

Summary extracts

'How inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace' (10)

"Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." [13].

"It is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. For them, land is not a commodity but a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values." (146)

The human dimension of ecology also implies "the relationship between human life and the moral law, which is inscribed in our nature" (155)

The concept of integral ecology is able to articulate fundamental relationships of the person: with God, with other human beings, with creation (Chapter 4)

The empirical sciences do not completely explain life, and technical solutions are ineffective "if we lose sight of the great motivations which make it possible for us to live in harmony, to make sacrifices and to treat others well" (200)

Religions must enter into "dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity" (201)

The Eucharist "joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation"(236)

The Vatican celebrates Laudato Si week from 16 - 24 May. The year 2020 is its fifth anniversary.

Also, in September each year the Vatican celebrates a 'Season of Creation' ending 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.



Contact

Interested persons may contact the group on -

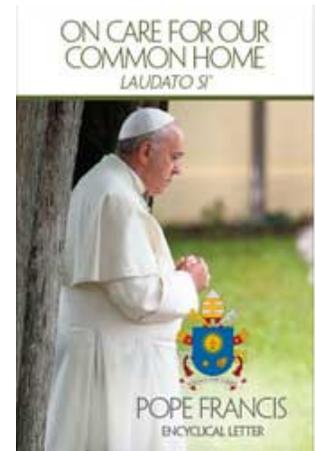
📞 phone 0428 625 110 or

✉ email roger.fitzgerald@bigpond.com

Laudato Si !

(‘Praise be to you’)

On Care for Our Common Home



South Belconnen Catholic Parish

About *Laudato Si*

Laudato Si was a prayer of praise to God by St Francis of Assisi for the gift of Mother Earth as the basis of all our lives.

The papal encyclical *Laudato Si* (Praise be to you) is a first major statement by Pope Francis for his personal ministry as Pope.

After his election in 2013 the Pope assembled several hundred leading experts to advise On Caring for Our Common Home, the environment on Earth.

The encyclical (finalised in 2015) has been acclaimed as a major contribution by many experts in this area and by adherents of various faiths and Christian denominations.

It demonstrates a sound and well-informed understanding of the current situation of the global environment, including greenhouse issues. Crucially it provides

- a coherent approach to creation, God's plan and humankind's place in the plan
- theology of environmental responsibility, and
- an understanding of the 'integral ecology' of the world in which we live and properly share with others.

In short *Laudato Si* is a major opportunity –

- for human well being in care of the Earth's natural environment
- for the Church to engage anew with people of all ages and stations, and
- to bring people together in common understanding for our future.

Our parish group

The name **Laudato Si** is used locally for a small emerging group of South Belconnen parishioners who are working together under the inspiration of the papal encyclical.

Current projects are aiming to -

- pray for and seek to understand God's will for collective environmental responsibility
- consider and undertake practical actions, for example to ensure our local Parish 'footprint' best meets our environmental responsibilities
- connect with others, such as joining with like-minded Christians in the area to hear the voice of our local Aboriginal people and their call for recognition, and
- spread knowledge of the message in *Laudato Si*. This may extend to communications directed to the broader public and potentially, to influence public responses.

Members also seek to practice *Laudato Si* principles in their own individual sphere.

There is an opportunity for interested parishioners to join in this work.

Some linkages

Catholic Earthcare is an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. (<http://catholicearthcare.org.au>)

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (**GCCM**) is a world-wide network. Refer <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is inter-faith group working towards an effective national response and actions to address the threat of climate change. See www.arrcc.org.au .

Further information

Information resources

The encyclical is available at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

In addition to the summary extracts overleaf, there is an excellent summary at <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/whats-the-best-2-page-summary-youve-seen-of-laudato-si/>