark Encyclical Letter of 2015 subtitled "On care for our common home".

An Encyclical Letter is among the most authoritative teachings of a Pope. This Encyclical continued the consistent teaching from Catholic tradition and of successive Popes – St Paul VI, St John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI – all of whom taught with ever greater urgency the moral responsibility to care for our fragile earth and for the most vulnerable among humanity. As Pope Francis writes, **"living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS 217).**

Laudate Deum

In October 2023 Pope Francis released Laudate Deum as a follow up to Laudato Si' addressing 'all people of good will'. The statement calls for urgent action from the global community to effectively address the climate crises that impact us all, particularly the most vulnerable. The Pope is dissatisfied with the adequacy of global responses to date and warns that the need for effective response is urgent.

Acknowledgement of Country

We gratefully acknowledge the Dharawal people and their Elders who have cared for this part of God's creation on which our parish is built for thousands of years. Inspired by Popes and Saints of our time, we commit ourselves to deepening relationships of mutual love and respect between our parish and the Aboriginal peoples of our area. We make our own the words of St John Paul II to our First Nations people: **the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others**

(Pope John Paul II's address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Alice Springs, 29 November 1986).

Parish Vision

We are a diverse community united by our love for Jesus and for one another, constantly seeking to grow in this love especially through the Eucharist.

We welcome everyone and help each other to discover their unique gifts, joyfully working together as one to bring the overflowing love of Jesus to all people.

We are called to respond to the environmental crisis of the 21st Century by proactively engaging with Pope Francis' challenge from Laudato Si' for an ecological conversion and we are inspired by both the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement (2021-2022) and Bishop Brian Mascord's Diocesan Pastoral Message (October 2021) which invite groups to participate and engage with the Laudato Si' Action Platform and to develop a Laudato Si' Action Plan.

Engagement with eco-spirituality, environmental education and action is a key component of our mission, of being Catholic and is viewed as "core business".

**"Remember nothing is small in the eyes of God.
Do all that you do with love." St Therese**



01

Response to
the Cry of the Earth



1 Response to the Cry of the Earth

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

Actions		Other LS Goal Connections	How?
1.1	Care for creation on our parish land by controlling environmental weeds (under advice from outside experts), planting native plants, replacing unnecessary grass and adding trees for future urban cooling and habitat.	4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	Parish Pastoral Council to coordinate interested members of the parish community
1.2	Continuing the availability of Parish land for productive use by the Burmese community; building connections by establishing and continuing dialogue with them as to their needs.	2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment	Parish Pastoral Council to coordinate interested members of the parish community
1.3	Provide information and advocacy opportunities specific to earth-related justice issues using existing Parish communication systems.	5. Ecological Education	Parish Communication Team with assistance from Justice Ecology and Peace Group



02

Response to the Cry of the Poor



2 Response to the Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, at the same time protecting nature (139)

Actions	Other LS Goal Connections	How?
<p>2.1 In response to the Plenary Council (2022) and the Bishops Social Justice Statement (2023), facilitate introduction of appropriate Acknowledgments of Country in parish buildings, publications and events.</p> <p>Facilitate formation, education and conversation for all parishioners and the broader community connected with annual celebrations of First Nations people including Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week that encourages a deeper appreciation of the gifts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the life of the Catholic Church.</p>	<p>6. Ecological Spirituality</p>	<p>Justice Ecology and Peace Group to prepare and submit to the Parish Pastoral Council and the Communications Team and discuss with the relevant team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a draft plan of proposed form and content of each acknowledgment • a proposal for any parish consultation/ education/ formation in relation to each acknowledgment, including consultation with any particular ministry group. <p>Justice Ecology and Peace Group and relevant group finalise and implement each proposal.</p>
<p>2.2 Care for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised in our Parish neighbourhood by supporting our St Vincent de Paul conference, by advertising opportunities to assist and providing storage space for assistance items.</p>	<p>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>	<p>St Vincent de Paul to continue to publicise opportunities for parish to assist and Communication Teams to implement.</p>
<p>2.3 Raise awareness of the breadth of programs to sustain life and combat poverty in all its forms, by promoting the work of support agencies, including Catholic Mission, Caritas, CatholicCare, Jesuit Refugee Service, Franciscan House of Welcome, Diamond Women and Rachel's Vineyard.</p>	<p>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>	<p>Communication Teams to continue with and promote existing contacts. Justice Ecology and Peace Group establish new contacts.</p>



03

Ecological Economics



3 Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.

