

Photo: Bernard Holland (Earthcare Director) with Kirsty Robertson (Caritas CEO)

Our Convocation has Moved On-Line

Newsletter March, 2020

Largest Ever Youth presenter Competition is Launched



Catholic Earthcare Australia has launched its National Youth Presenter Competition to help identify speakers for our On-Line Convocation in September.

Open for 16-25 years of age, interested youth may express their interest through our [Convocation website](#).

All entries will need to be recorded on video and submitted electronically with the winners offered places to present

live within our on-line Convocation sessions in September. [See your entry options here](#).

[Express interest in Youth Presenter Competition](#)

[Donate here to hear the Cry of The Poor](#)



In This Issue

- The certification of Catholic Earthcare Schools
- Network development among our Youth
- Inter-Diocesan Steering committee meetings
- Growth in animating Brisbane parishes.
- Convocation has gone On-Line for September 2020
- NEW: Weekly Eco-Prayer and Reflection Opportunity On-Line.

Convocation Moves On-Line for the Season of Creation

With social distancing now in place, and given our strongest followers are in the more vulnerable age range, our planned Convocation for 2020 in September (Melbourne) has now been moved to a series of on-line forums using ZOOM conferencing software.

[See the same presenters plus more in our program here.](#)

Register your expression of interest for updates and an invitation to each on-line presentation and discussion opportunity.

Express Interest in Convocation Here

In the meantime.....Try this...

A weekly Eco-focused Reflection and Discussion On-Line.

We are conscious that technology can be a problem so to help participants and to bridge the gap in face to face meetings, between now and the September on-line forums Catholic Earthcare is planning to have a [ZOOM](#) Reflection and discussion each Thursday at 11.am. We will start with 10 weeks of the Mercy Partners reflection cards which [can be found here](#)

We believe that this would help us all in these isolating times and also us help to prepare for the on-line Convocation.

The first Ecological Prayer and Reflection will be at 11.00am Thursday 2nd April and every Thursday at the same time after that. Register below and in the mean time [download ZOOM for free](#). If you want to practice before hand give Bernard a call on 0400 156 249 for assistance.

Catholic Earthcare Weekly Reflection Registration

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Apr 2, 2020 11:00 AM Sydney Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://caritas.zoom.us/j/7458888888>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Roxby Downs meeting with Bishop Greg O'Kelly in support of our Convocation and other initiatives around Laudato Si'

When Heaven and Earth Embrace

Earth is in crisis. We need a Christian spiritual praxis that is relevant and possible, one that motivates and sustains us for action.
Mary Tinney



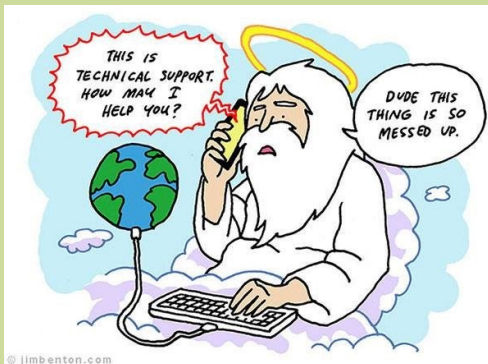
Transforming Parish Communities: Brisbane



Last month the Stafford Parish in Brisbane hosted a forum entitled *Living Laudato Si: Think Globally, Act Locally*. Over 60 attended, with Bishop Ken, Fr Joe McKay, Bernard Holland from Catholic Earthcare, Engineers Without Borders representatives, Brisbane City Council Bushcare staff and Netta Sheridan from Bracken Ridge Parish presenting. It was a vibrant and informative agenda and now they are looking at (Covid-19) permitting undertaking a 'Walking With God' parish event. (from Louise Scott)

Coordinating Laudato Si' Conversations Across Diocese

This month Catholic Earthcare Australia coordinated an inter-Diocesan phone hook up to bring our Laudato Si' steering committees together for the first time to share their knowledge and experience and assist others in their own Diocese. So what has been happening then...



