



## Newsletter

May 2019

### Australian Catholics speak up for our mother earth



The media is full of reports detailing how our common home is being irrevocably damaged, torn apart by our lifestyles and individualism, as though we have no idea about the basic concept that nature provides the materials for our economy, not vice versa.

Student strikes, Stop Adani caravan of protesters, gatherings along the Murry River as the picture above depicts, Australian Catholics and their countrymen and women and children are saying enough is enough. Don't just argue...do something!

This coming week Catholic Earthcare staff will be participating on the climate leadership training being held in Brisbane. We are being asked to decide on Australia's response to our climate emergency. While some argue that at just 1% of the global emissions, Australia has little impact, I argue we have significant moral imperative to demonstrate action, economy clout to innovate and build a sustainable economy.

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### In This Issue

- Director's Message: Taking Action
- Catholic Earthcare Program
- Youth Eco Summit
- Pondering the Mystery of Creation
- Eco Schools Grants open in NSW
- The importance of dialogue

*The biblical texts are to be read in their context, with an appropriate hermeneutic, recognising that they tell us to "till and keep" the garden of the world (cf. Gen 2:15)*

## Transforming Schools

St Benedict's Catholic School embraces sustainable practices for the natural and built environment fostering a love for creation and aspiring to be good stewards. St Benedict's Catholic School and Townsville Catholic Education were aiming for a Green Star rating of 5, however the school has been awarded a 6 Green star rating- the highest certification offered by the Green Building Council Australia. Congratulations St Benedict's Catholic School.



**Green Star  
awarded in  
Townsville**

### Mark the Diary **August 30th**

Catholic Earthcare's first ever Youth Eco Summit at Santa Sabina College Strathfield. The aim of the summit is to share the good things catholic high schools are doing in the ecological space, inspired by Laudato Si' and in turn, inform and inspire your 2020 school leaders to strive for greater efforts at your school. In the first year schools from Sydney, Parramatta, Broken Bay, Wollongong, Bathurst and the Maitland-Hunter Diocese have been invited. It is hoped in 2020 the Eco Summit will grow across Australia.

**For Staff Formation and Strategic Planning Days with Laudato Si' at its heart, contact Bernard at Catholic Earthcare on 0400156249**

## Transforming Parishes

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Catholic Parramatta Diocese and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. The pilgrimage runs over 7 day, coinciding with the Feast of the Epiphany and the journey of the Magi. Those completing the full pilgrimage walk over 110km from Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains to the Chapel of the Magi, Bell through the beautiful Blue Mountains. Pilgrims enjoy the hospitality of the 6 mountains' parishes. Mountains parishioners See more [here](#)

### Epiphany Pilgrimage - Blue Mountains Deanery - Parramatta Diocese



## Dialogue and Achieve

▶ "A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal. "

(Laudato Si' 202)

▶ Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future, without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded"

(Laudato Si' 13)

**Catholic Earthcare's goal is to connect the Laudato Si' teams in each Diocese across Australia. [Talk to us to help coordinate.](#)**

# Taking Action

*June 5th*

*World Environment day*



*Do you know about air pollution?*

*Take the quiz here*

*Get ready for Plastic Free July visit*



*Take the challenge to remove one single use plastic item from your life.*



## *Directors Message*

We know that there are some great things happening to care for our common home right across Australia in the education, health sectors and individual parishes.

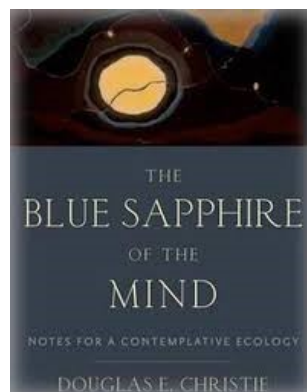
We also know that there has been no way of bringing people together to share their journeys face to face and electronically in a methodical and systematic way so that we can build success upon success.

While the creation of networks in our different regions and across Australia will help build capacity and link ideas, the Caritas National Council has approved the formation and roll out of a Catholic Earthcare program to unite the fragmented good works of our individual and organisational champions across Australia.

**Are you being the change you want to see?**

### **Archbishop Coleridge gives tick to our Earthcare brand.**

Introducing 'Catholic Earthcare' branding to parishes and education and health agencies. It is envisaged that 'Earthcare' branded schools, hospitals and parishes would meet a common criteria, but implement within this criteria according to local decisions. Formation is always the first step.



Archbishop Coleridge suggested reading *The Blue Sapphire of the Mind—Notes for a Contemplative Ecology*. Douglas E. Christie has given us wise words to consider Humility, awe and wonder: these attributes mark a path and into a deeper reverence for its beauty, according to Christie. It is a way that invites us to relate to Earth with care and curiosity, that beckons us to live by means of “an attitude of radical openness to the life of the other, to the world as a whole.”

**Call Catholic Earthcare on 0400156249 to discuss Laudato Si formation and planning opportunities further.**

## Resources

Something special, a new video prayer series with Denis Edwards (RIP) Pondering the Mystery of Creation Check it out [here](#)



## Good News Stories

Recently Sue Martin undertook a walking retreat with Year 12 students at St Ignatius' College, here is there [story](#)

Send published articles to [catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au](mailto:catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au). We will promote them on our media channels as well to help spread **Our Church's Good News**.

## A call to Action

Eco Schools grants are open in NSW schools can find more information [here](#)

A climate strike has been called for all , 20 September 2019, which is to expand beyond school children and is to be followed by a global week of action

## Dialogue

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.

We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all...

Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions.

We require a new and universal dialogue.

(Laudato Si':14)

## Catholic Earthcare team grows



The Catholic Earthcare team is growing. Welcome to Clare Vernon as the CEA Youth Eco Summit coordinator. Clare will be developing a guide so that all Diocese's can run Eco Summit's into the future.

Welcome to Sue Martin acting Director while Bernard takes on the interim Director at Caritas Australia.

*Thank you Sr Veronica for your service to the Catholic Earthcare Australia reference group, we appreciate the work you do to provide the gospel reflections. Enjoy your retirement from CEA.*