



EMPOWERING THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The *Laudato Si'* Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organisations and 'all men and women of good will' (LS 3) to respond to Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home.

Taking a grass roots approach, it is grounded in the strengths and realities of communities around the world, empowering all to take 'decisive action, here and now' as we journey towards a better future together. (LS 161)

Exploring the teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, *Laudato Si'* teaches that 'everything is connected' (LS 9). There is now little doubt that our common home has been painfully damaged. As a result, we all experience the consequences, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable. We face a 'complex crisis that is both social and environmental'. (LS 139)

There is hope! Pope Francis calls us to develop a 'loving awareness' of the home we share and to act on the values we hold as part of our faith (LS 220). All of us are invited to a public commitment to begin a journey of action to heal our common home.

VISION FOR ACTION

The purpose of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform is: *To create communities around the world that are totally sustainable in the spirit of the integral ecology of Laudato Si'*

A SEVEN YEAR PATHWAY

There was a soft launch of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform on 24 May (<https://laudatosi-actionplatform.org/>). The full launch will be on the feast of St Francis of Assisi in October. In the coming months the Platform and its 7 year pathway will be explained and resourced by the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development in Rome, via working group participants and direct communication with a variety of institutions and organisations around the world. The Archdiocese of Brisbane is an official partner with the Dicastery in the development of the platform having representatives in both the Parishes and Dioceses Working Group and the Schools Working Group.

FOR SEVEN SECTORS

A range of resources and processes will provide focus for seven key sectors across the worldwide church community.

FAMILIES

All families and individuals

PARISHES & DIOCESES

Parishes, dioceses, archdiocese, episcopal conferences

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Primary and secondary schools, universities etc

HEALTHCARES INSTITUTIONS

Hospitals, clinics, healthcare centres

ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

Lay movements, NGOs, communication centres

ECONOMIC SECTOR

Workers, businesses, farms, cooperatives

RELIGIOUS

Religious orders, provinces & communities

SEVEN GOALS

Discerning a response to the ecological crisis is a profound act of care. At this Kairos moment, action is needed. The *Laudato Si'* will guide these actions. They redefine and rebuild our relationship with each other and our common home. Their holistic approach acknowledges the planetary limits of all socio-economic systems and the human roots of the ecological crisis. They call for a spiritual and cultural revolution to realise integral ecology.



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 everyone.



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 programs.



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.



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 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 recovers a religious vision of God's creation and encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude. Actions could include promoting creation-centred liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, and praying in nature.



Community Engagement and Participatory Action encourage the development of cultures and policies that protect our common home and all who share it. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, engagement with decision-makers, and encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

The Australian Catholic Bishops have committed to be part of this seven year journey. Their annual Social Justice Statement this year will focus on Integral Ecology and the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. This will be available in the parish on Social Justice Sunday, 29 August. A series of discussion groups will be offered during September in conjunction with the Season of Creation.

