



ARISE!

Laudato Si'

Leader's Guide
Bronze



www.missionministry.ie



Archdiocese of Dublin

In the protection of biodiversity, specialists insist on the need for particular attention to be shown to areas richer both in the number of species and in endemic, rare or less protected species.

Certain places need 28 greater protection because of their immense importance for the global ecosystem, or because they represent important water reserves and thus safeguard other forms of life.

#LS37

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- Genesis 1:1-5

Suggested Timeline in a Year

January:	Session 1 - What's Faith got to do with it?
February:	Session 2 - Pollination Nation
March:	Session 3 - The Bees Knees
April:	Action Projecting Planning
May:	Action Project completed in Parish
June:	Action Project Reporting Diocesan Retreat Day
September:	Award Presented during the Season of Creation

October to December:

Recruitment for the award can be linked with the presentation of the awards and setting up the year ahead can be done during these months.



On-Going Training & Support

Each parish that has young people working towards the awards will receive regular contact, support and any training necessary from the Office of Mission and Ministry, including parish visits when gathering for the sessions or the action project planning.

Candidate's Journal

- Laudato Si' Goals
- What is Laudato Si'?
- Important Dates

Session 1 - What's Faith got to do with it?

- Session 1 Notes
- Session 1 Summary Page
- Session 1 Notes Page
- Session 1 Journalling Page

Session 2 - Pollination Nation

- Session 2 Notes
- Session 2 Summary Page
- Session 2 Notes Page
- Session 2 Journalling Page

Session 3 - The Bees Knees

- Session 3 Notes
- Session 3 Summary Page
- Session 3 Notes Page
- Session 3 Journalling Page

Action Project

- Action List
- Planner Page
- Notes Page
- Report template



All resources and links to the *Laudato Si' Award* on the Mission and Ministry Page can be found by scanning the above QR Code.

Connection with the Community

- It is important for the Award to be visible in the church for both those working to achieve the award and the Faith Community
- A suitable space (on the walls or a side chapel etc.) could be used to build up a *Laudato Si'* space in the church
- This would be something that is added to and built up over time, especially as the three sessions are held over the year
- Some suggestions of items to add to the space are:
 - Content of Session
 - Important Dates for all to be aware of
 - Surveys/Questionnaires
 - Tips and helpful hints on how parishioners can take part at home
 - Update on Action Project
 - Quotes from *Laudato Si'* and *Laudate Deum*
 - Relevant quotes from scripture
- This is suggestive and you are free to get creative with what you think should go in the space
- This can be shared and discussed at the ongoing session and project meetings
- Monthly reminders to parishioners to visit the *Laudato Si'* space in the church

Practical Points

- The *Laudato Si'* Award is aimed at all from 1st Year in secondary school and up
- It follows on from Confirmation Connect (Connection 3, Session 8)
- There is no age limit as many young adults are acutely aware and interested in this topic
- If you have a group signed up that varies in age, it would be best to group those participating with others close to their age
- If your participants working towards the award are under 18, all leaders and those who will work/interact with them must be Garda Vetted
- In order for the award to work, **a minimum of 2 leaders and 3 participants is necessary**
- On-going support and training is provided for animators throughout the year
- For the award to be given, each participant must be involved in:
 - The 3 Sessions for the Award
 - Plan and Complete the necessary Action Project
 - Write up the Action Project Report
 - Take part in the Retreat Day
- The Retreat Day will be organised by the Office of Mission & Ministry and will be for all across the Archdiocese completing the award
- Sessions 1-3 are approximately:
 - 1hr 30mins for Bronze Level
 - 2hrs for Silver Level
 - 2hrs 30mins for Gold Level
- Action Project time is based on the activity undertaken
- All Action Reports must be completed individually
- Awards are presented during the Season of Creation locally in parish, along with a Diocesan Gathering in St Paul's Arran Quay

Safeguarding Procedures

Safeguarding for all (children and leaders) is a vital practice that underpins all we do in the church. Best Safeguarding Practices means that all who engage in ministry with children are Garda Vetted and that children/families that we interact with have signed consent forms.

If volunteers are not Garda Vetted, they must be vetted before ministering to children (those under 18 years of age). You can begin the process by clicking [HERE](#) to access the Garda Vetting Form.

Parishes would need consent forms for children to participate in the Laudato Si Award. This would need to be completed before the commencement of the award.

The number of leaders needed for the team will depend on the numbers signed up and the numbers of those under 18. It is recommended to have a minimum of 2 leaders and 3 participants for the award to work successfully. This can be discussed depending on your parish's particular circumstances.