- [Brisbane: Justice and Peace Commission](#) is driving the committee with a significant 'Season of Creation' event in 2019 following a formation period for the steering committee.
- [Perth: Justice, Ecology and Development Office](#): Enabling and facilitating conversations and actions such as [RenewWA Climate Consensus Statement](#) No formal Terms of Reference have been written as yet.
- **South Australia**: Council for Integral Ecology traverses two Diocese. Terms of Reference have been approved and expressions of interest for the committee have been called for.
- **Melbourne**: Terms of Reference for a Diocesan committee have been created and awaiting acceptance driven by a self formed Laudato Si' committee.
- **Sydney**: Just starting the conversation through the Justice and Peace Office.
- **Newcastle/ Maitland**: Just starting out with permission to form a Laudato Si' Steering committee.
- **Ballarat**: Catholic Earthcare, Ballarat formed in 2011 with representation from across the Diocese and a rich history of actions including liturgies and resources for such, regular worship events including a Blessing of the waters at Mildura

Certification of Catholic Earthcare Schools



This year Catholic Earthcare has developed [certification criteria for schools](#) to:

- recognise of the good work already happening in school communities
- Affirm sustainable practices
- Provide a consistent set of criteria through which schools can incrementally monitor their development towards an ecological vocation.
- Embed care for our common home within the charism and mission of each school.

33 schools are participating in this trial year across states. We anticipate with the shut down of schools this year could be problematic however all schools should have achieved Level One compliance by Easter this year.

The certification criteria are an elaboration of our Steps to Ecological Dialogue

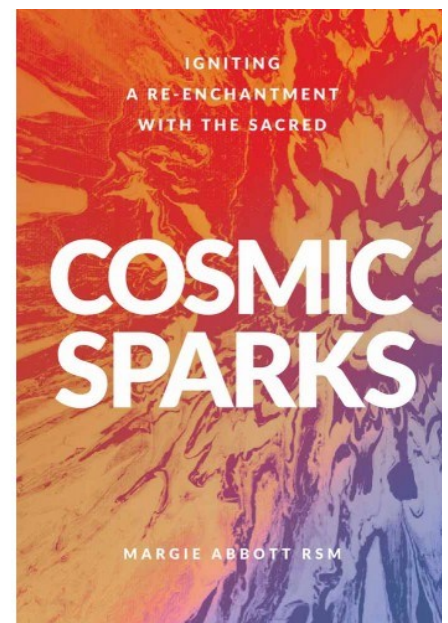
Catholic Earthcare Steps to Ecological Dialogue		WATER	ENERGY	WASTE	HEALTH & WELL BEING	GREENING & BIODIVERSITY	ETHICAL INVESTMENT
Create a Climate for Change		Engage and Enable the Whole Community		Implement and Sustain the Transformation			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form the Heart through <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ecological Literacy Understanding your connection to nature "It is part of our responsibility [to be] looking after our country. If you don't look after country, country won't look after you" (April Bright in Rose, 1996: 49) b) Our Theological and Moral Imperative to Care for Our Common Home Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. [N1] 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Build an Apostolate by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involving multiple stakeholders - Selecting a coordinator 3. Prepare Ye The Way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect data and select a theme - Form a strategic plan with prioritised goals and set targets 4. Create Discipleship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate the plan - Involve all stakeholders in decision making and resulting actions 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Empower Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove barriers and sponsor initiatives 6. Harvest Easy Wins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build momentum 'early and often' - Choose achievable goals by 'picking the low hanging fruit first' 7. Sustain and Go Forth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embed action plans within renewal processes - Track progress and energise others through networking - Gently 'raise the bar' in each cycle of action - Integrate multiple themes over time 8. Animate Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build our mission by connecting to the like-minded. Share, educate and celebrate 			

Steps are Adapted from John Kotter (1996)

In The News

- [Nature Throwing a Tantrum Pope Francis](#)
- [World Meteorological Day](#)
- [Covid-19: A Warning to care for our common home](#)
- [Sisters strengthen efforts amid coronavirus strain](#)
- [Tech Giants invest in renewables pays off in current climate](#)
- [Why more gas won't help Victoria](#)
- [3 Policies will set Australia to 100% renewable energy](#)
- [Rahamin Closes](#)

New Book from Margie Abbott



Contact Us

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