Actions		Other LS Goal Connections	How?
3.1	<p>Develop our commitment to socially responsible and ethical transactions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering sustainability, cooperative management, and fair treatment of workers when making parish purchases • ensuring that our quality second-hand items are repurposed, reused and recycled appropriately 	<p>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>	<p>Parish Finance Council with assistance from Justice, Ecology and Peace Group</p>
3.2	<p>Advocate through CDF to explore ways to reduce dependence on fossil fuel investments (directly and indirectly) through banking, insurance and other forms of investment.</p>	<p>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</p>	<p>Justice, Ecology and Peace Group</p>
3.3	<p>Encourage local initiatives towards ecological economics eg GreenConnect, Electrify 2515 (and beyond)</p>	<p>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>	<p>Justice, Ecology and Peace Group to publicise with assistance from Parish Communication Team</p>



04

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles



4 Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

Actions		Other LS Goal Connections	How?
4.1	Practise responsible use of energy and water in the church, presbytery and parish centre by ensuring that electrical appliances at the end of their life are replaced with the most efficient practicable, avoid wasting water by installing efficient taps and regularly checking taps for leaks.	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 5. Ecological Education	Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council
4.2	Address the role of energy use in the climate crisis by investigating options for converting to renewable energy for the parish including installation of solar panels, purchasing renewable energy and ensuring our energy provider is ethical.	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics	Parish Finance Council in conjunction with the School
4.3	Promote sobriety in the use of resources by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing a parish centre usage policy which prohibits single-use plastic and non-recyclables like styrofoam • implementing a waste management system and providing information and resources to enable full parish participation • exploring possibilities for the parish to be a collection point for hard-to-recycle items via TerraCycle or Upparel • utilising PowerPoint where appropriate replacing printing and reducing paper usage 	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 3. Ecological Economics 5. Ecological Education	Parish Pastoral Council The parish centre is well stocked with reusable crockery and cutlery and a dishwasher to support users to avoid single-use items. System could implement waste streams – paper/cardboard, co-mingled, FOGO, Return and Earn, soft-plastics, landfill.
4.4	Encourage parishioners to adopt sustainable lifestyles by sharing weekly tips and publicising opportunities for involvement in community events and initiatives on sustainability.	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 5. Ecological Education 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment	Justice Ecology and Peace Group initiate and Communications Team to implement Encourage parishioners to share tips – via email or social media. eg NRMA Electric Vehicle Drive Days Electrify 2525's Solar Rollout.



05

Ecological Education



5 Ecological Education

Ecological Education is about rethinking and redesigning curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

		Other LS Goal Connections	How?
5.1	Make ecological awareness and transformative action a core principle of decision making for the parish.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles 6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment 	Parish Pastoral Council to initiate policy and all groups to implement
5.2	Raise awareness and encourage action by hosting film screenings - eg Pope Francis' film 'The Letter' and/or 2040. Issue broad invitations eg school students and other parishes eg Unanderra.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 	Justice Ecology and Peace Group
5.3	<p>Encourage ecological literacy, faith formation and awareness of Laudato Si' and ecological conversion across the parish by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding a section for Ecological Conversion to the Parish website to provide information and resources on both the key themes and messages of Laudato Si' and opportunities for environmental action • sharing Laudato Si' quotes and green tips and resources. Promote via weekly communications with the parish 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles 6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment 	Justice Ecology and Peace Group to drive, Communications Teams to implement through usual Parish media.



06

Ecological Spirituality



6 Ecological Spirituality

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

Actions	Other LS Goal Connections	How?
<p>6.1</p> <p>Promote awareness and celebration of ecological and social justice occasions and seasons, both secular and ecclesial by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a calendar of those events • making that calendar available and other supportive material (e.g. graphics) as a prompt to recognition of those happenings to Parish Priest (Universal Prayers), the Communications Team (bulletin and social media), the hymn selectors and the PowerPoint team 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 5. Ecological Education 	<p>Justice Ecology and Peace Group in conjunction with other groups as required.</p>
<p>6.2</p> <p>Promote justice and creation-centred prayer, both liturgical and private at appropriate occasions or seasons throughout the liturgical and calendar year by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuing the practice of choosing themed prayers for the Universal Prayers • providing to the bulletin team appropriate texts for prayer or suggestions around discerned action of individuals related to those occasions and seasons • acknowledging in terms of justice and ecology those hymns already chosen by the hymn selectors for use in worship in our parish, encouraging the selection and use of those hymns, and new hymns so themed, particularly on identified justice and ecology • holding a liturgy (eg morning or evening prayer or a vigil) to celebrate one or more occasions or seasons 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 5. Ecological Education 	<p>Justice Ecology and Peace Group in conjunction with other groups as required.</p>



07

Community Resilience and Empowerment

TOGETHER



7 Community Resilience and Empowerment

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

Actions		Other LS Goal Connections	How?
7.1	Listen to the voices of First Nations Peoples and work for reconciliation by raising awareness and education for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Closing the Gap and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.	2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 5. Ecological Education	Justice Ecology and Peace Group to initiate, Communication teams to implement. Parish Priest to liaise with local Aboriginal Elders
7.2	Continue to celebrate our cultural diversity building on existing connections, listening to concerns and working together to further enrich and strengthen our Parish community.	2. Response to the Cry of the Poor	Parish Priest and interested members of the various cultural communities in our parish.
7.3	Encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude to recover a religious vision of God's creation by holding an inclusive walk in nature (for young and old) plus a reflection /meditation	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 6. Ecological Spirituality	Parish Pastoral Council/ Community Team
7.4	Link with local groups and support community projects to care for the earth.	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor	Justice Ecology and Peace Group