

# *Towards a Parish Action Plan*



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS  
*Chatswood Catholic Parish*

# *Laudato Si' Action Platform Goals*

*Laudato Si'* Plans are envisioned to encompass to run over a period of seven years following a commonly used process of detailed annual planning and review that flows into subsequent years.



Ideally, the goals from the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform would be integrated into existing or future parish pastoral plans to avoid parallel planning processes.

# *Laudato Si' Action Platform Goals*

## **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 could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.

## **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 from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.

## **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 could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.

## **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 could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

## **ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.

## **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 could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc.

## **COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT**

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

FROM



<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

# Laudato Si' Planning Process

AUSTRALIAN JESUIT MINISTRIES PROCESS	CATHOLIC EARTHCARE PROCESS	VATICAN'S LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN
ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION	FROM THE HEART	5. ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION 6. ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY
DEVELOP LEADERSHIP	BUILD AN APOSTOLATE PREPARE YE THE WAY	—
BUILD A TEAM	CREATE DISCIPLESHIP	—
ENGAGE EVERYONE	EMPOWER OTHERS	—
START SMALL	HARVEST EASY WINS FIRST	1. RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH 2. RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR 3. ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS
TAKE ON CHALLENGES	SUSTAIN AND GO FORTH	4. ADOPTION OF SIMPLE LIFESTYLES 7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & PARTICIPATORY ACTION
REVIEW	CELEBRATE & ANIMATE	—

# *Laudato Si' Audit Process*

## **BEGIN WITH AN AUDIT PROCESS**

Catholic Earthcare offers an audit tool available at [www.catholicearthcare.org.au](http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au)

Sandhurst Diocese also offers a Parish Environmental Audit tool adapted from the Archdiocese of Wellington NZ and the Eco Church Rocha UK Project.

Available at: <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/catholic-earthcare-parishes-project-ideas/> with other parish resources

## **FROM CATHOLICEARTHCARE AUDIT TOOL**

Taking time to reflect on what you currently do is an important step in your ecological conversion and in the process of becoming an Earthcare Parish. It is also a critical step towards inspiring local action and care for our common home.

The Earthcare Parish Certification Process is about considering a range of aspects of parish life, assessing their sustainability and ecological impacts, and beginning to imagine what you as a community might do in response.

This Earthcare Parish Audit Tool is organised in terms of People, Place and Practice. Each includes some audit themes and questions designed to help you to think in different ways about how your parish contributes to sustainability.

Each question aligns with one or more of the 7 Laudato Si' Goals: Response to the Cry of the Earth; Response to the Cry of the Poor; Ecological Economics; Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles; Ecological Education; Ecological Spirituality; and Community Engagement and Participatory Action.

This is not an exhaustive set of questions, of course! You may have other, better questions that are specific to your parish's People, Place and Practice.

Consider each audit theme and question. (Remember that some questions might be more or less relevant to your particular parish and local setting.)

Briefly discuss and/or reflect on each as you go.

Keep the Laudato Si' Goals in mind.

Record any comments that might be useful later, when you decide on what actions your parish will take towards improving sustainability and better caring for our common home.

Once you're done, send the completed document through to our Earthcare Team [catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au](mailto:catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au) who will award a second star and be ready to support you as you plan your next step.

# *Laudato Si' Planning Process*

## **JESUIT MINISTRIES PLANNING PROCESS**

### **ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION**

Using education, formation and spirituality to come to see, know and love creation as God does.

*(LS Goals for Ecological Education & Spirituality)*

### **DEVELOP LEADERSHIP**

Ensure that key leaders, such as Parish Pastoral & Mission Council and Parish Finance Committee, and Pastoral leaders share a common ecological mission, vision and goals.

### **BUILD A TEAM**

Communicate the ecology vision, goals, engage and form teams in Identifying actions they can take to fulfil these goals.

### **ENGAGE EVERYONE**

Provide information, remove barriers and provide incentives to engage everyone.

### **START SMALL**

Acknowledge ecological successes, prioritise easy-to-achieve projects and sustain motivation with an annual progress report.

### **TAKE ON CHALLENGES**

Increase credibility by tackling important but challenging changes and provide regular progress reports.

### **REVIEW**

Take time to celebrate achievements, identify challenges/opportunities and re-focus for ongoing action.

# Laudato Si' Planning Process

## EXAMPLE - TAKE ON CHALLENGES

### 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth

- i activities to protect and promote biodiversity in building projects
- i use rainwater tanks to supply the water for toilets or garden
- i install a compost or worm farm organic waste
- i support/advocate for an environmental project in a developing country
- i ensure landscaping is bird friendly and connects with wildlife corridors

### 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor

- i defend human life from conception to death
- i defend the rights of indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.

### 3. Ecological Economics

- i buy Fair-trade products
- i ensure any investments are ethical and the environmental, social and governance impacts are scrutinised.
- i generate some electricity from solar panels
- i coordinate a network of power users to bulk purchase renewable energy eg cluster of parishes/schools
- i start a community garden to grow food products for the community

### 4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles

- i modify existing activities to ensure they are environmentally sustainable eg holding a fundraisers that are zero waste
- i install solar hot water
- i double glaze or put film over windows to reduce radiant heat
- i switch to energy efficient lighting and appliances
- wholly or partially replace paper newsletters with email/online versions
- i avoid single-use plastic products
- i use more fuel efficient cars
- i promote alternatives to bottled water

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### 5. Ecological education

i provide regular green tips in parish newsletter

i hold a workshop on reducing plastic or going 'Zero Waste' (reusable straws, beeswax wraps, bamboo toothbrushes, reusable bags, produce bags etc.)

i hold a discussion group using *Laudato si' resources*

i promote awareness of how both nature and people's livelihood, destroyed their homes and businesses etc are impacted by climate change induced extreme weather events (e.g., bushfires, cyclones, coral bleaching and floods)

i promote awareness of and welcome to "climate change refugees"

i promote awareness of water projects in developing countries

i highlight the negative impact of bottled water in Australia

i highlight the problem of food waste and the positive impact of projects like Ozharvest

### 6. Ecological spirituality

i provide regular eco-theology quotes or sections from *Laudato si'* in parish newsletter, slides for Mass etc

i encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude

i promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations e.g., a *Laudato si'* Mass

i participate in the Season of Creation/Sustainable September each year

i recover God's view of creation – as in *Laudato si'*

i conduct a Bible Study on creation

i have guest speakers on ecological conversion

i participate in a Carbon Fast in Lent

i invite a facilitator to conduct a JISA Being with God in Nature

bring elements of nature into the church or create a creation focal point

### 7. Community involvement and participatory action

i participate in a Climate March or environmental protest

i participate in Clean Up Australia Day/ a rubbish collection

i join a bush care or restoration group

i write a letter or visit your local MP to talk about an environmental issue

i collaborate with Willoughby Council's Environmental Outreach

## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE–TOGETHER.

*Laudato Si'* Action Platform dashboard (requires log in)

Here, you can find suggestions for the next steps in your journey and review what you've done so far. Please feel free to consider this as a home for your efforts to promote integral ecology.

You are a co-creator of our future, and your unique gifts and abilities are needed as we journey together towards full sustainability in the holistic spirit of *Laudato Si'*. You are warmly encouraged to use these tools and resources in whatever way they are helpful as you create and carry out your *Laudato Si'* Plan.



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