

Take Action During *Laudato Si'* Week 2023

Laudato Si' Week 2023 will be celebrated May 21-28 to mark the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on care for creation. This global celebration will unite Catholics to rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life with the theme: *Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity.*

Below you will see a quote from *Laudato Si'* for each day of the week for your reflection and to take on a suggested action.

Monday 22nd May

Laudato Si' What is happening to our Common Home (#53)

Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years. We lack leadership capable of striking out on new paths and meeting the needs of the present with concern for all and without prejudice towards coming generations.

What could you do?

This is an election year. It provides an opportunity:

1. to demand from our prospective political leaders their intentions for acting, with urgency, on the advice of the Climate Change Commission;
2. to ask whether they are happy to see New Zealand as just a "fast follower" (in John Key's words) or are prepared to be more ambitious in climate change goals, striking out on new paths without fear or favour and establishing New Zealand as a world leader in climate change initiatives?

Tuesday 23rd May

Laudato Si' on The Gospel of Creation (#97)

The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder. As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father, and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things: "Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest" (Jn 4:35). "The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but once it has grown, it is the greatest of plants." (Mt 13:31-32).

What could you do?

- Take the time to go for a walk or sit in a park, give attention "full of fondness and wonder" to your surroundings take in the sights, the sounds, the smells and give a prayer of thanksgiving.
- Feel moved to take action to protect this wonderful creation, from picking up litter as you go to joining a predator free group, a tree planting group, signing a petition etc...

Wednesday 24th May

Laudato Si' on The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis (#113)

If architecture reflects the spirit of an age, our megastructures and drab apartment blocks express the spirit of globalized technology, where a constant flood of new products coexists with a tedious monotony. Let us refuse to resign ourselves to this and continue to wonder about the purpose and meaning of everything.

What could you do?

- Pause before you consume. Think, "Do I really need it"?
- Remember 3 more "R"s - Refrain, Reduce, Regenerate.

Thursday 25th May

Laudato Si' on The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis (#119)

Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.

What could you do?

Everything is connected. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are inextricably linked.

- Take some time this week to sit in nature and to sit in a place where people are. Notice afresh nature and the people around you, using all your senses.

Friday 26th May

Laudato Si' on Cultural Ecology (#146)

... it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but

should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values.

What could you do?

- Find out to which Māori tribe the area in which you live belonged in 1840.
- What are your reactions towards Te Tiriti, tikanga Māori, co-governance Are they different to others around you? What can you do to have respectful dialogue on these topics?

Saturday 27th May

Laudato Si' on Religions in Dialogue with Science (#201)

“The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that “realities are greater than ideas”.

What could you do?

- Consider your own neighbourhood through an ecological lens.
- What is one thing you could do, that will improve the quality of life for those (human and other-than-human), who share your neighbourhood?

Sunday 28th May

Laudato Si' on Ecological Education and Spirituality (#213)

Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the great importance of the family, which is “the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life”.^[149] In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. In the family we receive an integral education, which enables us to grow harmoniously in personal maturity. In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say “thank

you” as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggressivity and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings.

What could you do for family-based ecological education

- What family practice can we develop that will help us show more love and respect for the life of our place?
- What parts of our place where we live are looking sad, neglected and in need of our family’s care ?

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