In June 2015 Pope Francis released an encyclical called Laudato Si’. We reflect on its key messages…
'I urgently appeal... for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.'

Laudato Si’ [para 14]
‘It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church’s social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face.’

Laudato Si’ [15]
‘Climate change...represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.’ [25]

‘Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and respect.’ [169]
‘The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.’ [21]

Pope Francis points to ‘a throwaway culture’. [22]
He speaks of the scarcity of fresh water for the poor, especially in Africa.

[27-31]
Pope Francis describes the ‘intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet’ and how the poorest are the worst affected by our ‘environmental crisis’. [13,16]
‘Our goal is to become painfully aware ... and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.’ [19]
Pope Francis calls for a revolution of our hearts and minds, a transformation of societies and lifestyles, to live in harmony with God’s creation.

‘Everything is connected.’ [91]
He calls on us to challenge:

‘The modern myth of unlimited material progress’

‘Individualism’

‘The globalisation of indifference’ towards others’ suffering
We can all play our part…

‘All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.’ [14]
...as individuals

‘There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions.’ [211]
...and collectively

‘Society... must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls.’ [179]
He recognises the importance of placing Indigenous communities at the heart of any approach to ecological and social justice:

‘Land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God … a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. When they remain on the land, they themselves care best for it.’

[146]
There is still great hope

‘Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.’ [13]
‘For all our limitations, gestures of generosity, solidarity and care cannot but help well up within us, since we were made for love.’ [58]
‘May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.’
‘Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.’ [91]

Knowing that everything is connected... we commit ourselves to this.
How will you play your part?