

Laudato Si' Week 5th Anniversary – 16-24 May 2020

'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home' Laudato Si' #13

Five years ago, Laudato Si' summarised centuries of Catholic teaching in the context of our current human and ecological crisis. Since then, thousands of communities have prayed and acted to protect creation and our vulnerable sisters in brothers. Now, Catholic communities are invited to build on the efforts of the last five years to take more ambitious action for the years to come.

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.



Caring for creation and the poorest and most vulnerable can bring peace to your spirit while protecting the home we share.

There is a lot of great work already happening in our homes, schools and parishes that we can build on.

These following activities are a few ways to care for creation, even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

- 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
- Share and use the Common Prayer (shared below)
- As you're preparing food at home, consider plant-based meals to grow in simplicity. Find recipes that were prepared for Lent [here](#). If you are isolated with a friend or family member, invite him or her to prepare the meal with you or to say a prayer of blessing.
- Care for creation around your home by beginning to compost. Information is [here](#). 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.

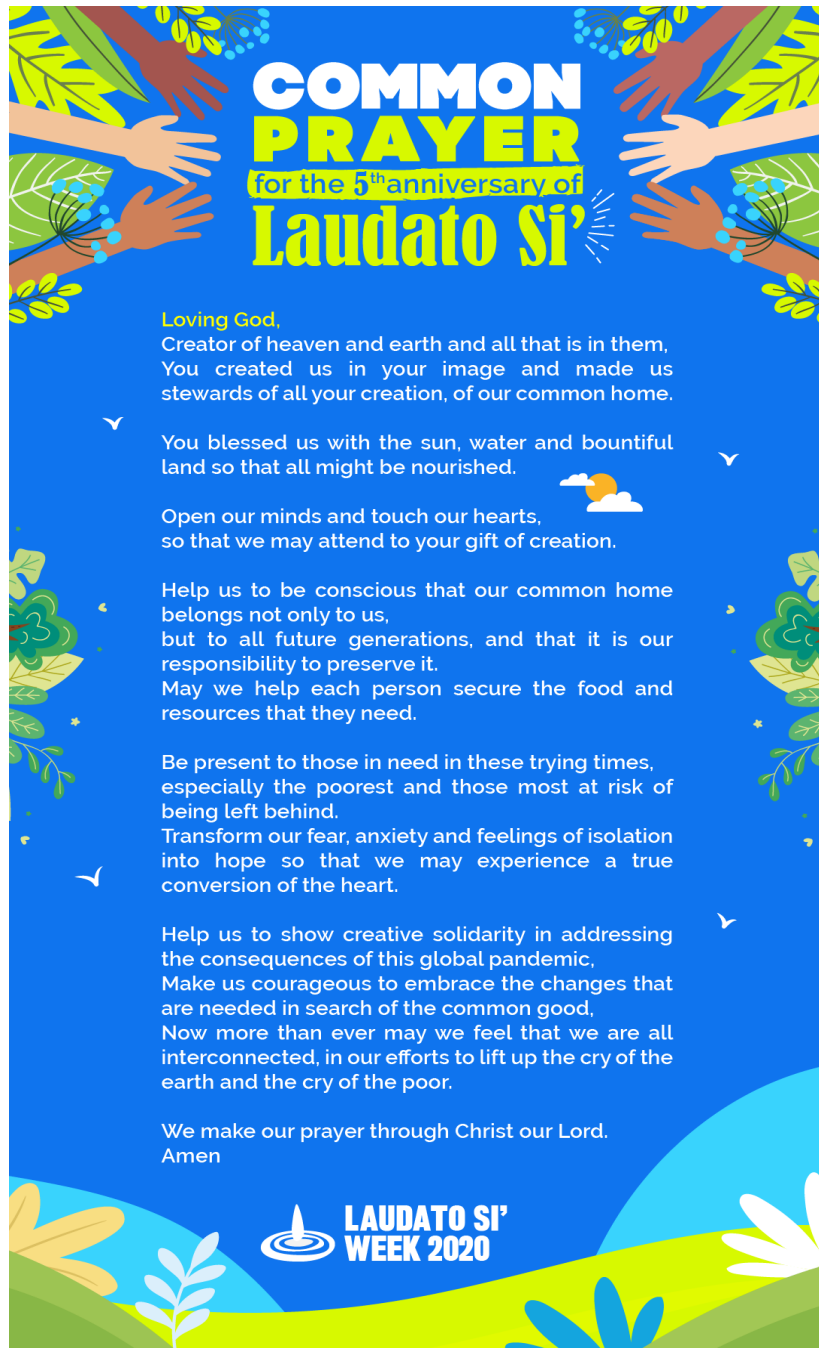
- Plant a garden. Whether it's a vegetable garden to feed your family and your neighbours, a pollinator garden to feed bees and butterflies, or a simple potted plant, tending a place in God's creation reminds us of the connections we share.

There are lots of resources on the [Laudato Si' website](#). Coming together in a time of Coronavirus is more challenging but we can still act in solidarity with our global family.

Reflect and prepare through online training 16-23 May on your own or using Zoom or Facebook meetings. A simple guide to hosting an online prayer service is [here](#).

Join the global moment of prayer at noon local time on 24 May [here](#).

Plan for the Season of Creation this September



COMMON PRAYER
for the 5th anniversary of
Laudato Si'

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your image and made us
stewards of all your creation, of our common home.

✦ You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.


✦ Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

✦ Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us,
but to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

✦ Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.
Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation into hope so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

✦ Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic,
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected, in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

 **LAUDATO SI'**
WEEK 2020

During the week, CAFOD and Caritas Plymouth (Simon and Deborah) will be posting reflections and sharing the great work going on across the Diocese. We would be happy to support any parishes with resources. Please contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk or plymouth@cafod.org.uk