



# INSPIRING IDEAS from our EARTHCARE NETWORK

No. 4 November 2022

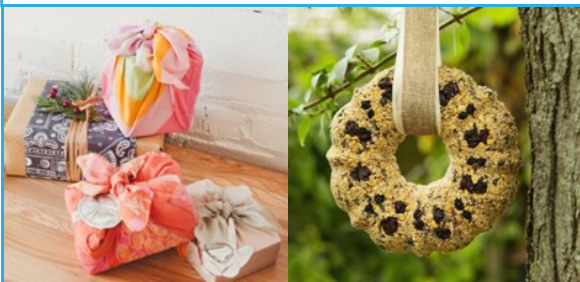
## THE LETTER: Laudato Si'

You may/may not have heard the exciting news that the long-awaited film **THE LETTER: LAUDATO SI** has been released. The film is a project of the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development & the Laudato Si Movement. It tells the story of various frontline leaders' journeys to Rome to discuss the encyclical Laudato Si' with Pope Francis. The purpose of the film is to encourage dialogue and action. It's a beautiful documentary and it's hard not to be moved by watching it.

Although the film can be watched individually, you are strongly encouraged to plan a viewing for your parish community. The film runs for 80 minutes but you will need to allow introductory time before and reflection & discussion time afterwards. We are being encouraged to register any viewings at <https://theletterfilm.org/> so the LS Movement can keep tabs on numbers. There is a lot of information on that website - so much that you can get lost amongst it!



To make it simple, I've downloaded the Event Agenda document and it's attached separately. It has a suggested outline of a viewing plus a lot of helpful links and excellent discussion points. On page 3, under 'Introduce the film', there are three useful links to documents which are also part of the Resources package but are more easily accessed by these links. The other Resources are for Secondary Schools. You can watch the film on the above link or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>



### STAFFORD PARISH from Louise

We are planning a Let's have an 'Eco Friendly Christmas' Sustainable Christmas Workshop on Saturday 3rd Dec from 9.30 -12.00. The Workshop features information on waste, demonstrations of eco-gifts and gift-wrapping alternatives as well as workshops in making a bird seed wreath and succulent pots. *[What a fabulous idea!]*



For Season of Creation: In Week 1, the Prayers of the Faithful were SoC themed. We held a viewing of Damon Gameau's Doco-movie 2040 followed by supper <https://whatsyour2040.com/> We visited the school junior campus to teach Bernadette Farrell's 'Wonders I See' <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3ydaU34XgxA>



In Week 2 we held our Annual Care for Creation Parish Survey Monkey - helps evaluate our success and determine direction. Articles in newsletter. In Week 3 we had our Bring'n Buy stall - \$290 raised to offset 2021/22 carbon footprint (well exceeded goal of \$136). Parish received 5 Leaf Eco Awards <https://catholicleader.com.au/news/brisbane-parish-awarded-for-environmental-action/> And in Week 4 we planned for our Laudato Si Chaplet followed by morning tea but rescheduled to 28 Oct. **Looking ahead:-**

1. Parish to host viewing of The Letter:
2. A second viewing of 2040 has been requested by the parish Latte Ladies group for November.
3. Parishioners & school children plant Early Years Campus reflection garden



**BENDIGO ST KILIAN'S** launched the Season of Creation on Fathers Day. The Karen community from our parish decorated used ribbons to represent the burning bush witnessed by Moses. Our altar, inspired by Earthcare Parish, Penshurst, drew attention throughout to the season.

Each week, a video was included in the Mass and the Liturgy group embraced the ideas provided by the Earthcare Liturgy Notes.

The parish Facebook page and the Church foyer encouraged engagement in a range of activities as part of the Season. A large pull-up banner listed how St Kilians community could listen to the Voice of Creation and make a difference in choosing to take care of our common home: through awareness, celebrations of the outdoor masses including Blessing of the Animals, prayers, clean-ups, a discussion group which revisited Laudate Si, and a Food truck Festival to raise money as a start-up fund for a parish community garden. An enthusiastic group is now preparing the initial stages of the community garden and will be assisted by the students of St Kilian's and Doxa School (for disengaged youth) in 2023.



