

LIVING LAUDATO SI'



EDUCATION HANDBOOK

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAMS
AND TEACHERS

Hope Is in Our Hands



Artwork by Byron R

~ SAMPLE ~

Produced by
Jessica Marshall

Mercy Emerging
Leaders Fellowship
Cohort 4
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If you would like to receive a
copy of the full handbook,
please email Jess at
jmarshall5@bne.catholic.edu.au





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For permission requests, contact: Jessica Marshall
APRE – Albany Creek
jmarshall5@bne.catholic.edu.au



BACKGROUND



Welcome to the *Living Laudato Si' Education Handbook*. This comprehensive resource is designed to support educators and leadership teams in integrating the principles of environmental responsibility and Religious Education into their daily practices. Inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, this handbook aims to foster a deep respect for creation and a commitment to sustainability within your school community.

Living Laudato Si' is more than just a guide; it is a call to action. It encourages us to reflect on our relationship with the environment and to take meaningful steps towards protecting our planet. This handbook provides a wealth of resources, including lesson ideas, activities and strategies that align with the values of eco-spirituality and care for creation. Additionally, it offers guidance for leadership teams on how to cultivate a culture of environmental awareness and responsibility within your school.

In this handbook, you will find:

- Educational Resources: Lesson plans and activities that integrate environmental responsibility with Religious Education and other learning areas, helping students understand the importance of caring for our common home.
- Leadership Guidance: Strategies and best practices for school leaders to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility within your institution.
- Community Engagement: Ideas and initiatives to involve the wider school community in environmental projects and social justice initiatives.
- Faith Integration: Reflections and prayers that connect the principles of *Laudato Si'* with our spiritual practices, fostering a holistic approach to education and responsibility.

By using this handbook, I hope to inspire educators and leaders to create a nurturing and sustainable environment for future generations. Together, we can make a significant impact on our world, ensuring that the dignity of all creation is upheld and protected.

*Thank you for your commitment to this important work.
Together, may we live out our faith through environmental
discipleship and Mercy in action.*





NOTES

This handbook has been created using the Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Education Curriculum along with the Australian Curriculum version 9.0 as well as the Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Life of the School framework.

Each activity is connected to curriculum as well as a link to a *Laudato Si'* reference. Some links have also been made to Australian First Nations Peoples and particular liturgical and secular celebrations as well as a Mercy connection.

The activities are intentionally designed to support and enrich the Religious Life of the School, particularly through the lenses of social action, justice, ecological conversion and reflective practice.

The activities can be easily adapted to other curriculums around the world as activities are universal.

The resources for schools is not an exhaustive list, rather ideas that have evolved out of the research and with the support of other schools in our diocese who are doing marvellous works in this space. My gratitude for their generosity in sharing their good works.



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CONNECTION TO CURRICULUM PREP TO YEAR 6





RELIGION

Sacred Texts: STOT1: Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding: Christians venerate the Bible as a sacred book in many ways, including proclamation in prayer celebrations and meditative reflection in personal prayer.

Link to Laudato Si': Emphasise the sacredness of creation as described in the Bible, reflecting on how we are called to care for our common home as an act of worship and respect for God's creation (Paragraphs 13, 66).

Activity: Nature Walk and Reflection - Take the students on a nature walk around the school grounds. Encourage them to observe and collect natural items like leaves, flowers, and stones. Back in the classroom, have a reflection session where students share what they found and discuss how these items are part of God's creation. Conclude with a prayer from Laudato Si' that thanks God for the beauty of nature.

Connection: Introduce St. Francis of Assisi as the patron saint of animals and the environment. During the nature walk, discuss how St. Francis loved all creatures and saw them as part of God's creation.

Connection: Discuss how First Nations people have a deep spiritual connection to the land and see themselves as caretakers of Earth.

Connection: Introduce the concept of Dadirri by taking a quiet nature walk. Encourage students to listen to the sounds of nature and reflect on the beauty of God's creation.

Connection: Celebrate the Season of Creation by taking a nature walk and reflecting on the beauty of God's creation. Discuss how we can care for Earth every day.

