



No. 2 June 2022

# INSPIRING IDEAS from our EARTHCARE NETWORK

**St Declan's PENSURST** Just thought I'd "put on the record" that we celebrated Laudate Si' Sunday at St Declan's for the first time this year. We utilised your very helpful prayers and commentary and PP Fr Chris' homily beautifully tied in the Gospel and stewardship of the earth.



At R, our Sacred space in front of the altar. And L, our Earthcare Certificate installed in the Church foyer above our Acknowledgment Plaque. Kate

**St Mary's WILLIAMSTOWN** postponed their Laudato Si celebration to Pentecost - using the supplied liturgy notes and Beatitudes. Fr Greg combined Parish Earthcare, LaudatoSi' and Pentecost in the homily and overall mass (thanks for your help with the homily). Parishioners were invited to bring a cutting from their garden which became part of the offertory. The colourful banner was displayed on the screens as people entered. We played the Caritas Climate Change video after communion. We handed out book-marks to parishioners as they left mass - a joint initiative of our parish council and green team. Anthony



During Laudato Si Week, **SANDHURST DIOCESE** launched their commitment to Laudato Si action on the banks of the Broken Creek in Nathalia. This event provided the occasion for **Catholic Earthcare to celebrate 20 years** of creating dialogue & inspiring action to care for our common home. Sue Martin, Catholic Earthcare Coordinator, shared Earthcare's Journey over 20 years. Sue brought greetings from Bishop Long, Bishops' Committee for Justice, Ecology and Peace, whose own Diocese has taken a similar path to Sandhurst, with the Diocese joining the international platform and recommending parishes/schools partner with Catholic Earthcare. Bishop Shane MacKinlay, Sandhurst Diocese, opened up Laudato Si', reiterating the Bishops' commitment, and launching the Diocesan response with more than half of schools and parishes already partnered with Earthcare. He then commissioned all Earthcare Parish/School Representatives who received a Laudato Si' Tree, Certificate and Badges.







**GREATER BOX HILL** Sr Anne Boyd csb accepted my invitation to speak at our two Sunday morning Masses at St Francis Xavier and at St Clare's churches on 22nd May. We are also having a creation hymn each Sunday in May at four Masses. Trish

Editors Note: For many years, Anne was Coordinator of the EarthSong Project, exploring ways of adult learning in the light of the story of the evolution of the Universe and our planet Earth. This story offers a new understanding of human identity & of the magnificence of Divine Mystery. A great for resource for Melbourne parishes.



**Our Lady Queen of Apostles STAFFORD** On Sunday 6th March we blessed the Contemplation Garden, this was a beautiful liturgy and wonderful community event, the culmination of a 12-month journey from concept and funding application to completion. The area will provide an alternative place, where we can sit quietly in the 'cathedral of the outdoors' and enjoy a gentle conversation with our Creator. This space connects the church with the convent, reminding us of the enormous contribution by the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, to our community. The prayer panels, with Laudato Si, quotes are significant to our parish as they reference both Mary, as Mother and Queen of all creation and Joseph the generous protector of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

In February, we delivered 14 boxes of bottle tops to a local collection centre, eliminating kilos of plastic waste from landfill—see right.

The parish has Containers for Change registration. A nearby collection point is Stafford State School, Webster Road. We will republish our Containers for Change article in the newsletter.



## MORDIALLIC/ASPENDALE

organized a Laudato Si week event with Sherry Balcombe from Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Victoria, as Guest Speaker. See Flyer above.

Snippets from their Audit ...

- Message Stick at St Louis. Message Stick at St Brigid's recently replaced. Acknowledgment is on our website. Acknowledgment is part of our welcome at every mass celebrated.
- Lighting has been upgraded to more energy efficient light bulbs as part of recent renovations
- Flowers are composted after they have finished in the church.

