

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## Teacher Notes



**LAUDATO SI'**  
Action Platform





These teacher notes have been created to deepen your student's understanding of each of the Laudato Si' Goals. It is designed to be used alongside The Laudato Si' Goals Primary Powerpoint Presentation and the Appendix.

## The teachers notes contain:

- *Reflection questions* – These are designed to prompt student thinking around each of the goals and to facilitate discussion.
- *Suggested Activities* – These suggested activities have been designed to further reinforce student's understanding of the goals as they focus on the seven case studies, as well as the application of the goals to the real world.

Learning about global social and ecological justice issues can be overwhelming. If your students are feeling worried or upset about anything they have learnt about through this resource, please ask them to share their concerns with you or a trusted adult. You can then share their concerns via our [website](#).



Do you have an idea for how Caritas Australia can improve our school resources? We would love to hear it! Please email [education@caritas.org.au](mailto:education@caritas.org.au)



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# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## WHAT IS LAUDATO SI'?

*Laudato Si'*, which means 'praise be to you', is a letter written by Pope Francis in May 2015 to the global Catholic community.

The letter focuses on the Catholic Social Teaching, Care for Our Common Home.



Photo: Shutterstock



## WHAT IS LAUDATO SI'?

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis asks us to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.



Watch the above video to learn more about Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*.



## THE LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

The *Laudato Si'* Action Platform was created to help the Church and all of its members to put the key messages of *Laudato Si'* into action. It includes:

- Families
- Parishes and Diocese
- Educational Institutions
- Healthcare and Healing
- Organisations and Groups
- Economic Sector
- Religious



Listen to Pope Francis's invitation to participate.



## SLIDE 5

*Laudato Si'* is an encyclical (letter) written by Pope Francis in May 2015. Translated as 'praise be to you', the letter addresses the Catholic Social Teaching principle, 'Care for Our Common Home'.

Pope Francis focuses on the social and ecological crisis that exists in our world today and what we can do to ensure we preserve our planet for future generations. He talks about the importance of caring for both the environment and the poor.

**Reflection question:** What do you think it means to care for our common home?

## SLIDE 6

This short video explains what an encyclical is and provides more detail about the key messages found within *Laudato Si'*.

Reflection question: After watching the video, what do you think are the key messages of Pope Francis's letter, *Laudato Si'*?

## SLIDE 7

Explain to the students that the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform is to help the Church and all the organisations and businesses connected to the Church put the key messages into action. It provides them with ideas of how they can take action to care for our common home.

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

The [Laudato Si' Goals](#) were created in response to the key messages found in Pope Francis's letter, *Laudato Si'*.

These goals were made to help guide each of us as we take steps towards caring for our common home.

Through [Integral Ecology](#), Pope Francis teaches that 'everything is connected'. When we take care of creation, we are also caring for the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world.



## SLIDE 8

These goals are not only to do with caring for the environment in practical ways, for example by recycling, minimising water wastage, etc. They are also goals that link to caring for the poor, education about the environment and encouraging communities to be involved in important decisions.

Pope Francis teaches us that 'everything is connected'. When we take care of creation, we are also caring for the poorest and most vulnerable people in our world

## GOAL 1

Response to the Cry of the Earth



## SLIDE 9

## GOAL 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

To regenerate the earth and care for God's creation

The Response to the Cry of the Earth asks us to protect our common home for the good of everyone.

It reminds us that by caring for the environment, we are also caring for and protecting the livelihoods of our global human family.



Priscilla holds dry soil from her drought-affected fields of 2000 acres in the town of Menzies district, north-western Zimbabwe. Photo: Richard Wernright/Caritas Australia



## SLIDE 10

**Reflection Question:** Can you think of other ways we can care for our Earth and God's creation?

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## GOAL 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

To regenerate the earth and care for God's creation

Ways to put this into action include:

- greater use of clean renewable energy
- reducing the use of harmful fossil fuels
- protecting the different types of animals and plant life that exist
- making sure everyone has access to clean drinking water.

"Everything is related ... woven together by the love God has for each of [God's own] creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."  
Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n92

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## CASE STUDY: Priscilla's Story

Priscilla lives with her husband, Charles, and two grandchildren in the Hwange region in Zimbabwe, which is currently experiencing an intense drought.

Many families are at risk of extreme hunger.

With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla and her community learnt conservation farming to grow drought-resistant crops and be well-equipped for the ongoing drought.