Important Dates

February

- World Wetlands Day
- World Thinking Day

March

- National Tree Week
- World Water Day
- Earth Hour 8:30–9:30pm

April

- National Spring Clean Month
- World Health Day
- World Heritage Day
- UN Earth Day

May

- World Migratory Bird Day
- International Day of Families
- International Day for Biological Diversity
- World Turtle Day

June

- UNEP World Environment Day
- World Oceans Day
- Global Wind Day
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- EU Sustainable Energy Week

July

- World Population Day
- International Bog Day

August

- International Day for World Indigenous People
- Heritage Week

September

- Season of Creation
- International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- World Water Monitoring Day
- World Car-Free Day

October

- Feast of St Francis of Assisi
- International Walk to School Month
- World Habitat Day
- World Animal Day
- World Food Day
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

November

- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

December

- International Volunteer Day
- International Mountain Day



LAUDATO SI'

On Care For Our Common Home
24th May 2015



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR COMMON HOME

summarises the scope of current problems related to the environment. Issues discussed include pollution, climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and global inequality.

THE GOSPEL OF CREATION

The Genesis creation stories in the bible are interpreted as enjoining responsible cultivation and protection of nature. The natural world is portrayed as a gift, a message, and a common inheritance of all people.



THE HUMAN ROOTS OF THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

Explores social trends and ideologies that have caused environmental problems, including the unreflective use of technology, an impulse to manipulate and control nature, a view of humans as separate from the environment, narrowly-focused economic theories, and moral relativism.

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

Integral ecology is presented as the main solution the climate crisis. It affirms that humans are part of a broader world and urges us to consider the ethical and spiritual dimensions of how humans are meant to relate to each other and the natural world – drawing on culture, family, community, virtue, religion, and respect for the common good.



LINES OF APPROACH AND ACTION

Applies the concept of integral ecology to political life. It calls for international agreements to protect the environment and assist low-income countries, new national and local policies, inclusive and transparent decision-making, and an economy ordered to the good of all.

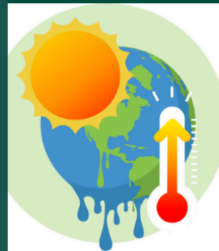
ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY

Recommends a personal lifestyle focused less on consumerism and more on timeless, enduring values. It calls for environmental education, joy in one's surroundings, civic love, reception of the sacraments, and an "ecological conversion" in which an encounter with Jesus leads to deeper communion with God, other people, and the world of nature.



LAUDATE DEUM

*To All People of Good Will
on the Climate Crisis*
04th October 2023



THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

Pope Francis is critical of climate denialism and insists on the urgency of taking action for the worsening crisis, saying what is required of us is "a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world."

A GROWING TECHNOCRATIC PARADIGM

Our obsession with growth and progress is working against us. "The mentality of maximum gain at minimal cost, disguised in terms of reasonableness, progress and illusory promises, makes impossible any sincere concern for our common home and any real preoccupation about assisting the poor and the needy discarded by our society."



THE WEAKNESS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Francis exposes the self interest and lack of care that is inherent in multilateral power structures which currently exist. Instead we need power to come from the ground up. "It is no longer helpful for us to support institutions in order to preserve the rights of the more powerful without caring for those of all."

CLIMATE CONFERENCES: PROGRESS AND FAILURES

Pope Francis notes the agreements made at previous COP climate and biodiversity conferences, to loss and damage adaptation support to a commitment to transition to renewable energy. None have been implemented, despite much discussion at the time about them.



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM COP28 IN DUBAI?

The timing of Laudate Deum suggests it is directly aimed at the delegates at the COP28 climate conference in Dubai. We will only know COP28 has been a success if there is a binding agreement to a just transition that is drastic, intense, and demands the commitment of all nations.

SPIRITUAL MOTIVATIONS

A reminder that God "has united us to all his creatures" and to the world in which we live, therefore we must care for it. Francis urges individual action to cut down our carbon footprint as a way to transform society, but recognises that the big change must come from political decisions. He ends "Praise God" is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies."





What is Laudato Si'?

Laudato Si' is an encyclical of Pope Francis published in May 2015. It focuses on care for the natural environment and all people, as well as broader questions of the relationship between God, humans, and the Earth. The encyclical's subtitle, "Care for Our Common Home," reinforces these key themes.

An encyclical is a public letter from the Pope developing Catholic teaching on a topic often in light of current events. Laudato Si' is addressed to "every living person on this planet" (LS 3). Hence, it is offered as part of an ongoing dialogue within the Catholic Church and between Catholics and the wider world.

What does Laudato Si' mean?

The title of an encyclical is typically drawn from the first words of the document. The first words of Laudato Si' are Italian and translate as "praise be to you." They are part of a quotation from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures" that opens the encyclical in which the saint praises God by meditating on the goodness of sun, wind, Earth, water, and other natural forces.

What are the main sections of Laudato Si'?

Laudato Si' is divided into six chapters, each of which can be read in a sitting of 20 to 30 minutes.