## Season of Creation

1 September - 4 October  
St Kilian's Parish Bendigo  
Parish Community Activities



25 September: Foodtruck & Streetfood  
Season of Creation Festival

1 October: Outdoor Mass & Cleanup  
The Oak Forest Harcourt

4 October: Mass of St Francis of Assisi

3 September: Outdoor Mass, Clean-up, Picnic  
Lake Eppalock

4 September: Fathers Day & Launching of the  
Season of Creation in the Parish

11 September: 'Laudato Si' Sunday Mass & Cuppa

17 September: Care for the Common Home  
Walk, Clean-up & Cuppa  
Lake Weeroona to Botanical Gardens

23 September: Revisiting Pope Francis'  
'Laudato Si' at the Parish Café



## PENSHURST PARISH

In our online discussion, Kate alerted us to this indigenous supplier <https://www.culturalchoice.com.au/>

Cultural Choice Office Supplies is the creation of Mark and Jodie Watson. Mark is a Gamilaroi man from Walgett in northern NSW & worked for many years as an Aboriginal Education Worker in local high schools and a local school for disengaged young adults... Cultural Choice Office Supplies has since grown to secure contracts with NSW Education and is a preferred supplier of NSW Govt Agencies and socially responsible corporate organisation's across Australia; all the while supporting indigenous employment and awareness raising initiatives. Also from Penshurst, the latest Ethical Fashion Guide from Baptist World Aid is now available at [How Did Your Favourite Brand Score This Year?](https://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/ethical-fashion-guide) ([activehosted.com](https://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/ethical-fashion-guide)) [Something we can all promote.]



**CULTURALCHOICE**  
SCHOOL, GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

**WENDOUREE SoC from Sue** In addition to our placing notices in the newsletter each week for Season of Creation, we also had this notice board in the church foyer. The two "Did you know?" and "What can I do?" changed each week.





## VICTOR HARBOUR-GOOLWA PARISH

### Getting a wiggle on for our common home - from CathNews article!

From a worm farm to recycling, solar panels and sustainable farming, members of the Victor Harbor-Goolwa parish are responding in innovative ways to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home ...



Volunteers purchased purpose-built bins with good drainage and air holes from the local council. A small box of tiger worms was next on the list and then began the ongoing collection of recycled kitchen waste to feed them ...



After six months of tending the farm, the first batch of worm tea was produced. A natural liquid fertiliser made from soaking worm castings (manure) in water, the worm tea was snapped up by parishioners who were keen to use it in their gardens. Money raised from sales will support projects for those in need... Some parishioners have been so inspired they have also now started their own worm farms."

Other environmental projects include Season of Creation celebrations each September

To raise awareness about recycling a 'What Goes Where?' quiz was held during a Sunday morning cuppa after Mass. Participants were asked to identify assorted items and choose the correct bin for them by following charts/posters. Rubbish containers have been organised in the church areas to be consistent with proper recycling and a Monster Sale of recycled items was very successful. Also, aluminium candle holders and other types of aluminium are being collected and sold locally, with funds raised donated to help the needy.

The parish is reducing its operating costs through the use of solar panels that were installed on the presbytery roof five years ago following a donation from the Social Club.

### EARTH PLEDGE RENEWAL (on Bulletin at end of SoC) *shared online by Fran*

Our Season of Creation is coming to an end. After Communion at each of our Masses we will renew the pledge we took last year. *I pledge myself*

- *To pray with and for Creation.*
- *To live more simply, making choices that help our planet.*
- *To stand on behalf of Creation, when I can, by my words and by my deeds.*



(This week let us choose one small change in our lives that will deepen our commitment to care for the planet. Perhaps it is to go walking more often in nature, to tend our gardens, perhaps it is to keep soft plastics out of our yellow bins. Perhaps it is to buy goods with the Rainforest Alliance logo. *From little things, big things grow.*



Make sure you check out  
Fr Joe's stole!

### SHEPPARTON PARISH from Agnes

Recycling collection in parish centre & sacristy.

Planning two Walks:

Shepp Botanical Garden—Indigenous Plants

Flats Walk - area settled by First Nations people after Cummeragunja Walk-off.

Blessing of animals event at Victoria Park Lake. Fr Joe quoted in local paper, "We had a lovely time... a few reflections from St Francis of Assisi, blessed the animals—no exotic ones this year—had a camel once... Even a few passers by joined in. With the help of animals you can connect in a special way. They bring out the best in us."