Connection: Celebrate Clean Up Australia Day by taking a nature walk and picking up litter around the school grounds. Discuss how caring for the environment is part of caring for God's creation.

STOT2: Religious Knowledge and Deep Understanding: Familiarity with characters, events, and messages from some key Old Testament stories, including Joseph and David, is a means of connecting Scripture and real life.

Link to Laudato Si': Discuss the responsibility and care for creation shown by biblical characters, drawing parallels to our responsibility to protect the environment today (Paragraphs 67, 68).

Activity: Storytelling and Role-Playing - Read a story from the Old Testament that highlights responsible care for creation, such as the story of Joseph. After discussing the story, have students role-play scenes where they act as carers of the environment, making decisions to protect and care for creation. This can help them understand the importance of their actions in today's world.





OTHER LEARNING AREAS IN THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM ENGLISH

AC9E1LA01: Understand that the purposes texts serve shape their structure in predictable ways.

Link to Laudato Si': Explore how texts about nature and the environment are structured to convey their messages (Paragraphs 13, 66).

Activity: Text Structure Exploration - Read "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss. Discuss how the structure of the story helps convey the message about environmental protection.

AC9E1LA02: Discuss how authors create characters using language and images.

Link to Laudato Si': Discuss how characters in stories can inspire us to care for the environment (Paragraphs 84, 85).

Activity: Character Discussion - Read "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. Discuss the character of the tree and how it gives to others, relating it to the idea of caring for nature.

AC9E1LA03: Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning about key events, ideas and information in texts that they listen to, view and read.

Link to Laudato Si': Use comprehension strategies to understand texts about respect for the natural world (Paragraphs 87, 246).

Activity: Comprehension and Inference - Read "Wombat Stew" by Marcia K. Vaughan. Discuss the key events and ideas, focusing on the importance of each animal in the ecosystem.

MATHEMATICS

AC9M1N01: Recognise, model, read, write and order numbers to at least 100. Locate these numbers on a number line.

Link to Laudato Si': Use numbers to track and reduce waste, promoting care for creation (Paragraphs 22, 23).

Activity: Waste Reduction Chart - Create a chart to track the amount of waste produced in the classroom each week. Use number lines to show progress in reducing waste over time.

AC9M1SP01: Represent data with objects and drawings where one object or drawing represents one data value. Describe the displays.

Link to Laudato Si': Collect and represent data on classroom recycling efforts (Paragraphs 22, 23).

Activity: Recycling Data Display - Collect data on the amount of materials recycled in the classroom each week. Create drawings or charts to represent the data and discuss the importance of recycling.



MATHEMATICS

AC9M2N01: Investigate number sequences, initially those increasing and decreasing by twos, threes, fives and tens from any starting point, then moving to other sequences.

Link to Laudato Si': Use number sequences to plan and track environmental projects, such as planting trees (Paragraphs 33, 34).

Activity: Tree Planting Sequence - Plan a tree planting project where students plant trees in sequences of twos, threes, fives, or tens. Track the number of trees planted and discuss the environmental benefits.

AC9M2M01: Compare and order several shapes and objects based on length, area, volume and capacity using appropriate uniform informal units.

Link to Laudato Si': Measure and compare the sizes of different natural objects, such as leaves or rocks, to understand biodiversity (Paragraphs 33, 34).

Activity: Nature Measurement - Collect natural objects like leaves and rocks. Measure and compare their sizes using informal units. Discuss the diversity of natural objects and their importance in the ecosystem.

AC9M2SP01: Collect, check and classify data.

Link to Laudato Si': Collect and classify data on energy usage in the classroom to promote energy conservation (Paragraphs 22, 23).

Activity: Energy Usage Survey - Conduct a survey on energy usage in the classroom, such as the number of lights left on or the use of electronic devices. Classify the data and discuss ways to conserve energy.