Priscilla (left) with the soil she sowed in her plot on her farm in Hwange district, north-western Zimbabwe. Photo: Richard Waterwright/Caritas Australia

[Click here to watch Priscilla's full story.](#)

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## SLIDE 11

## SLIDE 12

This is a summarised version of Priscilla's story. The full story is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- What are some of the things Caritas Australia and its partners are doing to help Priscilla and her community respond to the cry of the Earth?
- Can you make a list of the things your school is doing to care for our earth? (Suggestions may be having recycling bins in every classroom, school garden or compost, environmental clubs, etc.)
- Can you think of anything else your school can do to better meet this Laudato Si' Goal?
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles link with Goal 1? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)
- Refer to the Appendix for a STEM activity on conservation farming techniques.

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## GOAL 2

### Response to the Cry of the Poor



## SLIDE 13

### GOAL 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

#### To care for the poor and vulnerable

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, and being aware that we are called to protect human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.



A woman prepares a pot of traditional tea in her home in Southwestern Victoria, Australia. Photo: Jacqueline Robinson/Caritas Australia



## SLIDE 14

**Reflection question:** How are we caring for the poor when we care for the environment?

### GOAL 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor

#### To care for the poor and vulnerable

Ways to put this into action include:

- giving special attention to vulnerable groups such as First Nations communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery.

“Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today’s poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n°152



## SLIDE 15

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## CASE STUDY: Bute and Burre's Story

Bute is a village elder living in southern Ethiopia with his wife, Burre. They are experiencing the damaging effects of climate change.

Drought and conflict have left record numbers of people in the Horn of Africa in urgent need of help. Severe drought (a long time without any rain) has destroyed crops and livestock across the country, and many communities face extreme hunger.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Ethiopia to provide urgent food and emergency water to drought-affected communities.



Bute, a village elder living in Southern Ethiopia  
Photo: Zacharias Abubeker/Caritas Australia



## SLIDE 16

This is a summarised version of Bute and Burre's story. The full story is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- How has climate change affected the life of Bute and Burre and others living in the Horn of Africa?
- Can you think of an example that shows how damage done to the environment is impacting people who are already struggling to have what they need to live each day? For example, coastline erosion caused by rising sea levels can affect fisheries on the coastline in certain villages. Many communities rely on the collection of fish for food and income. Can you think of any others?
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles link with Goal 2? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)

## GOAL 3

Ecological Economics



## SLIDE 17

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



## GOAL 3: Ecological Economics

To make economic decisions that put the planet and people before profit

Ecological Economics looks at how the goods and services businesses provide, as well as the things we choose to buy, impact the planet and those living on it.



Thandokweya drinks from the newly installed solar powered piped water system. Before the pipe was installed she would often get sick and miss school from illness and being tired from collecting water. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



## GOAL 3: Ecological Economics

To make economic decisions that put the planet and people before profit

Ways to put this into action include:

- sustainable production
- making and buying fair-trade products
- thinking carefully about the things we buy
- thinking about the types of businesses we invest in
- protecting the dignity of workers.

“When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n82



## SLIDE 18

**Reflection question:** Why do you think some businesses do things that could negatively affect the environment? (Prompt student thinking about costs in running a business as this may be a new concept to them. For example, businesses can make more money when they use cheaper products that may be damaging to the environment, hire cheaper labour, focus on quantity rather than quality, etc.)

Why are these not good decisions in the long run?

## SLIDE 19

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



## CASE STUDY: Thandolwayo's Story

15-year-old Thandolwayo's community in Zimbabwe faced ongoing droughts, food and water shortages and poor sanitation.

In 2017, Caritas Australia partnered with Caritas Hwange to help the community install two solar-powered pumps to draw the water up from the river, as well as two 10,000 litre storage tanks.

Water is now on tap in the village and water-borne diseases have halved. People in the village are living longer and there is also a new feeling of hope and positive change.



Thandolwayo would travel across a rocky, mountainous path to collect water for her family. Photo: Richard Waverley@Caritas Australia

[Click here to watch Thandolwayo's full story.](#)



## SLIDE 20

This is a summarised version of Thandolwayo's story. The full story is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Thandolwayo's village worked towards the common good as they worked together to solve their water problem. The installation of a solar-powered water pump has made a huge difference in the lives of many and is a longer-term solution to collecting water. Play the [Solar-Powered Pump Board Game](#) where you need to consider some of the obstacles faced when collecting water for those living in Thandolwayo's village.
- Watch this TED-Ed video to learn about [The Lifecycle of a T Shirt](#). Make a list of the environmental impacts that happen along the way. You may need to re-watch and pause it a couple of times. Can you suggest ways we can reduce the damaging effects to the environment? (Rather than asking students to be specific about manufacturing methods, although those are most welcome, have them try to think about their buying behaviours, how often they wear their clothes, buy new ones and/or donate their unworn items.)
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles link with Goal 3? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## GOAL 4

### Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles



## SLIDE 21

### GOAL 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

#### To live a simple life so that others may simply live

This goal asks us to think about how we are sharing Earth's resources with one another; having enough, so that others can have enough too.