**BLACKHEATH** Season of Creation events which proved very successful - from Julie

**POETRY and PLATE** Parishioners were invited to bring along one or two poems about NATURE and CREATION (their own writing or others) to read and share with the group. After the reading of each poem there was an opportunity to reflect, comment, delve or simply enjoy! They were invited to bring copies of poems as handouts if they wanted the source acknowledged. Shared food was brought for afternoon tea .

## Poetry on a plate

**FOREST MEDITATION WALK:** Mon 12 - Sun 18 Sept from 9am-5pm

A collection of cards with prayer, verse and quotes was placed in

Blackheath Parish 'forest' daily (weather permitting) for the week. This was to enable parishioners to enjoy the uplifting walk in their own time and pace. It was suggested they bring a thermos for a cuppa on the park benches and reflect on the readings.

There were also a couple of group 'awe & wonder' walks with acknowledgement, prayer & meditation.

And the **COMMUNITY GARDEN** is making great progress with strawberries, raspberries & boysenberries all planted out . Working Bees are on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays (11



### KEDRON from Wayne

In July, we held a Catholic Earthcare / Laudato Si two-hour event facilitated largely by Alice Carwardine from Earthcare which attracted 30-40 attendees from south east Queensland. Very positively received.. On 13 Oct, three of us from the parish are attending the [ARRCC.org.au](http://ARRCC.org.au) event at St John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane to show our solidarity with the cause of addressing climate change.

### EUROA PARISH from Fr Tony

We ran out of toner. I then had the bright idea of running it off in black and white. Funnily enough, it's much clearer and easier to read than it was in colour. If we continue printing in black and white, we'll be using less coloured toner, reducing having to get rid of the empty cartridges.

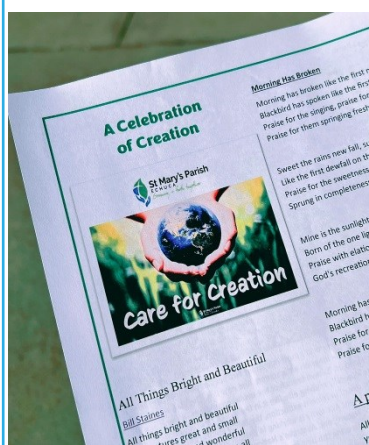
My reason for letting you know is twofold. Firstly, in B&W, it printed much more quickly, saving a bit of electricity. Secondly, the toner cartridges can be hard to recycle. Fuji Xerox does take them back; the school has a recycle bin that FX collects but better we put less in it.

The other thing we use a lot of are AA & AAA batteries – remote controls for air-conditioners, TVs, sound systems, lapel microphones, etc. Bunnings to the rescue! Simply bring your old **batteries** to the collection unit at the front entrance of Bunnings.

### ECHUCA PARISH from Cecilia

We held a Conversations about Creation Day - reflecting on what we're doing. It was on twice - at 12:30pm with Soup & Sandwiches and at 5:00pm with Wine & Nibbles at the Parish Meeting Room.

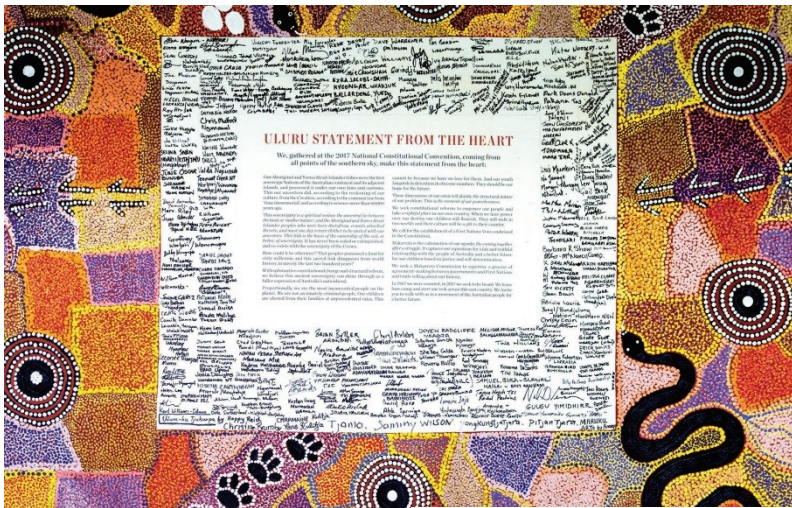
On Sunday 4th Oct at 4pm, we had a Spring Celebration of Creation where all were invited to bring their pets for a blessing; produce to share; and to wear a spring hat & stay for a cuppa!



