

Laudato Si Action Plan

Jan 2023

Introduction

About Laudato Si'

(quoted from laudatosiactionplatform.org)

The Laudato Si' Action Platform empowers the universal Church and all people of good will to respond to Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home.

Exploring the ancient teachings of our faith in the light of today's ecological crisis, Laudato Si' teaches us that "everything is connected." (LS 91) As our relationship with our divine Creator has been neglected, human relationships have faltered, and our world has grown hotter, less stable, and more lifeless. As a result, we all suffer, and the poorest and most vulnerable suffer above all. We face a "complex crisis that is both social and environmental." (LS 139)

There is hope. Pope Francis calls us to develop a "loving awareness" of this home we share and to act on the values we hold dear. (LS 220)

Standing on the firm ground of "three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbour, and with the Earth itself," we commit to setting out "on the long path of renewal." (LS 66, 202) We embrace our rightful place in the "order and dynamism" that our Creator ordained, and we urgently embark on new ways of living with "creativity and enthusiasm" (LS 221, 220).

There are seven goals that Pope Francis has formulated to:

provide guidance on urgent and immediate actions each one of us can take in the care of our common home. "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" (Laudato Si' 14)

THE FOLLOWING PLAN IS FOR 2023 FOR St Josephs and St Anthony's parish, Bracken Ridge.

We have listed the seven goals and followed each one with an action or two, that works towards the goals, even if it is only in a small way.

We have drawn on a number of actions, that are contained in the Action Plan developed by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Parishes are encouraged to take up these suggested actions.

[https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/assets/uploads/Laudato-Si Action-Plan_single-pages.pdf](https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/assets/uploads/Laudato-Si_Action-Plan_single-pages.pdf)

Many of our parish initiatives, such as the St Vincent de Paul society, the Blackall/Tambo parish assistance, are already achieving progress on some of these goals. We hope to see this work continue.

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.

ACTION 1

Plan and establish a garden of native plants at Eldorado St entrance to parish and school grounds, to the left side of the driveway. Plants will be chosen on the basis of low water use, attractive to birds and insects. This will be a joint project with St Joseph's school.

This will

- Raise awareness of the benefits of planting native species
- Provide a place of beauty to enjoy God's creation, and inspire us to create something beautiful in our own homes.

Parishioners will be invited to help plan and carry out the planting. Brisbane City Council can provide fifty free plants for churches. Other costs would be mulching, and perhaps some soil.

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.

ACTION 2

The Archdiocesan plan is encouraging yarning circles, which are designed to enable people “to hear and understand more clearly the culture and spirituality of First Nations people.”

To pass on information about yarning circles to the parish when the Archdiocese issues information, and encourage involvement of parishioners.

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.

ACTION 3

To encourage parishioners to consider their personal investments and superannuation, and to assess whether the ethical values of the companies we invest in, are in line with our own values. An organisation, such as Faithinvest, can help with this. It is an international non-profit organisation that supports faiths to invest in line with their values, to achieve a just and sustainable world.

Faithinvest has a report on sustainable banking in the Resources section of Laudato Si Action Platform website. Laudato Si is referenced often on the Faithinvest website.

<https://www.faithinvest.org/ls-investor-journey>

ACTION 4

Parishioners to be invited to consider the purchase of Fair Trade and other ethically produced products

<https://www.ethical.org.au/3.4.2/>

ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

ACTION 5

The Archdiocesan Action Plan contains the following action:

“Reduction of waste of all resources, including food and single-use plastics, will be promoted across the Archdiocese, especially through the use of Clean Up Australia’s Step Up program.”

<https://www.cleanup.org.au/waste-challenges>

Our parish will promote the adoption of the practices mentioned above.

ACTION 6

The Archdiocesan Action Plan contains the following Action:

“Resources will be developed and shared across the Archdiocese, to encourage the sustainable celebration of Christmas and Easter.”

Our parish will promote and encourage the use of these resources.

ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.

ACTION 7

To have a parish event, with perhaps a film (such as The Letter), a guest speaker, and a discussion on issues raised.

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/app/uploads/2023/01/the-letter-and-the-laudato-si-action-platform.pdf>

ACTION 8

To publish a short piece in our newsletter and on social media one weekend of each month, entitled

Laudato Si In Action

This piece is to share ideas and information about things that can be done at a grass roots level, to work towards the goals. It will draw on items relating to all the goals.

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. Actions could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats, and formation programmes, etc.

ACTION 9

Organise a Season of Creation theme to be incorporated into the Sunday Masses over one weekend during the Season of Creation, to encourage a greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude.

There should be Archdiocesan resources available to help with this.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

ACTION 10

The following action is included in the Archdiocesan plan:

“The Archdiocese will encourage Catholics to participate in a campaign organised by the Queensland Conservation Council. The campaign will involve collaboration between a range of conservation groups, to advocate for an independent Environmental Protection Authority in Queensland which has the power to protect endangered species and biodiversity generally, assess potential climate impacts of proposed developments and ensure environmental standards are enforced in regional planning across the State.”

Parishioners will be encouraged to take up this suggestion by the Archdiocese.

ACTION 11

The following action is included in the Archdiocesan plan:

“The Archdiocese will encourage Catholics to participate in action to advocate for greater Queensland Government funding for: community centres which provide support to the most vulnerable members of our communities; initiatives to better prevent domestic and family violence in migrant communities; an increased Government commitment to renewable energy in Queensland.”

Parishioners will be encouraged to take up this suggestion by the Archdiocese.