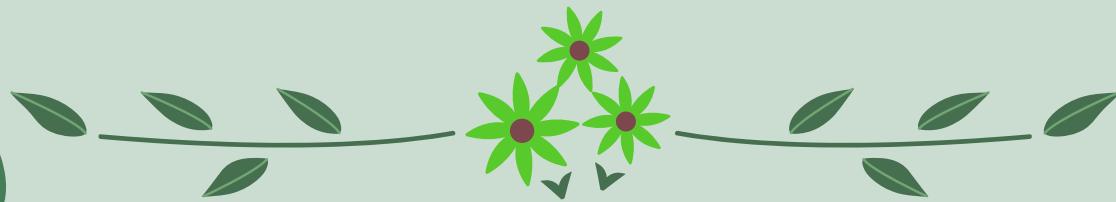
SCIENCE

AC9S2U01: Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves.

Link to Laudato Si': Discuss the cycles of life and the importance of protecting habitats (Paragraphs 33, 34).

Activity: Life Cycle Observations - Set up a butterfly garden or a similar project where students can observe the life cycle of an organism. Discuss how protecting habitats is crucial for these life cycles to continue.





DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES

AC9TDE3K01: Investigate how forces and the properties of materials affect the behaviour of a product or system.

Link to Laudato Si': Discuss how sustainable design can reduce environmental impact (Paragraphs 102, 103).

Activity: Eco-Friendly Product Design - Design and create a simple product using sustainable materials. Test how different materials affect the product's performance and discuss the environmental benefits of sustainable design.

Connection: Research traditional Aboriginal tools and how they were made sustainably. Design a product inspired by these tools using sustainable materials.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

AC9DT3K01: Collect, explore and sort data, and use digital systems to present the data creatively.

Link to Laudato Si': Use data to understand and address environmental issues (Paragraphs 47, 48).

Activity: Environmental Data Presentation - Collect data on a local environmental issue, such as water usage or pollution. Use digital tools to create presentations that highlight the issue and suggest solutions.





SCIENCE

AC9S4U01: Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Link to Laudato Si': Discuss ecosystems and the importance of maintaining balance in nature (Paragraphs 33, 34).

Activity: Ecosystem Models - Create models of different ecosystems and discuss the interdependence of living things within them. Explore how human actions can impact these systems.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AC9HP4P01: Describe strategies to make the classroom and playground healthy, safe, and active spaces.

Link to Laudato Si': Connect the creation of healthy spaces with environmental responsibility (Paragraphs 20, 21).

Activity: Green Classroom Project - Implement a project to make the classroom more eco-friendly, such as setting up recycling stations or creating a green space with plants. Discuss how these actions contribute to a healthier environment.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

AC9HS4K01: The use and management of natural resources and waste, and the different views on how to do this sustainably.

Link to Laudato Si': Highlight the importance of sustainable resource management (Paragraphs 22, 23).

Activity: Sustainability Audit - Conduct an audit of the school's resource use and waste management. Develop a plan to improve sustainability practices and present it to the school community. This could coincide with Earth Day and Clean Up Australia Day.

THE ARTS

AC9AVA4C01: Plan and create artworks that communicate ideas.

Link to Laudato Si': Use art to communicate messages about environmental care (Paragraphs 11, 12).

Activity: Environmental Awareness Posters - Create posters that communicate the importance of protecting the environment. Display them around the school to raise awareness.





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'.





MATHEMATICS

AC9M6M01: Solve problems involving the comparison of lengths and areas using appropriate units.

Link to Laudato Si': Measure and compare the lengths and areas of different natural habitats to understand their capacity to support wildlife (Paragraph 42).

Activity: Habitat Measurement and Comparison: Measure lengths and areas of habitats, compare measurements, and discuss habitat capacity for wildlife.

AC9M6SP01: Interpret and compare a range of data displays, including side-by-side column graphs for two categorical variables.

Link to Laudato Si': Collect and interpret data on environmental practices, such as recycling or energy conservation, to promote awareness and action (Paragraphs 22, 23).

Activity: Environmental Data Analysis: Conduct a survey on recycling or energy use, create side-by-side column graphs, compare and interpret data, and discuss findings and environmental impact.

SCIENCE

AC9S6U01: The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment.

