



**This is an invitation to everyone in the Archdiocese of Brisbane to join in the Living *Laudato Si'* Initiative**

During the Season of Creation 2019, every parish, school and agency across the Archdiocese of Brisbane is invited to make a commitment to dive deeper into Pope Francis' call for us to care for our common home. In Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical letter, *Laudato Si' - On Care for our Common Home*, the Pope invites us to hear the call to ecological conversion and to take action. There are so many ecological problems in south-east Queensland, in our region and around the world. Our care is urgently needed! As individuals, parishes, schools and agencies, we need to increase our efforts to better care for creation so that we live *Laudato Si'*.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has invited Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, Archbishop of Suva, Fiji, and President of the Oceania Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences to come to the Archdiocese of Brisbane and speak at a series of events beginning on Sunday 1 September, marking the beginning of the *Season of Creation*. At 12noon on Sunday 1 September Archbishop Chong, Archbishop Coleridge and Bishop Ken Howell will concelebrate at the Cathedral of St Stephen on the occasion of the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*. The *Mass of Creation*, will mark the launch the Living *Laudato Si'* initiative for the Archdiocese. It aims to help parishes, schools and agencies to respond as people of God to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home.

### Come Pray, Celebrate & Learn

You are invited to come to the following events with Archbishop Chong. They are part of the launch of the Living *Laudato Si'* initiative: See attached date claimers for more information.

- The **Mass of Creation** (above) will be followed by a BYO picnic on the grounds of the Cathedral of St Stephen. Please bring a picnic blanket and your keep cups for coffee from the van.
- **Evensong to Celebrate the Season of Creation**, an ecumenical event at St John's Anglican Cathedral, 373 Ann St, Brisbane, Sunday 1 September (6pm)
- An on-line **Oceania Dialogue** hosted by the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) on Zoom with participants from across Oceania, Monday 2 September, (10am – 11am)
- A ***Laudato Si'* Formation and Dialogue** event for Archdiocesan staff and volunteers, featuring a keynote by Archbishop Chong, in the Hanly Room at the Francis Rush Centre (next to the Cathedral), Monday 2 September (11:30am – 2:30pm)
- A public ***Laudato Si'* Formation and Dialogue** event featuring keynote from Archbishop Chong, '***Laudato Si'* in Oceania - Climate Change & Integral Ecology**', Gaudete Centre, ACU, Banyo, Monday 2 September (6pm – 8pm)



The ***Season of Creation*** is an ecumenical celebration each year beginning on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, September 1, through to the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, October 4. The 2019 theme is the "Web of life." The ***Season of Creation*** is a special time dedicated to deepening our relationships with Creation and our Creator. Churches all over the world are invited to focus on prayer, hands-on projects and advocacy to protect creation. The momentum to care for Creation continues long after the season ends. Through

ongoing prayer, changes in lifestyle, and advocacy, the ***Season of Creation*** inspires hope in our communities to live *Laudato Si'* year upon year. Endorsed by the Pope and the Vatican Dicastery for Integral human Development, it's globally connected work that's urgently needed. Find out more about the Season of Creation and access great resources for prayer, liturgies and action at your local parish, school and agency:

[www.seasonofcreation.org/](http://www.seasonofcreation.org/) and

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/vatican-supports-season-of-creation/>

## An Invitation to you from Bishop Ken

Bishop Ken Howell launched a video on World Environment Day inviting everyone to get involved in the Living Laudato Si' initiative:

<https://youtu.be/nlwp705BZoc>



**The Season of Creation** is a time when you, your parish, our schools and church agencies can grow a stronger and deeper commitment to ecological conversion. On the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, 1 September, and throughout the Season of Creation 2019, please take the opportunity to focus on the Laudato Si' call to care for our common home. Start now by:

- Including special prayers for the Living *Laudato Si'* Initiative and sharing information about the Mass of Creation on 1 September and other celebrations during the Season of Creation;
- Organising a special liturgy or prayer moments during the Season of Creation;
- Hosting a screening of a film or documentary that may help your parish/school/agency to learn about caring for our common home;
- Inviting a group to read *Laudato Si'* one chapter at a time and dialogue together to see what emerges as collective actions for your parish/school/agency from the conversations;
- Forming a reading group to dialogue about books on eco-theology and eco-spirituality;
- Inviting a guest speaker from an environmental organisation to speak at an event;
- Arranging a clean-up event or tree planting in your area;
- Making a commitment to get involved in special activities like National Recycling Week in November or Clean Up Australia Day in March;
- Organising a fund-raising event or activity to help your parish/school/agency to change your light bulbs to LED, change your power source to renewable energy or donate to an environmental group protecting local habitats or endangered species;
- Invite an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander elder or organisation to help your parish/school/agency learn about healthy country and what the threats are for their country resulting from environmental challenges like deforestation and climate change.

### Communicate the message by telling us what you are doing and we'll share it

Many parishes, schools, agencies and individuals are already doing wonderful things to care for creation. Don't keep it a secret! Let others know so they can get new ideas.

If you or your parish, school or agency are already doing great things to care for creation, why not write a brief report, take photos or even film a short video and send it to us so we can share your good news with everyone else? Have you installed solar panels on your parish buildings or initiated a recycling project or started working with a local Land Care group? Let us know! Send your good news stories, pics and videos to us and we'll post them on the Living Laudato Si' web page for all to see!

Send to: [cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au)

### God Is Calling Us Now!

God is calling us now to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. Why not take this opportunity during the Season of Creation to do something as a parish group/school/agency?

The Archdiocesan Living *Laudato Si'* web page is on its way with lots of information about Church teaching on caring for our common home, eco-spirituality, liturgy ideas and actions you can take to deepen your commitment and make a difference. It's launching soon, so, stay tuned: [www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/livinglaudatosi/](http://www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/livinglaudatosi/)

If you need more information, contact the Living *Laudato Si'* Steering Group  
on +61 7 3324 3441 or at [cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au)