**BAYSIDE PARISHES** Social and Ecological Justice Group have their own FB page [Bayside Catholic Mission - Sacred Heart Social and Ecological](#)

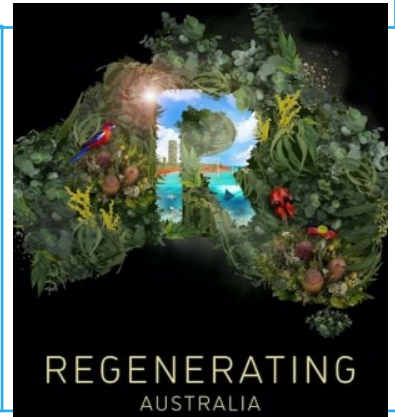
[Justice Group | Facebook](#) Posted daily during LS Week. Sacred Heart Walking Group runs last Friday of the month. Walk is just over an hour. S&EJ Group undertake actions, petitions, lobbying politicians FB posts—particularly active on Uluru Statement, truth-telling & treaty.





**TERREY HILLS** held Stations of the Cross in the Forest (with a social & ecological justice focus based on Stations prayed by Pope Francis on Good Friday 2014 in the Colosseum, Rome) followed by a Rice Meal with guest speaker Kerry Stone, Earthcare Parishes Coordinator, by Zoom!

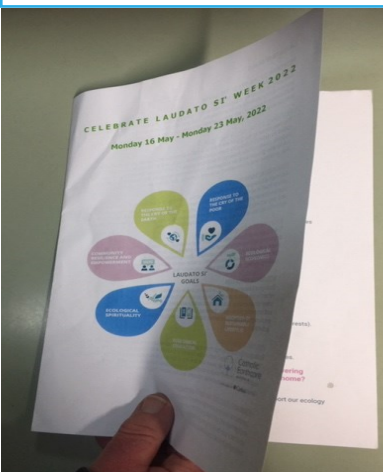
To celebrate Laudato Si week, Catholic Earthcare hosted an online screening of the newly released '**REGENERATING AUSTRALIA**' short film (17 mins) attended by over 150 people. It comes from the team behind 2040 and That Sugar Film. Directed by Damon Gameau, it is a hypothetical news report based on interviews with a diverse group of Australians who were asked about their hopes & dreams for the future. It's powerful, so much hope! See for yourself or host a screening <https://theregenerators.co/regenerating-australia/see-the-film/>



**IVANHOE & NUMURHAH** both produced Handouts for Laudato Si' Sunday. Both are attached separately FYI if you are planning hand-outs at any stage. You'll see that Numurkah has borrowed from Ivanhoe!

#### More from **STAFFORD**

- We liaise with school Sustainability Club, meeting with the children, supporting their plan for a more sustainable school. Collaboration with the school contributes to Parish life, linking school and church.
- After Pentecost we'll join with KEDRON Parish to offer a half-day Living L S Forum.



#### Snippets from **PLUMPTON** Audit

- Parish very active on social media
- Info & Advocacy – this is our parish strength. Several groups deeply involved in advocacy, charity & campaigns which promote & inform e.g. Voices For Power (Sydney Alliance energy program), House of Welcome, Uluru Statement.

#### Snippets from **PORT AUGUSTA** Audit

- First Nations Q: Adnyamathana hold their funerals in our church. Pitjatjantara visit for sandwiches and cordial. Aboriginal women being released from prison are welcomed by Sisters of St Anne of Madras in the "Prospering after Prison" program. Aware of problems - group of homeless and destitute, mental illness, alcohol and pokies addiction. Summer migration causes difficulties for local Aboriginal people in some ways.
- Liturgy Q: Have used Columban Advent series in the liturgy, and for Season of Creation. Stations of the Cross based on Laudato Si. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Communal) using ecological examination of conscience etc.
- Parishioners bring surplus fruit and veg to church for "Up for grabs"

**EXCITING NEWS** In the 6 months since launching our Earthcare Parishes/Organisations program, we have grown to **SIXTY**. We reach from Broome to Bunbury in the west, across through Berri and Belconnen and Bathurst, then down the east side from Brisbane to Broken Bay to Bayside and Burnie - and many, many other dioceses and parishes who don't begin with 'b'!

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