Link to Laudato Si': Discuss how environmental changes impact living organisms and the importance of protecting ecosystems (Paragraphs 33, 34).

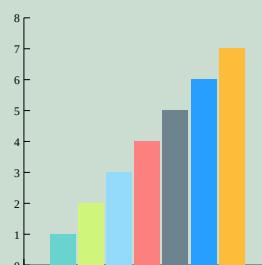
Activity: Ecosystem Impact Study - Investigate how changes in the environment, such as pollution or deforestation, affect local ecosystems. Create reports or presentations on findings and suggest ways to mitigate these impacts.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

AC9HP6P01: Plan and practise strategies to promote health, safety, and wellbeing.

Link to Laudato Si': Emphasise the connection between a healthy environment and personal wellbeing (Paragraphs 20, 21).

Activity: Healthy Environment Campaign - Develop a campaign to promote actions that improve both personal health and environmental health, such as reducing waste, conserving water, and promoting physical activity in nature.





CONNECTION TO RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

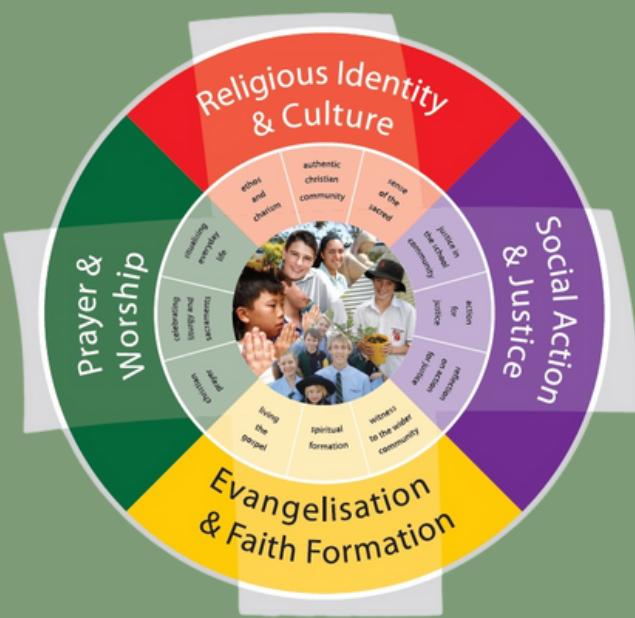


Embedding *Laudato Si'* principles into the Religious Life of the School is essential for fostering a holistic and compassionate approach to education. *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, calls for an integral ecology that recognises the interconnectedness of all creation. By integrating these principles, we encourage students to develop a deep respect for Earth and all its inhabitants, promoting a sense of responsibility and care for creation.

Incorporating *Laudato Si'* principles helps to cultivate a culture of care and sustainability within our school community. It aligns with our mission to nurture not only the spiritual growth of our students, but also their awareness of social and environmental justice. This approach empowers students to become conscientious global citizens who are committed to making a positive impact on the world.

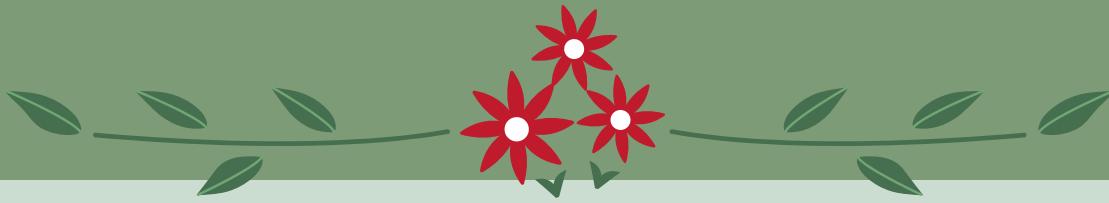
By embedding these values into the Religious Life of the School, we provide students with a framework to understand and address the pressing ecological challenges of our time. It also enriches their faith journey, as they learn to see the divine in the natural world and recognise their role in protecting it.

Ultimately, integrating *Laudato Si'* principles into the Religious life of our school helps to create a more just, sustainable and compassionate world for future generations.



The Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Life of the School (RLOS) document outlines four key components: Religious Identity & Culture, Prayer & Worship, Evangelisation & Faith Formation, and Social Action & Justice. Here's how *Laudato Si'* can be linked to each component, along with practical implementation ideas.

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Religious Identity and Culture

All areas of learning contribute to the religious identity and culture of the school. The classroom religion program is not the only learning area that contributes to the school's religious identity and culture.

Ethos and charism

Ethos and charism of the school express the Catholic identity and the assumptions, beliefs and values that the school community shares. They are reflected in what is done, how it is done and who is doing it. A school communicates its distinctive identity through its religious values, culture, rituals and practices.

Embedding ethos and charism (ICE1)

ICE1.1 – Promoting elements associated with the ethos and charism of the school

Laudato Si' link: Display quotes like "The entire material universe speaks of God's love" (LS 84) to inspire reverence for creation.

Mercy charism: Highlight Mercy values such as compassion and justice in all school environments.

Indigenous perspectives: Integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachings about caring for Country in prayer, teaching, and reflection.

School-level:

- Display Mercy and Laudato Si' quotes prominently in classrooms, halls, and common areas.
- Use morning announcements or assemblies to emphasise ecological messages and Mercy values.
- Embed scripture passages (Genesis 2:15; Colossians 1:16-17) into school prayers and liturgies.

Classroom-level:

- Begin lessons with reflections on the sacredness of creation using scripture and Indigenous stories.
- Use visual displays featuring Mercy and Indigenous symbols alongside Laudato Si' themes.

ICE1.2 – Integrating the Catholic intellectual and aesthetic perspectives across all learning areas of the taught curriculum

Laudato Si' link: Explore "interconnectedness" (LS 70) through cross-curricular units combining Catholic Social Teaching and Indigenous worldviews.

Mercy charism: Inspire students through Catherine McAuley's example of care and service.

Indigenous perspectives: Incorporate local Aboriginal perspectives on land and kinship in learning activities.

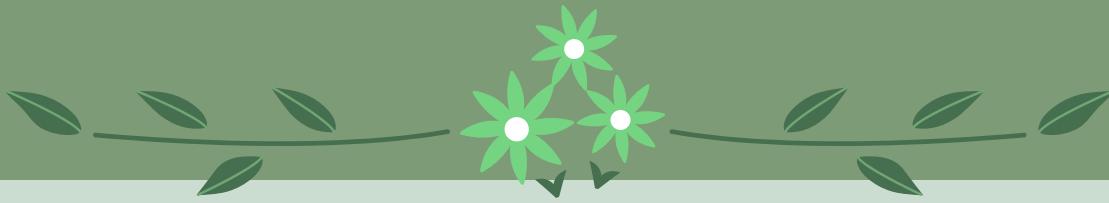
School-level:

- Develop interdisciplinary projects on sustainability, integrating theology, science, and Indigenous knowledge.
- Encourage eco-audits, community garden projects, and water-saving initiatives aligned with ecological conversion (LS 219).

Classroom-level:

- Use storytelling, poetry, and visual arts to express care for creation and Mercy values.
- Include student-led research on local ecological and cultural heritage.

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.

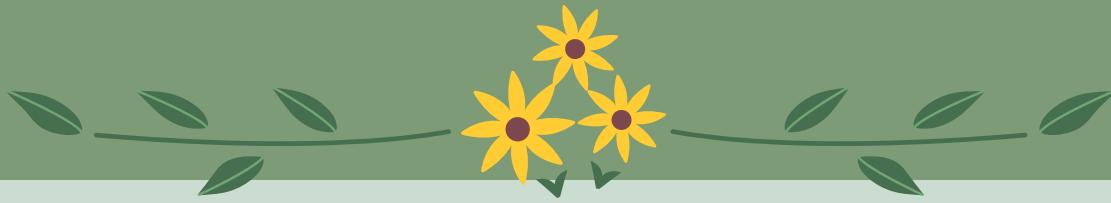
School-level:

- 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.