"Chapter One: What is Happening to Our Common Home" summarizes the scope of current problems related to the environment. Issues discussed include pollution, climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and global inequality.

"Chapter Two: The Gospel of Creation" draws on the Bible as a source of insight. The Genesis creation stories are interpreted as enjoining responsible cultivation and protection of nature. Past attempts to justify the absolute human domination of other species are "not a correct interpretation of the Bible" (LS 67). The natural world is further portrayed as a gift, a message, and a common inheritance of all people.

"Chapter Three: The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis" explores social trends and ideologies that have caused environmental problems. These include the unreflective use of technology, an impulse to manipulate and control nature, a view of humans as separate from the environment, narrowly-focused economic theories, and moral relativism.

“Chapter Four: Integral Ecology” presents the encyclical’s main solution to ongoing social and environmental problems. Integral ecology affirms that humans are part of a broader world and calls for “comprehensive solutions which consider the interactions within natural systems themselves and with social systems” (LS 139). While the study of ecosystems has become well-known in the science of ecology, integral ecology expands this paradigm to consider the ethical and spiritual dimensions of how humans are meant to relate to each other and the natural world – drawing on culture, family, community, virtue, religion, and respect for the common good.

“Chapter Five: Lines of Approach and Action” applies the concept of integral ecology to political life. It calls for international agreements to protect the environment and assist low-income countries, new national and local policies, inclusive and transparent decision-making, and an economy ordered to the good of all.

“Chapter Six: Ecological Education and Spirituality” concludes the encyclical with applications to personal life. It recommends a lifestyle focused less on consumerism and more on timeless, enduring values. It calls for environmental education, joy in one’s surroundings, civic love, reception of the sacraments, and an “ecological conversion” in which an encounter with Jesus leads to deeper communion with God, other people, and the world of nature.

How does Laudato Si’ relate to past Catholic teaching?

Pope Francis is not the first pope to address environmental issues. Pope St. John Paul II taught on numerous occasions about a duty of stewardship toward nature. For example, in his 1991 encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, John Paul II wrote about nature as a gift from God and the need for humans to cooperate with God in promoting the rightly ordered flourishing of the environment (CA 37). Further, *Centesimus Annus* outlined a connection between natural ecology and “human ecology” (CA 38), anticipating the concept of integral ecology in *Laudato Si’*. Pope Benedict echoed these same teachings during his papacy, for example, in his 2009 encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (see CV 48-52).

As outlined in *Laudato Si’*, its vision of an integrated approach to concern for all people and the environment has roots in Scripture and the history of Catholic thought, in particular in the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, tracing back to the late 19th century. Further, Catholic scholars and activists have been outspoken on the connection between social and environmental issues for many years.

What is unique about *Laudato Si’* is how Pope Francis develops and expands on these themes at length in a highly prominent way, devoting an entire encyclical to the topic at a time when the wider world is also becoming actively engaged in the pursuit of environmental sustainability.

Session 1 - What's Faith got to do with it?

Session Summary

- In the beginning...
- What does Christianity say...
- What does the Bible say... Genesis 1
- The Lens of Faith...
- The People Before Us...



Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Session 2 - Pollination Nation

Session Summary

- What is Pollination?
- Why is Pollination important?
- When does Pollination happen?
- Where do Pollinators live?
- Who Pollinates?
- How can you help Pollinators?



A Prayer for Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

Session 3 - The Bees Knees

Session Summary

- General facts on bees...
- Bumblebees
- Honey Bees
- Solitary Bees
- Why are bees considered the greatest pollinators?
- Top 10 ways to protect bees and other pollinators...



A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and
your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb
of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world
with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power
and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Action Project List

Identify & protect existing sources of food and shelter for pollinators on land managed by your parish

Select and maintain a section of parish land to cut grass as normal but let the Dandelions bloom!

Select and maintain a section of parish land to create a wildflower lawn

Plant pollinator-friendly trees and shrubs somewhere in the parish grounds

Pick a safe spot to provide nesting areas for Bumblebees

Start a new practise where the use of herbicides can be avoided

Do a survey to record and identify the pollinators found on land managed by your parish

Do a survey of the parish community to see their level of knowledge on pollination and bees. Publish the results

Do a fundraiser to buy the necessary pollinator friendly bulbs for the parish or materials for a bug hotel

Create and distribute pollinator-friendly garden guidelines to homes in the parish

Integrate the need to safeguard the earth into prayer/worship and hold a small prayer service on caring for creation

The option is open to do some other project you are interested in completing for your action project once it fits.

Action Project Report

Name of Project

Time _____

Date _____

Location _____

Who was Involved?

Aim of Action Project

Method Used

Key Tasks Undertaken

Difficulties Faced

Outcomes

Follow Ons

Faith Connection:

How did you see through the Lens of Faith?

Reflection: Share any final thoughts



Archdiocese of Dublin

ARISE!



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