

In May 2015 Pope Francis wrote to every single person living on this planet! That's a lot of letters! Well, actually it was one letter, in one document, called 'Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home'. It is known today as one of the most important documents of this century! In it, Pope Francis outlines what is happening to our beautiful world and what must be done about it. He urges us all to reconnect with nature and to be protectors of God's creation. Pope Francis asked the best climate scientists in the world, philosophers and spiritual teachers to help him write this document. He told us that we all can make a difference. We are all asked to spend time with it and read it.

Here's a wonderful 4 minute animation which will tell you all about what else is in this beautiful letter from Pope Francis to YOU! You might ask your parents or teachers to show it to your family/class.

For Young People: <https://vimeo.com/140632875>

For children: <https://vimeo.com/140633325>

You might also enjoy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76BtP1GInlc>



Shortly after he was made Pope, a close friend asked Pope Francis not to forget the poor. St Francis of Assisi immediately came to his mind because St Francis was a man of poverty and peace, who loved all of God's creation. He is the patron saint of animals and the environment, and remains a much-loved saint across the world to this day.

Prayer is not a passive thing. In prayer we share our hope, our cares and our concerns with the one who loves us always and wants nothing but the best for us. Also we join

and are linked with others doing the same. We must **Pray for our planet**, for God's creation, for world leaders for all of us to come together to care for our common home:

Lord, we know that you have gifted us with ideas, creativity, determination and courage.

May we use those gifts to help renew the Earth so we can leave a healthy planet for generations yet to come.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for Your creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, bless all of your creatures as a sign of Your wondrous love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of your creation.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



A prayer for our earth - (from Laudato si)

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 recognise 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. Amen



What Can I Do...? What Can WE do...?

Find out more and encourage others to find out more about Laudato Si' (e.g. look for videos on YouTube) and choose a quote(s) from it that means something to you. Share your choice of quote on social media, e.g FB, Twitter or Instagram - Encourage others to do the same! You may even wish to include an image of nature that you took. Add your own reflection on what this quote or picture means to you and why you think it is important. Include the hashtags #climatejustice #laudatosi #trócaire #LiveLaudatoSi in the post.



Ways to Live Laudato Si in home, school or parish :

For more info or ideas on this contact
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1. **Plant trees** for Baptisms, Confirmations, first Holy Communions, Weddings or other special occasions. Plant flowers in November to remember loved ones who have passed. If you don't have space to plant trees in your church/school grounds, then look up the Laudato Tree project: www.sma.ie/laudatotree an epic project helping to support the African Great Green Wall and Irish Bio-diversity



2. Form a parish '**Green Team**' to lead creation themed worship and implement eco-tips
3. **Is your parish an 'eco-parish'?** You can help it become one by registering to receive this award. Find out more at www.ecocongregationireland.com
4. Enforce '**reduce waste**' rules for halls, events and parties, e.g. compost kitchen, churchyard or school organic waste. Use washable - not disposable - napkins, mugs, cutlery, etc. in home, school and parish.
5. Promote a parish '**Unplugged Day**' - No TVs, phones or computers
6. Grow your own fruit, vegetables, herbs
7. Stop using disposable plastic water bottles and coffee cups!
8. Reduce energy use, e.g. dry your washing outside; walk, cycle, take the bus, tram or train.
9. Encourage schools, parishes, families and communities to engage with the **Global Climate Youth Movement**. Young people are leading the way. Support them. In the week of September 20th over 6 million people joined in solidarity around the world, the largest climate movement in history. Join them, support them.

Next Global Protest: November 29th 2019 for the opening of the 25th UN Climate Change Convention.

10. If schools are unable to join the protests they can participate in other ways:
 - Prayer time at the Green Flag
 - Watch Laudato Si animation: <https://vimeo.com/135230504>
 - Look up educational resources on climate justice: www.trocaire.org/resources
 - Make banners & create photo op – with Laudato Si quotes / prayers.
 - Take pictures and send to local media / local radio opportunity
 - Pope Francis recently met Greta Thunberg and gave her his support. We are called to take urgent action to protect our common home. This means informing our government leaders that we care about protecting the future of our planet for all.

You can watch Greta and Pope Francis here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cj-Erzvblfk>

If protesting isn't your thing, maybe consider organising a **prayer before the protest** in your parish.

Pray the Laudato Si rosary: <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/eco-spirituality/>



Whatever you do DON'T DO NOTHING

#MADSUNDAY

Don't underestimate the inspiration you are & the Difference that you make!!

Let's flood the internet & Social media with GOOD News Stories!! Love is contagious!!

Resources adapted from GLÁS ÓG – A Climate Justice Resource for Young People which can be accessed here:

<https://www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/parishes/trocaire-glas-og-2016-web.pdf>