

April 2022



Dear Father/Parish Rep/Caritas Ambassador,

As you all know, in 2015, Pope Francis wrote his environmental encyclical [Laudato Si'](#) in which he implores us to protect our common home. To escalate the implementation of Laudato Si', Pope Francis established the Laudato Si' Platform with its 7 Goals.

Our [Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement 2021-22, 'Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor'](#) reinforces the call to care for all creation and invites us to join them in taking action and committing to the Laudato Si goals. They also ask that we celebrate Laudato Si' Week each year which in Australia is May 16 – 24.

As this celebration approaches, we're encouraging you to take a look at our Catholic Earthcare process for parishes via the green button at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au>. Catholic Earthcare is a program of Caritas Australia. Catholic Earthcare has made it easy for parishes to take up the Bishops' invitation to journey towards these 7 goals and to becoming living Laudato Si' communities. We invite you to join the growing number of Earthcare parishes across the nation who've begun this journey. I am happy to be booked to visit, connect on line or phone, with you and your Parish team to discuss the simple steps to become an Earthcare Parish or to assist you to reflect on your next steps if you are a Catholic Earthcare parish.

Caritas Australia's Chair, Bishop Vincent Long has set the example by registering his Parramatta Diocese on the international Laudato Si' Platform and encouraging all Parramatta Parishes and Schools to register with Catholic Earthcare. Sandhurst Diocese has done similarly. I have spoken recently with Bishop Paul who also wishes to promote Catholic Earthcare during Laudato Si Week.

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of Laudato Si' Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges us to consider how we respond to the Cry of the Earth. We will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia.

You are welcome to join us by yourself, or register a parish group for the viewing. [Please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking]. The video will be streamed via zoom so you can watch together on a large screen at a suitable venue like a parish hall.

The online event will be held on Tuesday 17th May from 6pm - 8pm AEST, 4pm - 6pm AWST.
Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT>

Yours sincerely,
Jillian Hogbin
Diocesan Director
Caritas Australia
M: 0408 179 574

E: caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au W: www.caritas.org.au