



# INSPIRING IDEAS from our EARTHCARE NETWORK

No. 2 June 2022

## Sandra Dillon WENDOUREE

The Bishops' Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace produced daily Reflection / Prayer / Action Sheets for use during Laudato Si Week. You can find at

[All Laudato Si Week Resources 210322.pdf](#)

These sheets introduce then focus on each of the 7 goals. Wendouree have adapted the Reflection section for their bulletin over 8 weeks providing a weekly education process on the goals. (Alternately, you could also use the Prayer & Action sections and make it an A4 hand-out.) Each week, they are also showing a short video after Communion. These are the videos on each of the goals produced for Earthcare Families each day of LS Week.

The parish is also collaborating with their primary school on a Laudato Si' garden.

### From the Encyclical

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." *Laudato Si' n 217*

### For Reflection

Today we focus on Laudato Si' Goal 1 – the cry of the earth. As we attend to the raised voice and tears of the earth, we are consoled by Jesus' words. In today's Gospel he says: "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27).

In the first chapter of Laudato Si', Pope Francis names the pain we have wrought on our planet: pollution, climate change, a throwaway culture, loss of biodiversity, global inequality, and the issue of water. In response to this devastation, he calls us to integrate personal and social responsibility, spirituality and science, economics, and education.

How might we truly listen to the cry of the earth, the cry of our land? These cries might arise from the cacophony of birds in our backyards, the scarred earth yielding minerals for our mobile phones, choked rubbish receptacles overflowing with poisoned packaging, or the wound of defiled sacred sites of the First Peoples.

We are also challenged to listen to the cries of those voices raised in solidarity with our oceans, land, and sky. They include leaders in the Oceania region whose communities are living with rising sea levels, young people desiring a future in harmony with creation, First Peoples spiritual leaders inviting us to listen in a spirit of *clacm*, or deep inner listening.

Maybe, if we are still enough, today we will hear the lament of our earth mingled with its songlines, with ancient psalms of praise and with passionate protest.

### Prayer

God of peace,  
you call us to act out of love, not fear.  
The earth is full of wonders that sing  
of your goodness.  
May we, your friends, make known the  
glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Incline the ear of our heart to the cry of the earth,  
oceans, and skies.  
Humble our desire for dominance over creation.  
Solace our engagement with  
our brother earth and sister sky,  
our cousin, the kookaburra, and Heng,  
the spreading fern.  
Lead us move from awe to awareness,  
tears to togetherness,  
and from wonder to work for justice for all.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,  
our risen Lord,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen

### Action

**Head** Investigate the ecological impact of your personal and corporate purchasing power and investments. Access a free carbon calculating tool here <https://carbonpost.westernaustralia.org.au/calculator/>

**Heart** Reflect anew on Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann's Dadliri video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tow2tR\\_extL8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tow2tR_extL8)

**Hands** Make a conscious effort to choose more sustainable options in your life, shrink your carbon impact and pollution in big and small ways.

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## Care for Creation

### Laudato Si interactive event - 30 July 10am - 12 noon, The Parish Hall, 80 Turner Rd Kedron (corner Wayland St)

*The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone Pope Francis, Laudato Si Chapter 2.*

You are invited to share in a community forum where we can explore the message in Laudato Si and grow in knowledge so that we are better equipped to care for our Common Home.

Date: 30 July 9.30am - 12 noon

Venue: Kedron Parish Hall, 80 Turner Rd Kedron

Booking: Little Flower Parish Office, Kedron

## Louise Scott STAFFORD

Neighbouring parishes, Stafford and Kedron ( who have 2 churches) have combined to host an interactive event - sounds like a great program with Alice Cawardine from Catholic Earthcare as guest speaker followed by parish cluster discussions.

Louise made the interesting comment that Laudato Si almost always gets a mention in their homilies – very enviable!



## Anne Lanyon TERREY HILLS

Some years back the parish formed a Landcare Group to regenerate their 2ha of parish land. It now contains the Stations of the Cross. A local council grant helped with professional clearing. Anne's advice in applying for a grant is to name community, First Nations and youth!