It asks us to consider how we use resources and energy in a way that avoids wastage or pollution.



Ethiopia parishioners planting a herb garden after Mass. Photo: Harry Stone



## SLIDE 22

**Reflection Question:** Why is it important that we share the earth's resources? (Prompt students to think about non-renewable resources, especially in relation to the human dignity of others.)

### GOAL 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

#### To live a simple life so that others may simply live

Ways to put this into action include:

- reducing our use of resources and energy
- avoiding single-use plastic
- greater use of public transport and avoid types of transportation that may cause pollution.

"All is not lost. Human beings... are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start... and [embarking] on new paths to authentic freedom."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n205



## SLIDE 23

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## CASE STUDY: Earthcare Schools and Parishes

Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia. The Catholic Earthcare School and Parish programs encourage people to think about ways they can make better decisions to care for the environment.

Catholic Earthcare schools and parishes demonstrate care for our common home through prayer, conversation and education. They create plans for ways they can put each of the Laudato Si' Goals into action.



Student representatives are presented with a Catholic Earthcare Schools certificate and a tree at the Diocese of Sandhurst Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Photo: Catholic Education Sandhurst



## SLIDE 24

This is a summarised version of the Catholic Earthcare Australia case study. The full case study is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Think of one small action you do in your everyday life that helps you live a more sustainable life. Create a poster for young people that encourages them to take on this action.
- Refer students to the Action Planner in the Appendix. Students are encouraged to think about what your school is currently doing to meet each of the Goals, or any new ideas they might have to achieve them. (You may want to start this activity now and then complete it once you have gone through the final three Goals, or have students complete it right at the end of the lesson sequence.)
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles link to Goal 4? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)

## GOAL 5

### Ecological Education



## SLIDE 25



# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## GOAL 5: Ecological Education

### To educate ourselves and others

This goal looks at the importance of Ecological Education throughout our lives, and how we can find ways to teach others about caring for creation.



Charolette works in the gardens at a rural training centre near the capital Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: Neil Naze



## SLIDE 26

**Reflection Question:** Why do you think education is important when it comes to caring for our common home? Can you think of anything you learn about at school that teaches you about caring for creation? (Prompt student reflection on lessons they may have had in other subjects such as science, geography, etc.)

## GOAL 5: Ecological Education

### To educate ourselves and others

Ways to put this into action include:

- thinking about new and creative ways we can include education based on caring for creation in the different places we learn
- inspiring young people to take on roles that relate to caring for creation
- finding ways to keep educating teachers and leaders of education.

“Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us...”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* n211



## SLIDE 27

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## CASE STUDY: Shaniella's Story

Shaniella grew up with her family in a remote village in the Solomon Islands before moving closer to the capital city to attend a school supported by Caritas Australia Solomon Islands (CASI).

Not long after Shaniella started, the school was hit by a landslide, flooding and a cyclone, all in a row. CASI was able to help the school and community recover.

In addition to eight new water tanks, CASI also helped increase food supply by providing the school with planting materials, 200 chickens and training in agriculture.

[Click here to watch Shaniella's full story.](#)



Shaniella is seen in a classroom at her rural training centre near the capital Honiara, Solomon Islands. Photo: Neil Nosa



## SLIDE 28

This is a summarised version of Shaniella's story. The full story is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- How has ecological education helped Shaniella and other students at the school? (Prompt student thinking about the benefits of training in agriculture and disaster risk reduction to improve livelihoods in the long term.)
- Choose one of the Laudato Si' Goals you have learnt about so far. Create an activity that you could use to teach a younger student about the Goal. This could include creating a fun worksheet such as a find-a-word or colouring-in sheet that includes important words or images related to the Goal.
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles link to Goal 5? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)

## GOAL 6

Ecological Spirituality



## SLIDE 29

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## GOAL 6: Ecological Spirituality

To form our hearts as well as our minds

Ecological Spirituality asks us to "discover God in all things", both in the beauty of creation and the eyes and hearts of others.