We're hoping to start a repair café with the Uniting Church.

We have placed a box in the church for people, not able to get to the tip, to leave their junk.





## MORDIALLIC/ASPENDALE PARISH from Julie

For Season of Creation, we had Earth banners in front of the altars in both churches. We put a jar out after Mass each Sunday and collected over \$1000 for Aboriginal Literacy Foundation. We also had a blessing of the pets. And we have put the Uluru Statement up in the church and followed up with an Information Session. A herb garden is proposed – accessible to both the church and the street.

## NUMURKAH PARISH from Kerry

We used the Season of Creation Liturgy notes extensively. Each week, we had an A4 back & front Bulletin Insert with two goals per week. We took most of the content from the Bishops' Office for Justice Ecology & Peace Resources for Laudato Si' Week (idea borrowed from Wendouree Parish!) When we got to the 4th Sunday with Goal 7, we had on the back, a page of "Where to now for our parish?"



## CELEBRATE the SEASON of CREATION

### Goal 1 – Hear the Cry of the Earth

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

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 deep inner listening.

Are we reflecting on how we can care for biodiversity in our own areas? Are we doing enough to support projects that preserve and promote biodiversity? Do we know which flora and fauna species are indigenous to our area? Do we preserve habitat, food and water for local animals, birds and insects. Do we understand the vital purpose of wetlands, of indigenous plantings, or the work of Landcare and environmental organisations? Do we remove weed plants from garden beds and grounds and replace with local indigenous plant species? Are we reducing waste, plastic use?

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.



Adapted from Australian Catholic Bishops' Office for Justice Ecology & Peace Resources and Catholic Earthcare Audit.



R.T.O.



## CELEBRATE the SEASON of CREATION

### Goal 2 – Hear the Cry of the Poor

FROM THE ENCYCLICAL: "Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combatting poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." Laudato Si' n 139



Picture in your mind a diminishing Amazon rainforest, mines displacing people from their land, mudslides destroying houses in Bangladesh, consecutive seasons of drought bringing famine to the Horn of Africa, and closer to home, rising tides displacing villages and threatening whole low-lying islands in the Pacific. Throughout Laudato Si' runs Pope Francis' constant commitment "I will point to the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet." (Laudato Si' n. 16).

The cries of the earth and of the poor have always been intertwined in our land. Sometimes these cries are loud and obvious, for example when floods and fires claim lives and livelihoods. However other cries often go unnoticed. They include the cries of incarcerated children, asylum seekers held in indefinite detention, of people seeking to escape abusive relationships, and of the First Peoples seeking justice.

Climate change is already affecting low-income households and disadvantaged communities in Australia disproportionately. ACOSS points out that "low-income earners tend to live in areas more likely to be adversely affected by climate change, and have far less ability to move or make other necessary adjustments to their living circumstances... Few households with low incomes are able to afford significant energy efficiency measures such as insulation, new hot water systems or rainwater tanks... Energy consumption in low income households is partly shaped by the market in second-hand appliances. Many second-hand appliances are inefficient, waste energy and increase bills."

Are we supporting organisations working with people who are vulnerable, at risk, marginalised: in our local community e.g. Vinnies; in our global community e.g. Caritas Australia? Are we promoting advocacy opportunities on issues including climate change, refugees, local & global poverty, First Nations justice? Are we using slavery-free products?

Pope Francis constantly invites us to cultivate a culture of encounter, moving beyond our comfort zones to draw close to those pushed to the edges. We can listen. We can learn. We can let go of privilege and power.



Adapted from Australian Catholic Bishops' Office for Justice Ecology & Peace Resources and Catholic Earthcare Audit.



**PAKENHAM PARISH** have recently become an Earthcare Parish and have a great page on their website.

## We've just become an EARTHCARE PARISH!



Would you like to be part of the team and help our parish become more ecologically aware and pro-active?

If so please contact John Fanchette on 0403945831.

[Click here for more information on Catholic Earth Care](#)



Below: From little things, big things grow!

St Declan's Parish Penshurst shared this image after Laudato Si Week and now it's been replicated in parishes across Australia.



Get in touch

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