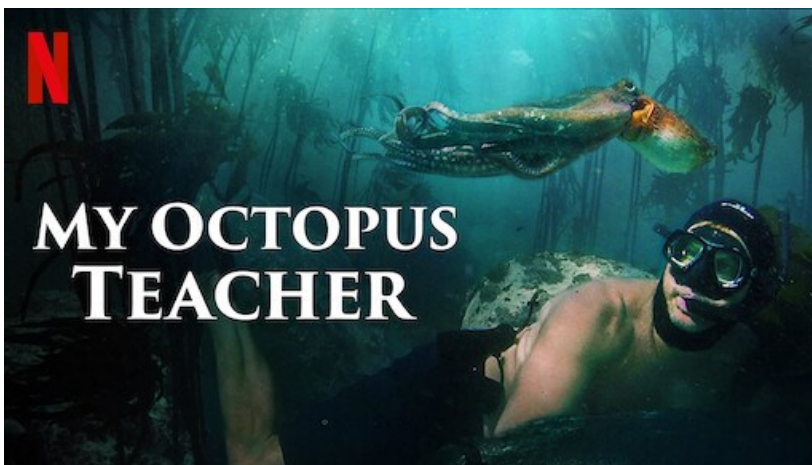
### Christina Peade-Erbrederis IVANHOE

The parish is a long-time member of ARRCC (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change – a multi-faith network committed to action on climate change). They produced a banner some time back and Christina speaks proudly of “the hanging of the banner” with parishioners and school students. So that it doesn’t just become ‘part of the furniture’, the banner is taken down and rehung periodically. It was particularly relevant in the months leading up to the election.



### Kate Hewett PENSURST

I found this film DEEPLY moving and spiritually enriching. It is just over an hour and is a docufilm of a man's encounter and subsequent relationship with an Octopus. Here is the link <https://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=My%20Octopus%20Teacher> I have also attached a pdf of what I thought was a really good reflection on the film by a Jesuit. The film is also available on Netflix.



### Cecilia Merrigan ECHUCA

Parish will provide a place for e-waste collection. No-one bothers going to the tip with one or two items so they end up in landfill. If we provide a collection point, it can all be taken to the transfer point.

Also, we’re planning to arrange a screening of The Plains Wanderer at the local cinema. Remember The Wild recently produced this documentary film on the endangered Plains-wanderer. The film explores the bird’s evolutionary uniqueness, conservation status and the human stories behind saving the species from extinction.

By focusing on the Plains-wanderer as a flagship species, the film also shines a light on the greater issues surrounding conservation of native grasslands and the other species that inhabit them. Importantly, the film is the first of its kind to feature cinema-grade footage of the Plains-wanderer.

<https://www.rememberthewild.org.au/plains-wanderer-film/>





## Shopping that makes a difference

Look for these logos in Coles, Woolies, & IGA



### Find the little green frog

Rainforest Alliance helps protect forests, conserve wildlife, and supports global farmers creating better crops, farming methods & improving incomes. Look for

coffee, tea, chocolate toilet paper & tissues with the logo. If your local cafe doesn't have a sustainable coffee or tea, ask them to consider stocking.

### Support Fairtrade - change lives

Behind products on the supermarket shelves and in stores are people: farmers, workers - families. Millions of them suffer from extreme poverty, poor working conditions and inequality. Fairtrade changes this. Look for tea, coffee, chocolate & ice cream with the Fairtrade logo.



Here are some coffee, tea & chocolate brands to look out for:



## Sustainably sourced, environmentally friendly toilet paper



### Recycled toilet paper

Is better for the environment as it is made from recycled textbooks, office paper etc whilst virgin pulp toilet paper requires forests to be logged & produces 3x more carbon emissions.

### Consider these sustainable brands

<https://au.howverolco.co/>

Also have a range of household items.

<https://au.whogivesacrapp.org>

Donate 50% of profits to clean water, & sanitation projects around the world.

<https://emotions.org.au>

50% of profits donated to mental health projects

<https://wipethat.com.au>

Carbon-neutral & donate % of profit to tree reforestation in Australia.

