



# INSPIRING IDEAS from our EARTHCARE NETWORK

No. 5 February 2023

**Our ZOOM Gathering** had an interesting conversation around FINANCE – here's a few Snippets...

**Fran VICTOR HARBOUR/GOOLWA** raised the issue of activities being challenging because it involves the finance people! This began quite a discussion. **Marie BENDIGO St Kilian's** are planning an indigenous garden with reflection and quiet meeting area - and have just received a \$3000 grant from local council to kick things off. **Louise STAFFORD** said funds in QLD can be sourced through the Community Gambling Benefit Fund! Also, through you MP, there is often a 'bucket of money' for things linked to First Nations eg Indigenous themed Community Garden.



## MORDIALLIC/ASPENDALE PARISH from Julie

1. Clean up Australia Day Sunday March 5th 9am-12pm Mordialloc Creek To be advertised in parish bulletin and all welcome
2. Planting Parish herb garden to share with community on St Louis driveway far end of church car park Saturday 29th April Keep this date free if you want to join in. It will also be advertised in bulletin and Father Andrew has kindly offered parish funds to cover the set up of this.
3. B&B Highway and Citizen Science joint project with group of St Brigids school students and Nixon House residents. Still to be confirmed but may need fund raising to pay for education sessions, resources and ongoing support.
4. Energy use walk thru with contact of Michael Tobin (Earthcare team member representing St Brigid's parish) for ideas regarding sustainable use of energy in all parish buildings



## ECHUCA Cecilia

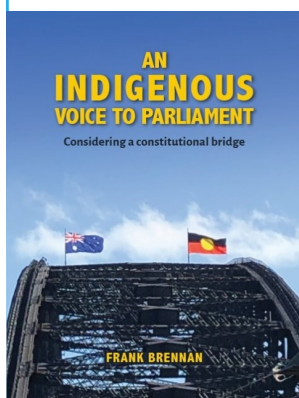
Participating in Clean Up Australia day who provide all the gear. They do it also under the Parish banner.

Cecilia also spoke of promoting a book by Isaiah Firebrace, X-factor winner and represented Australia at Eurovision, but also local Echuca boy educated at St Joseph's College. The book explores 20 of the most important aspects of First Nations cultures & history every Aussie should know. Written for children but perhaps useful for all! Particularly this year!

**Come Together** is a heart-warming, debut picture book for children aged 5 and up from pop artist Isaiah Firebrace, inspired by his petition to the Australian

Government calling for Aboriginal history to be taught in every classroom. In this essential book, Isaiah, a Yorta Yorta and Gunditjmara man,

establishes a foundation of First Nations knowledge with 20 key topics. Alongside bright and contemporary illustrations by Mununjali and Fijian artist Jaelyn Biunaiwai, Isaiah connects us to each topic through his own personal story and culture, from the importance of Elders to the Dreaming. Watch interview with Isaiah [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRV\\_SV\\_N1ms](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRV_SV_N1ms)



On a similar note:

Frank Brennan's new book '**An Indigenous Voice to Parliament**' is now available at <https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9781922484659/>

**STAFFORD Louise:**



**Care for Creation**

Announcement at Masses re plans—

Good evening/morning and thank you for your time.

Our parish continues its journey of 'ecological

conversion' supported by the wisdom of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. We

launched our policy in 2020 with an action plan to carry us forward to 2025. Last

year was one of great achievements and we look forward to the work ahead.

Our first action is in education. We invite you to stay for 20 minutes following

Mass on 11/12 February to watch the inspiring movie Regenerating Australia. This

forward thinking production shows what is possible with current

innovative technology to create a healthier, greener and happier

Australia. We have to pay screening rights, so a donation would be

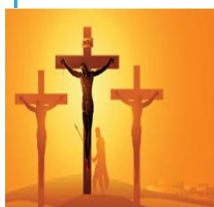
appreciated.

Our Laudato Si themed Stations of the Cross will be prayed each

Friday morning following morning Mass & Friday evening at 5.30pm

Finally we want to share the opportunity to create a Resurrection Garden, a plant based illustration of the Easter Story. Join us in March; details will be in newsletter.

