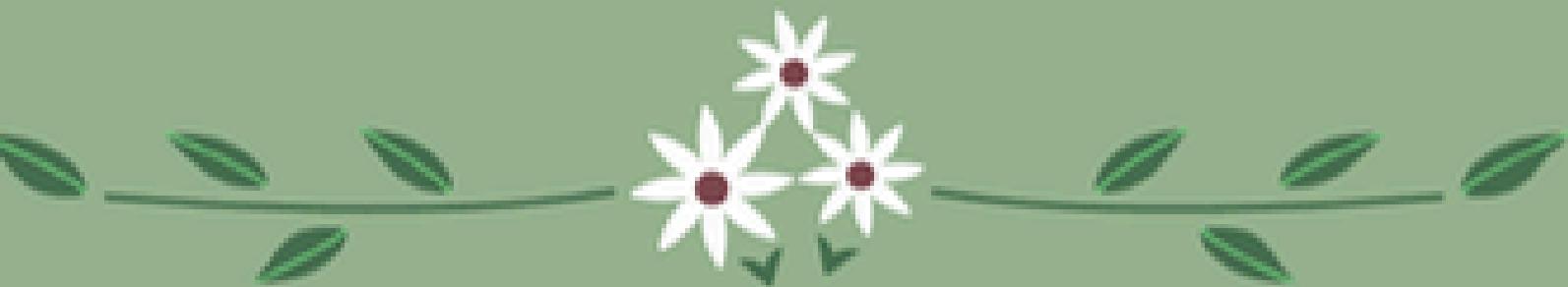


Hope Is in Our Hands



Artwork by BYRON R.

LIVING LAUDATO SI'



INTEGRATING ECOLOGICAL
CONSCIOUSNESS IN EDUCATION



Presented by
Jessica Marshall



ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

- 2024: hottest year on record (+1.55°C above pre-industrial levels)
- CO₂ at 2 million-year high
- Glaciers melting
- Coral reefs are bleaching
- Extreme weather is more severe and frequent
- Climate displacement is rising



GLOBAL RESPONSE

- Signed in 2015 by nearly every nation
- Aim: keep global warming “well below 2°C,” target 1.5°C
- Not on track to meet by 2030



VOICES OF CHANGE

The climate crisis is not just about the environment. It's a crisis of human rights, of justice and of political will

~ Greta Thunberg



A species can only thrive when everything around it thrives too

~ Sir David Attenborough





FAITH RESPONSE

- *Laudato Si'*
Care for Our Common Home
- Pope Francis
- 10th anniversary year
- Integral Ecology:
Everything is connected



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Mercy Emerging
Leaders Fellowship
Cohort 4
2024 – 2025



MY RESEARCH PROJECT

Guiding Lights

- *Laudato Si'*
- Mercy Charism
- First Nations wisdom



POPE FRANCIS

*Many things have to change course,
but it is we human beings above all
who need to change*

~ Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* para 202

FIRST NATIONS WISDOM

- Country is family, identity, story
- Live in right relationship
- Climate resilience through ancient knowledge
- Listen to all voices



MERCY LENS

- Vision of Catherine McAuley
- Commitment to justice
- Courage to respond
- Belief in transformative power of education