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Evangelisation and Faith Formation

Evangelisation and faith formation are focused in an explicit way on the call to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, to respond to it in daily life and to deepen personal understanding and faith.

Living the gospel

Living the gospel calls for openness that invites each person to experience a change of heart by engaging with the world as Jesus did. A school fosters this call in its individual members by creating an environment that encourages and invites them to discipleship and ministry.

Creating a Christ-centred environment EFG1

EFG1.1 – Evaluating the effectiveness of the ways in which Jesus Christ is presented and interpreted in the life of the school (e.g. through artwork, stories, public gatherings, school website)

Laudato Si' link (LS 96): Recognise Jesus' incarnational care as extending to care for our common home, inspiring ecological responsibility as part of Christian discipleship.

Mercy charism: Present Christ as compassionate and just, reflecting Catherine McAuley's mission to serve the vulnerable with mercy and advocacy.

Indigenous perspective: Emphasise Jesus as a reconciler and healer, fostering restored relationships with Creation and Country, aligning with Indigenous understandings of spiritual harmony.

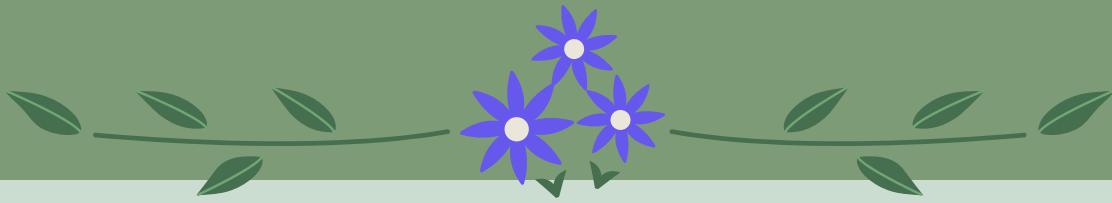
School-level:

- Conduct an audit of visual and digital displays throughout the school to ensure Jesus is portrayed in ways that highlight ecological justice, compassion and cultural diversity.
- Share Gospel reflections during assemblies that explicitly link Jesus' life and teachings to actions caring for the vulnerable and the environment.

Classroom-level:

- Engage students in selecting Gospel passages where Jesus cares for creation and people, encouraging them to create visual arts, media presentations or digital stories as responses.
- Facilitate class discussions exploring how Jesus' teachings and actions speak to contemporary ecological and social challenges, promoting critical and compassionate thinking.

RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Social Justice and Action

Catholic and ecumenical schools work to build the dispositions of empathy and solidarity in students through programs for service- learning, social justice and outreach experiences.

Justice in the school community

The school practises justice within its own community through policies, structures and practices that are consistent with the themes of Catholic social teaching. Respect for the dignity of the human person underlies Catholic social justice themes.

Respecting the dignity of all – SJS1

SJS1.1 – Promoting communication and interaction between members of the school community that respect the rights and dignity of all

Laudato Si' link (LS 228): Emphasises the dignity of every person and calls for dialogue based on respect and care for all creation.

Mercy charism: Reflects Catherine McAuley's commitment to compassion, kindness and upholding the dignity of every individual.

Indigenous perspective: Honour the principle of relationality, where respectful communication nurtures community and restores balance.

School-level:

- Develop clear guidelines for respectful communication in reports, meetings and all school interactions.
- Provide professional development on respectful language, restorative practices and culturally sensitive communication.
- Implement whole-school campaigns or initiatives promoting respectful communication and awareness of dignity across the community.

Classroom-level:

- Teach students active listening and respectful speaking skills through role-plays and collaborative activities.
- Create classroom agreements that promote dignity, kindness and inclusive dialogue.
- Use reflective journaling or circle time to help students process and appreciate the impact of respectful communication.



GENERAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION

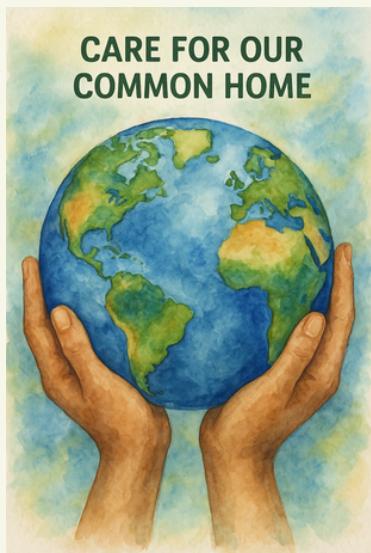


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Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home

Laudato Si' is an encyclical by Pope Francis, published in May 2015, that emphasises the urgent need to address environmental degradation and climate change. It calls for an integral ecology that respects the interconnectedness of all creation and integrates social, economic and environmental dimensions. The document highlights the moral imperative to protect the poor and vulnerable, who are disproportionately affected by ecological crises and advocates for sustainable development. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures," Laudato Si' urges everyone to take action to care for our common home and foster a renewed ecological spirituality.

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Laudate Deum: Apostolic Exhortation: To All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis

Laudate Deum ("Praise God") is an Apostolic Exhortation released by Pope Francis on 4 October 2023, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It builds upon the themes of Laudato Si', intensifying the call to urgent action in response to the climate crisis. Pope Francis warns that the world is nearing a breaking point and that the ecological crisis is deeply intertwined with human dignity, social justice, and global inequality. Unlike the gentle invitation of Laudato Si', Laudate Deum is a more pressing appeal—urging all people of goodwill to act decisively and courageously for the care of our common home. The document challenges political and economic systems to embrace real change and reminds us that our care for one another and for Earth are inseparable.



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https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION



MERCY RESOURCES

Mercy Global Action Advocacy

From Sparks to Fire: A Guide to Justice Advocacy was released on Mercy Day 2023 by Mercy Global Action. It is a comprehensive guide designed to support justice advocacy across the global Mercy community. Drawing on years of experience with grassroots organisations and international bodies like the United Nations, the guide offers practical tools, case studies, templates, evaluation methods and interviews with Mercy advocates.

The **Mercy Justice Advocacy Framework**, developed by Srs Angela Reed rsm and Áine O'Connor rsm, is grounded in the values of the Sisters of Mercy: compassion, justice and respect for the dignity of all people and Earth. It provides a structured approach to advocacy aligned with Mercy's mission, guiding efforts to address climate change, human trafficking, displacement and the rights of migrants and refugees.

<https://www.mercyworld.org/justice/justice-approach/>



The **Mercy Water Justice Coalition**, launched on World Water Day 2024, is a global initiative by Mercy Global Action that responds to the urgent need for water justice. It aims to raise awareness of water's multiple values and advocate for a rights-based approach to water access, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. The coalition was formed in response to growing concerns about the privatisation and commodification of water, especially in vulnerable communities. Inspired by Laudato Si', it calls on Mercy communities to resist these trends and promote equitable, sustainable water management.

The Mercy Water Justice Coalition Guide encourages communities to:

- Appoint Mercy Water Leaders to champion local water justice efforts.
- Host educational events and prayer reflections on water as a sacred and shared resource.
- Advocate locally for fair water policies and infrastructure.
- Connect globally with other Mercy ministries to amplify a unified Mercy voice at the United Nations

<https://www.mercyworld.org/justice/degradation-of-earth/water/>



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION



MERCY RESOURCES

The **Mercy Oceans Campaign** is a global initiative by Mercy Global Action to raise awareness and inspire action for the health of our oceans. Launched alongside the UN Ocean Conference in 2022, the campaign offers a rich toolkit of resources including reflection papers, videos, prayers and educational materials focused on ocean justice themes like pollution, marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. Mercy communities are encouraged to use these resources to deepen understanding, advocate for change and connect spirituality with care for Earth's oceans.

<https://www.mercyworld.org/justice/degradation-of-earth/oceans/>



Simple Daily Gestures – Living Laudato Si'

The Simple Daily Gestures booklet is a practical guide developed to support the Mercy community in adopting sustainable lifestyles aligned with the goals of Laudato Si'. Created by the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, it offers everyday actions that individuals can take to care for Earth, such as saving energy, conserving water, reducing waste and making mindful choices at home and work. The resource is interactive and designed to be used digitally, allowing users to tick off actions they commit to. It's a great tool for schools, parishes and households looking to live Mercy values through simple, meaningful change.

