

Laudato Si' Fact Sheet

Upper Primary Years 5 - 6



What is Laudato Si'?

Laudato Si' is an encyclical written by Pope Francis. An encyclical is a letter from the Pope to the people. Laudato Si' offers us an opportunity to reflect on the world around us, and to respond to what is happening in the world at this time. We are called to reject the 'throwaway' culture and to open our eyes to see how God is present throughout creation. We are encouraged to look closely at the reality facing many of our sisters and brothers across the world, who are being pushed deeper into poverty due to the changing climate.

Pope Francis invites us to a change of heart; individually, as a community, and at an international level, so we may truly respond to *"both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"* n 49.

We are asked to respect and care for ourselves, our neighbours and our earth as an expression of God's love.

What does Laudato Si' mean?

Care for Our Common Home

Who was Laudato Si' written for?

Everyone on the planet

How is Laudato Si' written?

Laudato Si' is divided into six chapters. Each chapter is divided into subheadings relating to the overall chapter theme. Each paragraph within Laudato Si' is numbered. For example, Chapter One is called *What is Happening to Our Common Home*. It has eight subheadings contained within it and Chapter One has paragraphs 17 – 61.

Here are the six chapter titles:

- Chapter One – What is Happening to Our Common Home
- Chapter Two – The Gospel of Creation
- Chapter Three – The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis
- Chapter Four – Integral Ecology
- Chapter Five – Lines of Approach and Action
- Chapter Six – Ecological Education and Spirituality

What is in each chapter?

Chapter One – This chapter discusses issues such as pollution, climate change, the problem of waste, water, the loss of biodiversity, the decline in the quality of human life, the breakdown of society and global inequality.

Chapter Two – In this chapter Pope Francis explains the responsibility of humankind for creation and the connection among all living creatures. We are called upon to have a deep sense of communion with nature and be tender, compassionate and show concern for our fellow human beings.

Chapter Three – Symptoms and causes of the world's current situation is the focus of this chapter. There is a discussion around technology and both the positive and negative impacts of it.

Chapter Four – Human beings cannot be separated from the environment is the message of this chapter. Pope Francis discusses the point that everything is related and that the principle of the common good is paramount.

Chapter Five – Pope Francis recognises that no one group in society (religious, social, economic, environmental, political) has the answer to the issues discussed in the encyclical. He encourages open and transparent communication, discussions and decision making processes in order to bring about change.

Chapter Six – In the final chapter Pope Francis invites us to have a change of heart. To be open to learning new ways of being and to creating new habits and behaviours. It is up to everyone to make these changes for the good of all.

What are some of the quotes taken from Laudato Si?

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. n 14

A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. n 49

Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. n 67

Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. n 161

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. n 217

Source

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/laudato-si-ch-1-facts-more-important-than-theory/>

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/laudato-si-ch-2-commentary-by-fr-reese/>

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<https://thetablet.org/laudato-si-a-study-guide-and-summary/>

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources/download/108>