<https://icarepaper.com.au/>

Toilet paper, tissues & paper towels - in Woolies

<https://www.oobamboo.com.au>

50% of profits to reforestation & endangered species protection.

### An initiative of:



St Mary of the Cross  
Catholic Parish  
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE



Catholic  
Earthcare  
AUSTRALIA

## Julie Buick MORDIALLOC/ASPENDALE

Our evening with Sherry Balcombe, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, was hugely successful. Around 60 participants – some from well beyond parish because we publicised on Earthcare Network. Questions were taken via the chat to give everyone an opportunity then these were put to Sherry by two moderators.

You can watch the recording <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/articles/a198w000000016KAAQ/an-evening-online-with-sherry-balcombe-aboriginal-catholic-ministry>

We have produced habdouts 16 x 10cm promoting Slavery-free tea, coffee, chocolate—and toilet paper! Our office lady is great at lining it all up front to back in a document to print and we got 3 to an A4 sheet and just cut them with the guillotine. We are giving them out weekend of 6/7 August We have also acquitted a supply of Ethical Fashion Cards & Booklets to distribute. Working with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking of Humans) they advised Baptist World Aid Australia is the source.

Julie also said we spoke at Masses to let our parish know that we'd completed the Audit and were moving on to the Action Planning.

## UNDERSTANDING FIRST NATION SPIRITUALITY

### An evening with Sherry Balcombe

Our Justice Action Group (JAG) Charter\* includes working on issues of understanding and respect for First Nation People. We were delighted when Sherry Balcombe, Manager of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry agreed to be a guest speaker online recently.

We advertised Sherry's online talk widely, including to the 35 other Earthcare parishes across Australia, our local primary and secondary schools and social justice groups from other parishes.

More than 55 screens came online, and many had up to and more than 5 people.

We were so lucky to have Sherry share so much of her knowledge and experience of Aboriginal Spirituality and culture - the oldest, longest continuous culture in the world. A spirituality born in "us" which is earth centred and where land is sacred. To live as one with each other and the land regarding the land as our Mother.

Sherry's presentation included slides on Symbols, Ceremony, Belief in the Creator Spirit, ancient Rituals, Myths and Stories often recorded in cave paintings thousands of years old. She then compared the relevance of Aboriginal symbols in ceremony and their equivalent in mainstream church.

The Message stick and stone inlay at St Patrick's Cathedral states "to acknowledge the wrongs of the past and highlight the special place Aboriginal People occupy in the Church."

We learnt that Aboriginal Catholic Ministry was born out of Pope John Paul II first visit to Australia/Darwin in 1986 when he said:

*"Until Aboriginal people and their contribution has been JOYFULLY accepted, the Church in Australia will not be the Church Jesus wants it to be."*

Sherry challenged us to be moved to action and make Church open and welcome to all.

To Celebrate Reconciliation and NAIDOC week and particularly with the likelihood of a referendum soon, to vote YES to enable a Voice to Parliament. Our First Nation People need a seat at the table and want to "do nothing for us without us."

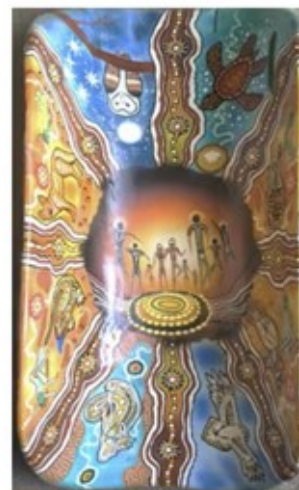
*\*You can pick up a copy of our JAG Charter in the church foyers or on our [parish website here](#).*  
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If you missed this amazing evening, you can find the recording on the [parish website here](#)

Words: Julie Buick (JAG Steering Group)



STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT THE ABORIGINAL CATHOLIC MINISTRY



SHERRY'S FAMILY BAPTISM COOLAMON COMMISSIONED BY HER AUNT. PAINTED BY HER BROTHER FROM A TREE SOURCED FROM HER GRANDFATHER'S COUNTRY MULLARIDGIE. TO DATE 3 GRANDSONS HAVE BEEN BAPTISED IN IT.



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