

*Lord send out your Spirit  
and renew the face of the earth*

Psalm 103/104

### FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were filled with God's Holy Spirit, just as Jesus was at his baptism by John and at the beginning of his public ministry.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Luke 4:18-19

Continuing Jesus' mission to bring about God's reign in the world through works of mercy and justice is a mark of the Spirit. The late Fr Denis Edwards, in *Breath of Life*, described the Holy Spirit as a 'midwife of creation'. Midwives accompany, guide, support and give strength to those they accompany in their vulnerability. The Holy Spirit accompanies us as Jesus' disciples as we endeavour to give birth to God's love, mercy and justice.

The Spirit leads (*Rom 8:14*), gives life (*Rom 8:11*), pours God's love into our hearts (*Rom 5:5*), helps us in our weakness ... intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words (*Rom 8:26*). The Spirit reveals the depths of God

(*1Cor 2:10*) and is the animator of gifts (*1Cor 12:4-11*).

### CONVERSION TO HOPE

The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge.

*Laudato Si'* 80

On Pentecost Sunday 2015, Pope Francis signed *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. It was published on 18 June 2015 with Pope Francis' hope that it 'can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face' n 15, regarding the care of our common home.

Pope Francis calls for a change of attitude as well as practical engagement in the ecological well-being of our planet. Fr Anthony Kelly, in *Laudato Si' An Integral Ecology and the Catholic Vision*, describes ecological conversion as being more than 'a good feeling or a nice idea'. He writes:

The presence of the Holy Spirit, 'Lord and Giver of life', pervades all creation. The indwelling Spirit is the God-given energy moving everything and everyone to its ultimate life-form in Christ. 171

The urgency of the challenges regarding 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' are still just as urgent in 2021. While

much more global commitment to these challenges is needed, there are signs of hope in the wide commitment to addressing the issues named in *Laudato Si'*.

### LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

*Laudato Si'* week from 16 to 24 May marks the close of its fifth anniversary. While *Laudato Si'* has motivated many positive actions around the world, much more remains to be implemented.

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us. n 13

On 24 May, the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development will invite the entire Catholic Church to embark on a faith-filled, decade long journey through the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The Platform will be fully launched in October.

The platform will invite different sectors of the Church to be part of a journey toward sustainability and integral ecology. There will be sections for:

Families	Universities
Dioceses	Hospitals
Schools	Religious Congregations
Parishes	Businesses/Agriculture

The hope is that members of each of these sectors will make public commitments to each of the seven *Laudato Si'* goals over the coming decade.

1. Response the Cry of the Earth
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor
3. Ecological Economics
4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles
5. Ecological Education
6. Ecological Spirituality
7. Community Involvement and Participatory Action

Fr Josh Kureethadam, the Head of the Ecology Desk at the Dicastery for Integral Human Development has provided a video that gives more detail of the Platform at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIU7C7V81qg>

The goal of mobilising the entire Catholic Church is to create the critical mass needed for radical societal transformation.

**What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? ... Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations, is first and foremost, up to us.** LS 160



Pope Francis and US Climate Envoy John Kerry

### PREPARING FOR COP26

Last Sunday, Pope Francis met with the US Envoy for Climate, John Kerry. The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will take place in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November. Pope Francis intends to participate in the Conference.

A number of Church media agents reported that John Kerry said that the encyclical *Laudato Si'* will feature prominently in this year's COP conference. He said that the encyclical "is really a very, very powerful document, eloquent and morally very persuasive. And I think that [Pope Francis'] voice will be a very important voice leading up to and throughout the Glasgow conference. It's unique and we need all the power we can bring to the table."



The Holy Spirit can be said to possess an infinite creativity, proper to the divine mind, which knows how to loosen the knots of human affairs, including the most complex and inscrutable. ... The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the heart of things, something new can always emerge. LS 80