Photo: Caritas Australia



## SLIDE 30

**Reflection Question:** Can you recall any stories in the Bible that mention creation or caring for creation? Students engage in a think-pair-share and then come together as a class to share what was discussed.

## GOAL 6: Ecological Spirituality

To form our hearts as well as our minds

Ways to put this into action include:

- understanding God's vision of creation
- having a deeper relationship with creation in a way that shows praise, joy and gratitude
- finding ways to include the theme of creation in liturgies and celebrations
- creating prayers and retreats based on the theme of creation.

"I would like to offer Christians a few suggestions for an ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith...the teachings of the Gospel have direct consequences for our way of thinking, feeling and living...I am interested in how such a spirituality can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our world."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n218



## SLIDE 31

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## CASE STUDY: Walking with God Program

The Walking with God program brings young adults together through prayer, reflection and conversation in nature.

It is a place where they can feel the presence of God within our environment and on Country.

The program also ties together nature-based activities and Australian First Nations ways of caring for Country, showing how we can live and share faith together.



Quotes used as part of an activity in the Walking with God Program. Photo: Caritas Australia

[Read more about the Walking with God program here](#)



## GOAL 7

Community Resilience and Empowerment



## SLIDE 32

This is a summarised version of the Walking with God case study. The full case study is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- Write a poem, reflection or create a piece of art that creatively describes the connection between God and creation. If time permits, set up students' work around the classroom and host an art gallery for another class to visit during recess or lunch time.
- Take students for a walk around the school grounds or local green space where they will be amongst nature. Pick a spot for them to sit down in silence. Ask them to look around them and take note of the things that they see and feel. Have them close their eyes and listen to the sounds of the natural environment around them. Read out the [Integral Ecology Reflection](#), and ask them to write down how they feel about caring for creation.
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles do you think link to Goal 6? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)

## SLIDE 33

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



## GOAL 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

To participate in society and share our gifts with others

This goal encourages communities to engage and participate, so that we can all play a part in making a positive difference in our world.



Rosalee (standing) attends a Saving and Internal Lending Community group (SILG) meeting near her home in Bukuru, western Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo: Anella Beshir



## GOAL 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment

To participate in society and share our gifts with others

Ways to put this into action include:

- promoting advocacy and people's campaigns
- working together to empower communities and neighbourhoods.

"Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n231



## SLIDE 34

**Reflection Question:** Why do you think it is important to involve people in decisions that affect their lives? What do you think will happen if decisions are always made for communities without asking them what they think, need or want?

## SLIDE 35

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



## CASE STUDY: Kioia Climate Energy Declaration

Pacific Island countries made history with the first ever community-led climate declaration in the region. A declaration is a formal statement or announcement about an important topic.

Caritas Oceania, as well as local organisations, came together in October 2022 in Fiji to put together the Kioia Climate Emergency Declaration 2022.

The Kioia Declaration demonstrates community participation and decision making on issues that affect them.



Pacific Island countries made history with the first ever community-led climate declaration in the region. Photo: Graham Dwyer



## SLIDE 36

This is a summarised version of the Kioia Declaration case study. The full case study is located within the Appendix document, which will assist students in completing the activity questions.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- This Goal reminds us that everyone has special gifts and talents that can be used to make a difference in our world. What are some gifts and talents that you have that could contribute to caring for our common home? Hold a class talent show to celebrate all the gifts and talents you have. (Suggestions include talents that could be used to raise awareness about social and ecological issues, such as: drawing/graphic design/artwork for the creation of promotional materials; singing/poetry to highlight injustices; public speaking to advocate to individuals in charge; and sporting talents to raise funds, etc.)
- Refer students to the Action Planner in the Appendix. Students are encouraged to think about what your school is currently doing to meet each of the Goals, or any new ideas they might have to achieve them. Extension activity- students choose one social justice or environmental issue they are passionate about. Suggest using a more detailed action planner which can be downloaded here: <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/social-justice-action-planner/>
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles do you think link to Goal 7? (Refer to page 2 of the Appendix)

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## PRAY

Conclude this unit with prayer using our [Laudato Si' Action Goals Prayer](#) resource.

You may want to create a sacred space in the classroom, placing in it objects that link to each, or some, of the goals.



Photo: Justin Dyball from her drought-affected fields of wheat near her home in Morgan district, north-western Queensland. Photo: Richard O'Shaughnessy/Caritas Australia

SLIDE 37