EDUCATION AS TRANSFORMATION

Schools are spaces of hope and action

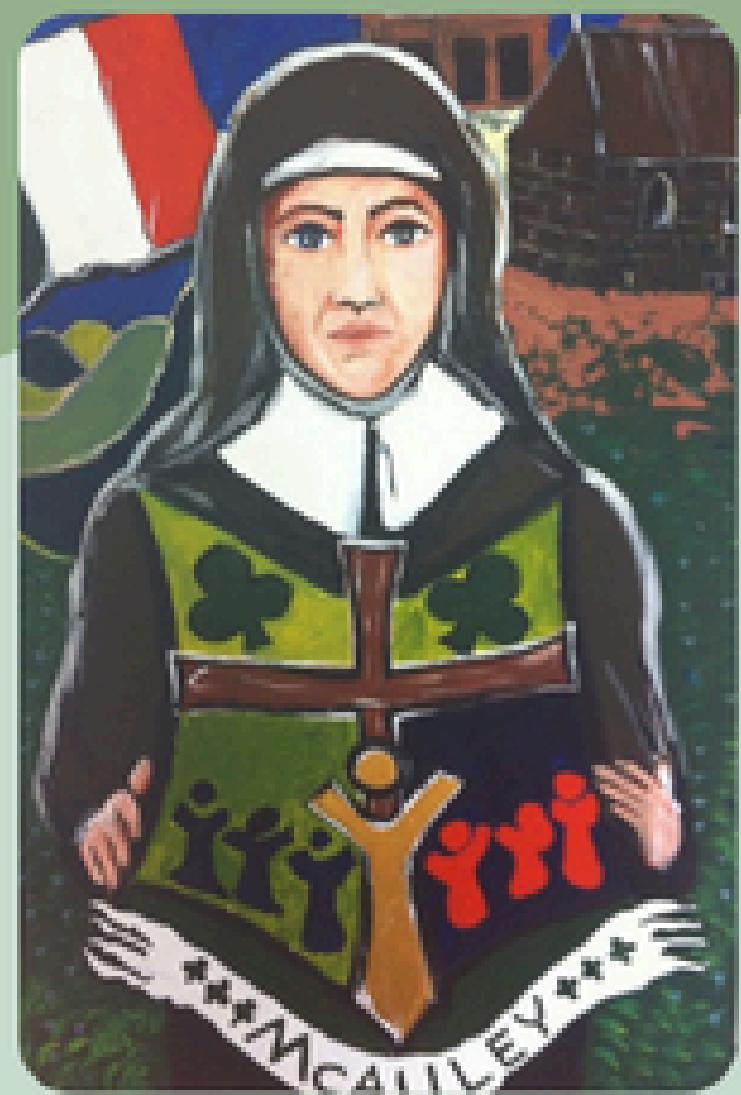
*True education makes us love life,
and it opens us to the fullness of life.*

~ Pope Francis, Address to Italian school teachers,
parents, educators, and students,
Saint Peter's Square, 10 May 2014



INSPIRED BY LAUDATO SI'

What begins in the classroom
can ripple outward into
families, communities and the
wider world.



Creation,
We Care
Leaders

Year 6 Leadership Speeches



Hope Is in Our Hands



Artwork by Byron R



EDUCATION HANDBOOK

Features:

- Head, Heart, Hands approach
- Teacher resources
- School leadership strategies

LIVING LAUDATO SI'



EDUCATION HANDBOOK

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAMS
AND TEACHERS

Hope Is in Our Hands



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CONNECTION TO CURRICULUM PREP TO YEAR 6

YEAR 5

RELIGION

Sacred Texts: STOT7: The Gospels teach about Jesus' respect for creation.

Link to Laudato Si': Reflect on Jesus' teachings and actions that show respect for creation (Paragraphs 96, 97).

Activity: Gospel Reflections - Read and reflect on Gospel passages that highlight Jesus' respect for creation. Discuss how students can follow Jesus' example in their own lives.

Beliefs: BEHE5: Students learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, awe and wonder, and reverence) and the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

Link to Laudato Si': emphasise the interconnectedness of all creation and our responsibility to care for our common home, which can be seen as an expression of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, such as kindness, goodness, and self-control (Paragraphs 217, 231).

Activity: Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit in Action

- Discuss the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and provide examples of how they can be seen in daily life. Introduce the teachings of Laudato Si' and emphasise our responsibility to care for creation.
- Talk about how each gift and fruit of the Holy Spirit can inspire actions that protect and care for the environment. Relate these to Laudato Si'.
- Divide students into groups and assign each group a gift or fruit of the Holy Spirit. Each group will plan a project that demonstrates their assigned gift or fruit in action, inspired by Laudato Si'.
- Have each group present their project plan to the class and support them in implementing their projects within the school or local community.
- Hold a reflection session where students share their experiences and the impact of their actions. Conclude with a prayer inspired by Laudato Si'.



CONNECTION TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Prayer and Worship

Prayer and worship as integral to the life of all Catholic and ecumenical schools and have the potential to nourish the spiritual growth of all members of the school community.

Christian Prayer

Christian prayer raises the mind and heart to God or requests good things from God and contributes to the faith growth of individuals and the building of Christian community. Schools draw on the richness of the Catholic tradition, the wider Christian tradition and their own particular charism to nurture the prayer life of the school.

Drawing on the tradition PWP1

PWP1.1 - Teaching and using a variety of traditional prayers and devotions for individual and communal use (e.g. Our Father, Memorare, Glory Be, Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration)

Laudato Si' link (LS 241): Reflect on Mary's nurturing care as a model for both people and creation. Mercy charism: Connect prayers with values of compassion, courage, hospitality and justice.

Indigenous perspectives: Honour traditional prayers alongside Indigenous spiritual practices that recognise the sacredness of the land.

School-level:

- Teach traditional Catholic prayers linking their themes to Mercy values and ecological care.
- Provide prayer cards or digital slides featuring prayers and nature-inspired reflections for whole-school or class devotions.

