



LAUDATO SI WEEK 2021

**‘O all you works of the Lord, O bless the Lord.
To him be highest glory and praise for ever.’
*Daniel 3:57***

Laudato Si’ Week 2021, **May 16-24**, will be the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. Laudato Si’ Week helps us reshape the world that will arise after the pandemic has passed, to make sure it is sustainable and just. Laudato Si’ tells us that “everything is connected” and tragically, the current health catastrophe has much in common with the ecological catastrophe. Both are global emergencies that will affect many people, both directly and indirectly. Both are experienced most deeply by the poor and vulnerable, and both expose the deep injustices in our societies. Both will be solved only through a united effort that calls on the best of the values we share.

In his recent pastoral letter introducing the Diocesan Environment Policy, Bishop Mark reminded us that ‘as missionary disciples, we are invited to be part of the redeeming mission of Christ, and to approach our task with joy and gratitude remembering, “Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.” (Laudato Si’ #12). Nevertheless, as individuals and as a community of faith, we all know that there are serious environmental challenges. As Pope Francis reminds us, we are not ‘hearing the Cry of the Poor and the Earth’, and we “have grown indifferent to all kinds of wastefulness” (Fratelli Tutti #18).

As a community, “we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development” (Fratelli tutti #118). Each of us is called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for change – to better care for the Creation which God has entrusted to us.

As individuals we can all play our part and, collectively, we can do a great deal.

Laudato Si' Week—Taking Action

There are lots of ways we can all take action.

- ◇ Proclaim the Gospel through your lifestyle and shopping habits. As a response to Laudato Si' try to renew the way you live and shop to reflect our Christian faith. Try to buy products that are as ethical as possible, that don't harm producers human dignity/rights or damage creation, such as Fairtrade and/or organic certified ones. For more information visit www.fairtrade.org.uk and www.thegoodshoppingguide.com
- ◇ As you're preparing food at home, consider plant-based meals to grow in simplicity.
- ◇ Care for creation around your home by beginning to compost. If appropriate, advise your neighbours that you are beginning to compost and invite them to add their materials to your compost bin as soon as your local authorities advise you that distancing measures have ended.
- ◇ Plant a garden—a vegetable garden to feed your family and your neighbours, a pollinator garden to feed bees and butterflies, a simple potted plant, tending a place in God's creation reminds us of the connections we share. (The picture below shows the beautiful wildflowers in the grounds of the parish of St Cuthbert Mayne, Launceston).
- ◇ Become a Live Simply community <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>
- ◇ Check your personal carbon footprint and reflect on how to reduce your impact — there are lots of different models on line e.g. <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>
- ◇ Read our Diocesan Environment Policy and share your thoughts with others

