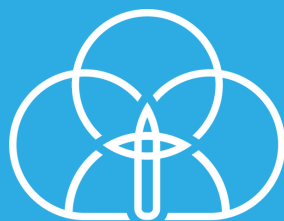




HOW TO BE A

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE PARISH

LAUDATO SI'
IN ACTION



Catholic
Earthcare
AUSTRALIA

A PROGRAM OF  **Caritas** AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION: LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION

Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia. Founded by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Earthcare Australia promotes understanding that creation is sacred and must be protected and preserved for present and future generations.

It is mandated, through the activities of education, research and advocacy to give leadership in responding to Pope John Paul II's call to "encourage and support the 'ecological conversion' ". It responds to the call of Laudato Si', the environmental encyclical in which Pope Francis invited Catholics all around the world to reflect, pray and take action to protect our common home.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement for 2021-22, 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor', further supports our call to care for all creation and invites us to take action.

In support of this statement and the seven-year Laudato Si' Action Platform, Catholic Earthcare Australia has developed a certification process for parishes.



Photo: kwest/shutterstock.com

INTRODUCTION: LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION

Being an Earthcare Parish is about putting *Laudato Si'* into action. It is a hopeful gesture and, as the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's Laudato Si Action Platform emphasises, such a response to the present ecological crisis is also "a profound act of care".

"At this kairos moment, action is needed. The Laudato Si' Goals guide our actions. Their holistic approach supports a spiritual and cultural revolution as we strive for total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology." Source

The Laudato Si' Goals are a key focus for Earthcare Parishes and an important reminder that "humanity still has the ability to work together for our common home" (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* n 13).

These goals inform the process for becoming an Earthcare Parish at every step, especially the Earthcare Parish Audit and Earthcare Parish Action Plan in the pages that follow.

THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS



**RESPONSE TO
THE CRY OF
THE EARTH**



**RESPONSE TO
THE CRY OF
THE POOR**



**ECOLOGICAL
ECONOMICS**



**ADOPTION OF
SUSTAINABLE
LIFESTYLES**



**ECOLOGICAL
EDUCATION**

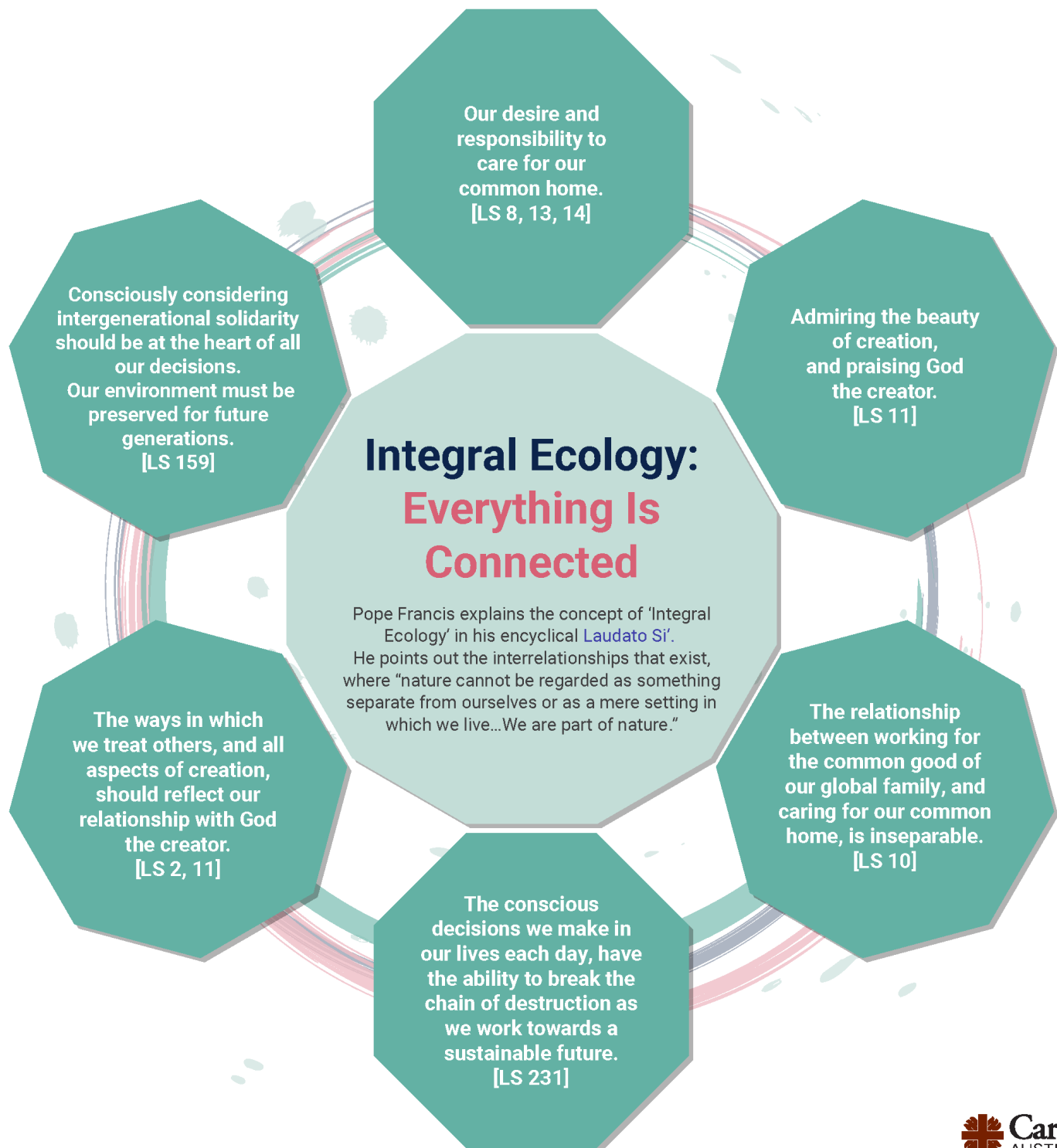


**ECOLOGICAL
SPIRITUALITY**



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
AND
PARTICIPATORY
ACTION**

Learn more at laudatosiactionplatform.org



EARTHCARE STEPS TO ECOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

The **Earthcare Steps to Ecological Dialogue** are designed to guide planning and implementation of positive change actions in organisations. They flow from research into the way organisations move through different phases of change, and build on Professor John Kotter's 8-step change framework illustrated in the central analogy of *Our Iceberg Is Melting* (1996).

Our Earthcare Steps to Ecological Dialogue adapts Kotter's framework for Catholic churches in Australia. These steps underpin the approach to organisational change within the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's 7 touchstones of family, school, university, hospital/health, business, agriculture and religious orders.

Now, as you start on as an Earthcare Parish, and in future as you continue your ecological journey together, these Steps to Ecological Dialogue will help you engage your whole community in ecological conversation, conversion and action.

Read more on the [Catholic Earthcare Australia website](https://www.catholicearthcare.org.au).

EARTHCARE STEPS TO ECOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

1. Encourage ecological conversion
2. Develop leadership
3. Build a team
4. Engage everyone
5. Start small
6. Take on challenges
7. Review and celebrate
8. Animate others

catholicearthcare.org.au

BECOMING AN EARTHCARE PARISH

Our Earthcare Parish Program aims to assist parishes on their way to becoming Laudato Si' communities. Our Earthcare Parish certification process is an initial 3-step process designed to inform, guide, inspire and celebrate parish action towards sustainability and care for our common home.



Laudato Si' is about working together with care for our common home. Photo: Takver/Flickr



Step 1: REGISTER

Register via the Survey to receive your Earthcare Parish Certificate (and your first star) and the Earthcare Parish Audit Tool to begin your ecological conversion.



Step 2: AUDIT

Review your parish's current contributions towards sustainability and care for our common home, using our Earthcare Parish Audit Tool. Send the completed document through to our Earthcare Team who will award a second star and be ready to support you as you plan your next steps.



Step 3: ACT

Create an Earthcare Parish Action Planner, using the 7 Laudato Si' Goals to guide and inspire your people, place and practice towards integral ecology. Send your completed document through to our Earthcare Team who will award a third star in celebration of your commitment to ecological practice. From there, we'll continue to support and encourage you as you put your plan into action. And you'll earn extras stars for the actions you tick off in your first, second and third years!

USEFUL RESOURCES

Catholic Earthcare Australia

Earthcare Steps to Ecological Dialogue

Caritas Australia - Parish Resources

Caritas Australia - Catholic Social Teaching

Caritas Australia - Integral Ecology Framework & Reflection Guide

Project Compassion

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council

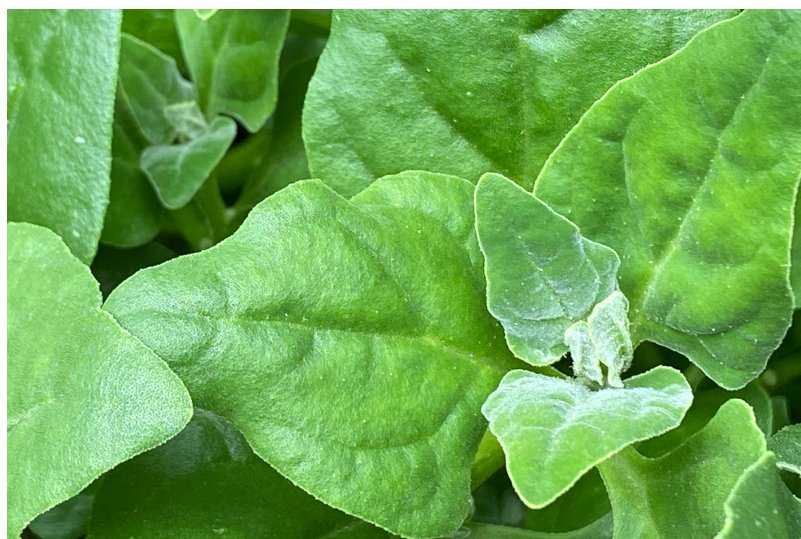
Laudato Si' Action Platform

Laudato Si' Movement

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace

Faith Ecology Network - 10 Things To Do

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (now Laudato Si' Movement) - Eco Parish Guide



Consider planting a community garden on your church grounds. Include bushfoods like Warrigal Greens (centre) and other easy-to-grow produce that you can share. Plant flowering herbs like Borage (bottom) and Sage, to attract pollinators. Photos: Caritas Australia

USEFUL RESOURCES

[Edmund Rice Centre](#)

[Be Slavery Free](#)

[Landcare Australia](#)

[Coastcare](#)

[Greening Australia](#)

[Australian Conservation Foundation](#)

[Clean Up Australia Day](#)

[National Recycling Week](#)

[World Habitat Day](#)



In your journey as an Earthcare Parish, keep the Laudato Si' Goals in mind. Organise a group of parishioners to participate in a local Clean Up Australia Day event as part of your Response to the Cry of the Earth. Plan a parish wilderness retreat day as well, to nourish Ecological Spirituality and continue the ecological dialogue in your community.



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