Classroom-level:

- Introduce the Rosary through stories highlighting Mary's strength and care for creation.
- Create prayer bookmarks featuring Mercy values and Laudato Si' quotes.

PWP1.2 - Identifying appropriate times and occasions for different forms (e.g. prayers of praise, intercession) and expressions (e.g. vocal, meditative, contemplative) of prayer

Laudato Si' link (LS 246): Use intercessory prayer as a call to care for earth and those in need.

Mercy charism: Emphasise praying for justice and mercy.

Indigenous perspectives: Incorporate moments of silence and nature-based praise reflecting Indigenous connection to Country.

School-level:

- Lead intercessory prayers during justice campaigns or Mercy Action Days for the vulnerable and the environment.
- Organise nature-based thanksgiving prayers following outdoor activities or seasonal changes.

Classroom-level:

- Encourage silent contemplative prayer routines at the end of the day to nurture stillness and gratitude.

GENERAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION

WEBSITES

Caritas Australia - Catholic Earthcare

The Catholic Earthcare Community, a program of Caritas Australia, invites Catholic parishes, schools, organisations and households to join a national network of "Earthcarers" committed to caring for our common home. By joining, members receive access to the Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning and other tailored resources to support ecological and social justice initiatives. The community fosters collaboration, learning and action in line with Pope Francis' call to ecological conversion through the Laudato Si' encyclical.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare/#join-our-earthcare-community>



The Caring for Creation - Primary resource from Caritas Australia

is a series of lessons designed for primary school students that explore environmental responsibility through a Catholic lens. Inspired by Laudato Si' and Catholic Social Teaching, the program uses the See, Judge, Act framework to help students understand current environmental issues, the concept of integral ecology and the theological responsibility to care for our common home and each other. There is also a secondary school and parish resource.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/caring-for-creation-primary/>

Little Earthies

Little Earthies offers self-guided online courses focused on environmental education, empowering students and educators to adopt sustainable practices. Founded by Alice Dunlop, it integrates Catholic Social Teaching and the principles of Laudato Si', aiming to nurture ecological leadership and action in young learners.

<https://littleearthies.com/>



CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

- Challenges: competing demands, curriculum overload, resources, budgets, perception as “extras”
- Solutions: Strategic planning, professional development, partnerships, collaboration



CALL TO ACTION

All it takes is one person to restore hope
~ Pope Francis, Laudato Si' para 244

We are those people:

- Educators,
- Advocates,
- Mercy leaders



FINAL COMMITMENT

- Ecological conversion = moral imperative
- Education = tool for hope
- Together = seeds of peace and hope

*As pilgrims of mercy and hope,
may we journey with
hearts open to change and
hands ready to serve.*



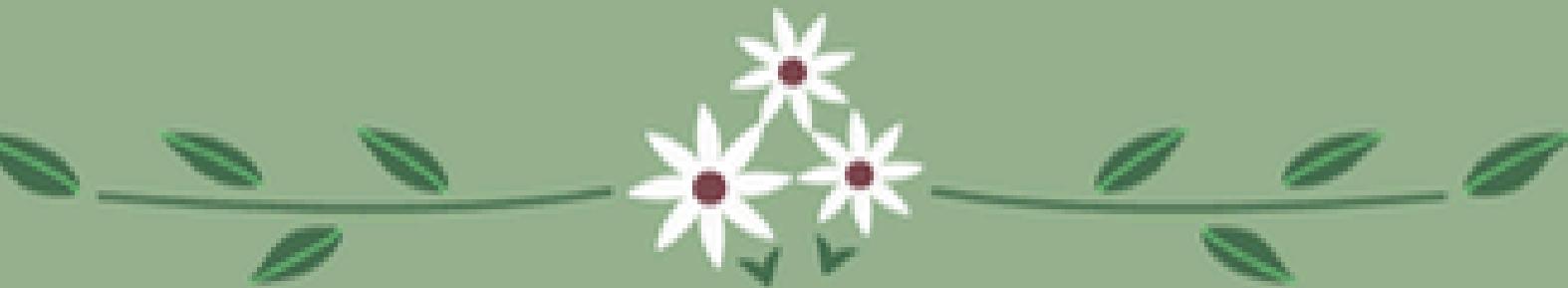
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LIVING LAUDATO SI'



To receive the full
Living Laudato Si' Education Handbook,
please email Jess at
jmarshall5@bne.catholic.edu.au



IMAGERY SOURCES



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Slide 9 – Crawford, E. (2021). Journey. [Painting]. Gifted to Jessica Marshall.

Slide 10 – Personal photography collection by Jessica Marshall at Mercy International Centre, Dublin

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