Also ready for **Clean Up Australia Day**



**IVANHOE Christina**

The Parish has a Bulletin Notice every week. Here's one for Lent: Have you given any thought to your 2023 Lenten practices? Some Catholic organisations are encouraging us to give up meat for Lent (for those of us who are meat-eaters) or to give up just beef. Producing beef involves the most climate and environmental damage of all the meats we eat; pork involves the least. If it's too hard to give up

beef, they suggest giving it up just on Fridays. Some research was published recently which found that "one in four Catholics in England and Wales changed their eating habits after the Catholic Bishops asked them to return to foregoing eating meat on Fridays, saving more than 55,000 tons of carbon a year". It asserted that if Catholics, globally, returned to meatless Fridays, it could mitigate millions of tons of greenhouse gases annually. <https://catholicoutlook.org/catholics-saved-carbon-by-cutting-out-meat-on-fridays-study-shows/?fbclid=IwAR2T164FGCdPI5y2Ty0B5zoRZFyJ-okTugSe1z25UAp4OoIUWmxwIBy1Je8>

Parish is also promoting discussion on the voice. On their website are the following links

Fr Frank Brennan, McKinney Lecture: <https://soundcloud.com/frank-brennan-6/mckinney-lecture-on-the-voice> A transcript of Fr. Frank's lecture can be read here [McKinney Lecture - Fr. Frank Brennan SJ](#)

**LOWER NORTH SHORE Patricia** the parish is trialling a once a month rubbish clean up in our local streets. For our first trial, four of us went out for just one hour after Sunday Mass and collected enough rubbish to nearly fill one large rubbish bin. It gave us an opportunity to have conversations with passers by along the way, and was certainly a witness to caring for our common home. We have 3 churches, so hoping to make it a quarterly event in each one. Our dilemma is that we contacted Catholic Church Insurances, and they like the idea, but don't want the name of the church associated with it. For the time being, it is just the members of our small LSAP group that are doing this, until we figure a way to invite other parishioners.

We are hoping to have a showing there of The Letter sometime this year, which we will then promote in our own parish.





If you missed the Earthcare showing on Feb 17, watch yourself and/or consider watching with your parish. The film features a kaleidoscope of voices from the growing localization movement, and was produced by Local Futures in connection with [World Localization Day 2022](#).

**Planet Local: A Quiet Revolution** is both a powerful critique of economic globalization and a celebration of grassroots initiatives.



### THE LETTER: Laudato Si'

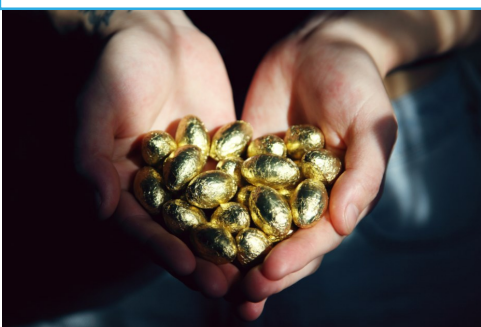
Although the film can be watched individually, we continue to strongly encourage you to plan a viewing for your parish community. The film runs for 80 minutes but you will need to allow introductory time before and reflection & discussion time afterwards. We are being encouraged to register any viewings 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!



I have had questions about viewings as you can get caught thinking you have to pay for viewing. You can watch the film on the above link or at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

To make it simple, I've downloaded the Event Agenda document and it's attached separately. (I have also sent it previously) 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.

**BELMONT PARISH Noreen** reported showing 'The Letter' to begin their Earthcare Journey. After the film, they asked people to volunteer for their Earthcare Team and nine people signed up to assist!



### CHALLENGING SLAVERY AT EASTER

**"Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act."**

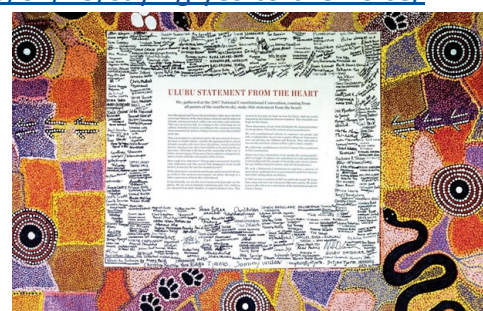
Pope Francis

[Challenging Slavery at Easter - Office for Social Justice \(catholic.org.au\)](https://www.catholic.org.au/social-justice/2023/02/23/challenging-slavery-at-easter)

### SAYING YES TO THE VOICE <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/02/23/saying-yes-to-the-voice/>

Professor Tom Calma AO used his speech when announced as Senior Australian of the Year 2023 to outline the case for a Voice to Parliament. It is well worth a look: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jghcAR\\_wR40](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jghcAR_wR40)

A number of parishes are also displaying the Uluru Statement from the Heart. If you need a high res image, let me know.







## ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

The Sisters of Mercy have produced a wonderful range of resources to assist us in the journey towards **Laudato Si' Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality**. Go to

[Laudato Si' Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality Resources](#) | [Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia](#)

### 2022 Chocolate Scorecard

We eat chocolate for comfort, celebration and indulgence. But what's really going into the chocolate we buy? We have surveyed the world's biggest chocolate companies to find out! Some are rising to the challenge, but others continue to ignore consumer demand for chocolate that's **good for people and the planet**.



#### GOOD EGG AWARD

The 2022 Good Egg Award goes to **Beyond Good**, for a business model which ensures people and the planet are respected and cared for. Their smaller size has enabled this model to be refined and now they are looking to scale up.



#### ROTTEN EGG AWARD

The 2022 Rotten Egg Award goes to **Storck** (manufacturer of **Wenher's, Toffifay, Merck**) for lack of transparency and being unreasonable. They also received the Rotten Egg Award last year.

SCORE KEY



Leading the industry on policy



Starting to implement good policies



Needs more work on policy and implementation



Needs to catch up with the industry



Did not respond to survey: Lacking in transparency

Look out for the 2023 scorecard at

<https://acrath.org.au/>

### BRACKEN RIDGE Care for Creation Group - St Joseph & St Anthony Parish

#### WEAVING A SILENCE: CONTEMPLATING EARTH & ALL THE STARS

'Contemplative practice is a way to bring healing presence to the world'

ONLINE Monday afternoons weekly, February-December 2023, 5.00-5.35pm  
Brisbane Queensland

Facilitators Judith Keller and Gerard Sullivan.

Please email [kellsull@ozemail.com.au](mailto:kellsull@ozemail.com.au) for Zoom link

[\(7\) Care for Creation Group - St Joseph & St Anthony Parish](#) | [Facebook](#)



## NO-BUY LENT

February 22 - April 9

*Creating space for the sacred*

Join: [igsol.net/nobuy](https://igsol.net/nobuy)

*Weaving A Silence: Contemplating Earth and All The Stars*  
'Contemplative practice is a way to bring healing presence to the world'

ONLINE Monday afternoons weekly, February-December 2023, 5.00-5.35pm  
Brisbane QLD

Facilitators Judith Keller and Gerard Sullivan. There is no cost involved.



This weekly online space is for anyone locally or globally drawn to join us. We are earth lovers, justice seekers, climate change activists, cosmic creatives, lovers of eco poetry, spiritual companions, friends of silence. We are committed to realising the mutuality and reciprocity of contemplative practice and ecological practice, of healing ourselves and healing Earth, of deepening our sense of interbeing/interdependence.

- We send the zoom invitation weekly.
- We are online for 35 minutes, 20 minutes of which is shared silence.
- We intentionally share silence at a time when we are called to choose Earth and to transition from our human centred consciousness to one of Sacred Earth Community, and to discover our place in the Universe.
- The session is bookended with brief comments/quotes of relevance

including poetry, prayer that is informed by ecology and cosmology, and music.

- We do not teach meditation. While some of us have a background in meditation in the Christian tradition, others draw on mindfulness meditation practices during our time of silence together. You are welcome to join us with your own established practice.

**Judith and Gerard** have leadership experience in education, theology, and spirituality in Catholic Dioceses in Australia. In their retirement, they have been volunteer guides in their Regional Botanic Gardens. Gerard has recently completed training as a spiritual director, and Judith, a Certificate in Deeptime Leadership. They are connected with groups such as ANSD, Forum on Religion and Ecology, ARCC, Laudato Si' Animators, and the Earth Crisis Forum in the WCCM.

## **Multi-faith prayer service: A Prayerful Call to Divest from Fossil Fuels Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30 – 10.30 am St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta**

You are warmly invited to share in prayer, music and meditation with others from diverse traditions, as part of a global Divestment Week of Action during the Christian season of Lent. We want to:

- Reflect on our shared responsibility to care for our common home
- Pray that faith-based organisations and people of faith will commit to divesting from fossil fuels
- Show public support for those people of faith who are advocating that their faith-based organisations divest
- Add human interest/images for articles in religious media promoting divestment.

Divestment from fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) is an important way for faith communities to address the climate crisis and say 'no' to the financing of fossil fuel intensive enterprises, especially mining. The Laudato Si' Movement and ARRCC will publicly encourage Catholic and other faith-based organisations to commit to phasing out investments in fossil fuels and shifting the money in their care to socially responsible investments.

After the service, you're welcome to stay for morning tea.



*Multi-faith service, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 13 October, 2022.*



ABORIGINAL BAHAI BUDDHIST CHRISTIAN HINDU ISLAMIC JEWISH SIKH OTHERS