



# HOLY SPIRIT SOCIAL JUSTICE

MAY 2024 EDITION

## LAUDATO SI' – WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

Pope Francis released his encyclical *Laudato Si'* on care for our common home in 2015. It's about our responsibility to care for all of creation, the lands, the oceans, the flora and fauna, our fellow human beings and, especially, the poor. This responsibility goes back to the book of Genesis, when man was given dominion over the earth. Dominion but not domination.

The Pope's encyclical exhorts us to take an interest in the impacts of climate change on our world and to do what we can to turn things around. He points out that the most impact is on the poor and downtrodden of the world who are suffering at the hands of people who are only interested in profit and who are interested in the resources of the Earth only for their own gain.

Just this year the Pope has issued a follow up to *Laudato Si'*, called *Laudato Deum*, which warns that we are at a critical time in our history.

If nothing changes we will leave a bleak Earth to our children and grandchildren.

## LAUDATO SI' WEEK

This year *Laudato Si'* Week will be celebrated from 19 to 26 May.

In this week Catholics across the world will be celebrating the ninth anniversary of Pope Francis' letter to all the people of the Earth on "Care for our Common Home".



**This year's theme is Seeds of Hope.**

[Home 2024 – Laudato Si' Week](#)

And there is cause for hope. Much has been done to create a worldwide *Laudato Si'* Action Platform that has been joined by Catholics, other Christians and other people who care about this world. In our archdiocese and in our Holy Spirit parish there are *Laudato Si'* Action Plans in place.

In his letter, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis notes that God has a plan for the Earth. But the impacts of climate change present one among many risks to the fulfilment of God's plan.

The archdiocesan plan and our local parish plan can be seen as mitigation strategies against the risks posed by climate change. They propose to change the way we think and act in our world so that it is rich and welcoming to future generations.

As Pope Francis has said, "From God's hands we have received a garden, we cannot leave a desert to our children".

## SO WHAT CAN WE DO?

**AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL** we can lobby our government to do more about climate change. Investments need to be made in renewable energies rather than coal fired industries that pollute the Earth.

**AT A PERSONAL LEVEL** you can do some other things to save our planet:

- \* Don't use plastic straws;
- \* Consume local products;
- \* Recycle clothes;
- \* Recycle other products like bottles and cans;
- \* Carry your own bottle of water (not plastic);
- \* Choose products made from recyclable materials;
- \* Eat seasonal fruit and vegetables;
- \* Eat less meat, especially red meat;
- \* Reduce food waste;
- \* Take shorter showers to save water;
- \* Turn off the lights when you don't need them;
- \* Use your car less, walk when you can;
- \* Use public transport – light rail is the least polluting means of transport.

**AT A PARISH LEVEL**, please support **Sustainability Sunday** which will be held on the **last Sunday** of each month. To start the ball rolling, please bring the following on **weekend 25/26 May** -

- \* CLEAN plastic milk/UHT, water and soft drink bottle lids only
- \* Plastic and foil medicine blister packs
- \* Old mobile phones.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal People as traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, and also recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of this region.

We pay our respects to elders, past and present, honouring them for their life, wisdom and resilience.

We acknowledge the deep spiritual and cultural relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to country, its waterways and all living creatures and give thanks for their care of the land on which we live.



## WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?

Often we see our clothes as an expression of our identity and as a visual expression of who we would like to be. They project an image of ourselves. Fashion can be great fun.

But clothing can also hurt the earth and so many of the people involved in making it. When threatened species like koalas lose their homes so that more cotton can be grown; when a river runs dry because of irrigation of that cotton and when vulnerable women and children are paid a pittance – or nothing – to sew those clothes, then it's not so much fun, is it?

Sustainable fashion is cheap – all it costs is thought – about what, where and when to buy your clothes.

Here are some great links to expand your knowledge and strengthen your determination to buy and wear "sustainable fashion".

- \* The Baptist Guide to Fashion Companies you can trust: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/>



- \* A great article in the Sydney Morning Herald on "sustainable fashion: by Lauren Ironmonger 18 March 2024 [Is cotton always best? What to know when buying 'sustainable' fashion](#)" *"We know that when it comes to clothes shopping, most Australians want to do better for the planet. But navigating the increasingly green-washed world of fashion retail is easier said than done – and choosing what fabric is best can be one of the hardest choices of all."*
- \* ACRAH: Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans: [ACRAH: https://acrath.org.au](https://acrath.org.au)

## PALM SUNDAY RALLY 2024

The atmosphere at the annual Palm Sunday Rally is always uplifting, hopeful, joyful and desperately sad.

To hear refugees speak of their experience in their country of origin and to hear their story of how they are treated by our own Government leaves one with a sense of helplessness.

**Speakers this year included Fr John Woods who spoke from the heart and left the crowd with the words from Micah 6:8 .... Do justice ..... love goodness ....walk humbly with your God.**

## NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

"Peace without justice is not true peace, it has no solid foundations or possibilities for a future." Pope Francis referred specifically to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and to the vast number of issues that deny social justice to the people of the world. This is not new but lies at the centre of



our faith. For example, Pope John Paul II wrote in his message for the celebration of the World Day of Peace in January 2002, 'There is no peace without justice, and no justice without forgiveness.'

Here in our own faith community which commits to being guided by the Holy Spirit we have great opportunities to lend our support to the broad issues and just as importantly undertake works that help our Parish and community. As Pope Francis concluded when he opened the Vatican Judicial Year, "The path of justice makes fraternity, where all are protected, especially the weakest, possible".



*Holding the Holy Spirit banner proudly were Becky, Barry, Alison, Leanne and Maureen. Melissa took the picture.*