<https://institute.mercy.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Simple-Daily-Gestures-Feb22-v2.pdf>

Mercy Resources for Engaging with Laudato Si'

Mercy World offers a rich collection of resources to help individuals and communities engage meaningfully with Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home. These include study and action guides from organisations like the Columban Center and USCCB, teaching modules and discussion guides for schools and parishes and a five-session reflection series by Terri MacKenzie SHCJ. The collection also features reader's guides, theological commentaries and multilingual materials in English and Spanish. Together, these tools support deeper understanding of integral ecology, environmental justice and the spiritual call to care for creation, making them ideal for classrooms, parish groups and Mercy ministries.

<https://www.mercyworld.org/library/resources-for-engaging-with-laudato-si323/>



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/>



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION



AUSTRALIAN FIRST NATIONS RESOURCES

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education

Narragunnawali is a national program that supports schools and early learning services in Australia to foster reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The name, from the Ngunnawal language, means alive, wellbeing, coming together and peace.

The platform provides practical tools to:

- Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) tailored to your school or service.
- Access curriculum resources that embed First Nations histories, cultures and contributions.
- Engage in professional learning to deepen staff understanding of reconciliation.
- Participate in webinars, workshops and the Narragunnawali Awards, which celebrate outstanding reconciliation initiatives across educational sectors.

<https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/>



First Nations Spirituality Resources – Laudato Si' Goal 6

As part of their commitment to Laudato Si' Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality, the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia offers a rich collection of First Nations Spirituality Resources that honour the deep connection between Indigenous cultures and care for Country. These include:

Dadirri – a reflection on deep listening by Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann.

Kanyini – teachings by Uncle Bob Randall on interconnectedness and responsibility.

Spirit of Place – music and reflections by Archie Roach.

Prayer From My Heart by Jingki Ngombal.

The Wirangu Seven Sisters – a cultural story highlighting connection to land and sky.

These resources are designed to support reflection, prayer and learning, and can be used in schools, parishes and community gatherings to deepen understanding of First Nations spirituality and its ecological wisdom.

<https://institute.mercy.org.au/laudato-si/laudato-si-goal-6-ecological-spirituality/first-nations-spirituality-resources/>



RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAUDATO SI' IMPLEMENTATION



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES WORTH RESEARCHING

John Muir, often called the "Father of the National Parks," was a Scottish-born American naturalist and early advocate for the preservation of wilderness in the United States. Born on April 21, 1838, Muir's writings and activism were crucial in the establishment of national parks like Yosemite and Sequoia. He co-founded the Sierra Club, which continues to play a significant role in environmental advocacy. Muir's legacy as an environmental philosopher and conservationist has inspired countless efforts to protect natural areas and remains influential in modern environmental movements.

In every walk in nature, one receives more than he seeks.



Sir David Attenborough is a renowned naturalist and broadcaster known for his compelling documentaries that highlight the beauty and fragility of the natural world. His works, such as "Our Planet" and "Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet," have captivated global audiences and emphasized the urgent need for environmental conservation. "Our Planet" showcases Earth's ecosystems and the impact of human activities, while "Breaking Boundaries" explores critical processes that regulate Earth's stability. Through his storytelling, Attenborough inspires action to protect the environment and ensure a sustainable future.



The future of humanity and indeed all life on earth, depends on us.

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish climate activist who began her journey at age 15 by striking from school to protest outside the Swedish parliament. Her solo action sparked the global Fridays for Future movement, inspiring millions of young people to demand urgent climate action. Greta is known for her direct, passionate speeches that challenge world leaders and call for justice for both the planet and vulnerable communities. Despite her youth, she has become one of the most influential voices in the climate movement, reminding us that no one is too small to make a difference.



I am telling you there is hope. I have seen it, but it does not come from the governments or corporations, it comes from the people.

