



INSPIRING IDEAS from our EARTHCARE NETWORK

No. 7 August 2023

ECHUCA from Cecilia

Beautification of our Railway Station.

The Victorian branch of Keep Australia Beautiful run a Stationeers program. The local volunteers work with KABV to decide where to place planter boxes or garden beds and then KABV liaises with V line to get the plants and boxes in place and the local volunteers are then responsible for caring for what has been provided. We are in early stages- will keep you posted. Contact volunteers@kvbv.org.au or call 0476 763 327.

Repair Cafe

St Mary's Parish Care for Creation group and the Uniting Church are holding a monthly Repair Cafe in the hope we will restore items that would have ended up in landfill. We have started small with the early volunteers mending clothes, replacing zips, repairing toys and other small household treasures, sharpening garden tools and knives. We are hoping to have an electrician join our volunteers group to mend small household



items. Very good information available at www.repaircafe.org

Placed signs in our Parish grounds inviting people to come in and enjoy our gardens. Has been taken up by some waiting for buses & some local workers sit in the garden while having their lunch. Next step is to provide more seats and tables.

Building Community with our Indigenous friends.

Our Care for Creation group has been having informal conversations with a small group of local Aboriginal women - just listening to their stories and hoping to find ways to have them feel more comfortable in our Parish community. They have offered to build an indigenous garden in our Parish grounds. We watched the Documentary "The Lake of Scars" together. It told the story of Paul Haw, from nearby Boort, who has collected an extensive array of very early Aboriginal photos & artefacts from the local area. He has them on display in a specially built small museum at his Boort property. Paul is a fund of information about our First Nations people and the museum is well worth a visit. www.yungbalugmuseum.com.au

Olive Oil Pressing

In an effort to reduce the amount of olives going to waste in our Parish & Parishioners' gardens, we have worked with VCAL students to pick olives and take them to Apulia Grove Olives at Tooleen for pressing. Parishioners save their Olive Oil bottles, we fill them and their payment defrays the cost of pressing and we all celebrate our lovely local product!



Celebrating Season of Creation at the Spring Equinox Last year we held an outdoor ritual: "Celebration of Spring" with music, blessing of animals, kids planting seeds, & reflection in our Parish garden. Attendance was low but we want to try again. This year we plan to hold our event on the evening of Friday 22nd Sept and celebrate the Spring Equinox. A Parishioner teacher runs such a gathering annually with a family group and will work with us.

CATHEDRAL BALLARAT from Jillian

We are using the film, The Letter, for our Parish launch of Season of Creation and formation. We are hoping representative students from our secondary schools will also attend. We hope to get more members on to our core group to assist in the development of our action plan from the gathering.



PAKENHAM from Louis

Our St Patrick's parish recently had a viewing of "The Letter". It was well attended given it was a cold and wet night. We are looking into grants for Solar Power and looking at implementing a proper Recycling System.

STAFFORD from Louise

Actions in first 6 months of 2023

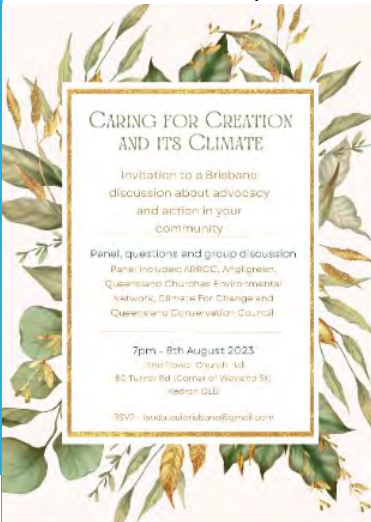
*Clean Up Australia action

*During Laudato Si Week – 1. Bring and Buy Stall, funds raised sponsored 3 Koalas through WWF 2. LS prayers and songs of praise during weekend Masses 3. Liaise with school Sustainability Club to launch the school's Adopt a Koala campaign; the children are working with Louise to create a Care for Creation hymn that will be launched in Season of Creation. 4. Care for Creation Parishioners presented at the Yr 2 assembly discussing plastic waste and the destruction of oceans. 5 Praying of the Laudato Si Chaplet followed by morning tea

*We have come to the conclusion of our research/quotes regarding a Solar Solution for the Stafford Parish. We will present our Decision Matrix and the proposals of three companies for a final decision regarding the switch to solar. Our goal is to have solar panels and graphite battery storage of energy for the entire parish system.

*During NAIDOC Week- Care for Creation Group and Social Justice/RAP Committees combined to ensure NAIDOC Week appropriately celebrated. Actions included Digital Signage at the front of the parish, use of Coolamon for the gifts and as a paten for communion, singing the Broome Diocese Lord's Prayer, NAIDOC themed prayers of the faithful, Sea of Hands on display on the parish lawn for the NAIDOC Week

*Season of Creation plans- 1. Bring and Buy stall to offset our carbon footprint for 2023 2. Promotion and participation in Laudato Si Circle Brisbane, Laudato Si Reading Group during Season of Creation 3. Hosting a 3 hour, Saturday Prayer 'n' Share Workshop focus on our LS actions and ideas plus learning how to make a simple worm farm.



*Re The Voice at Stafford Parish....each member of our Social Justice/RAP wrote a personal reflection on why a YES vote was important. These were published each week for 6 weeks.

We have published numerous links to positive information on The Voice. Our PP has 'unpacked ' The Voice referendum questions in sermons. The Uluru Statement from the Heart has been regularly published in our newsletter, website & emails. We have scheduled a discussion group using Evangelisation Brisbane resources, this will occur end of August.

*I would also like to make sure that people are aware of our Weebly which is updated each month and has many great practical resources.

<https://queenofapostlescareforcreationgroup.weebly.com/>

KEDRON from Wayne At left is our flyer for an activity facilitated by the Laudato Si Circle Brisbane - including representatives from Kedron, Stafford, and Bracken Ridge.

SHEPPARTON from Fran & Agnes

As part of our action plan, the parish will be installing a plaque in the garden to acknowledge Australia's First Nation peoples. [St Brendan's also has a beautiful new statue of St Francis of Assisi awaiting installation in the garden.]

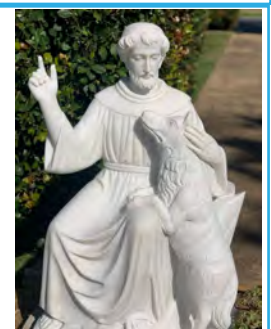
A Laudato Si' retreat was held during LS Week, and an eco-spirituality reading circle was launched at the end of the retreat.

The Earthcare Committee hosted a Zoom session on the upcoming Aboriginal Voice to Parliament, referendum featuring Professor Anne Twomey and Paul Briggs.

As a follow-up, the committee is planning a parish viewing of Fr. Frank Brennan's webinar, which was part of the Victorian Social Services three-part series on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament that will be followed by a conversation guided by the Cardijn Institute SEE JUDGE and ACT brief enquiry.

We are facilitating NATSICC kitchen table conversations and planning Season of Creation activities.

The committee has been invited to participate in the Thresholds of Transformation (TT) journey as a pilot group, along with others, to assist in reshaping the TT journey for laity, which will be titled Seekers & Searchers



FRENCHS FOREST PARISH from Anne

Laudato Si Week Film and Soup Night 2023

Friday evening 19th May at St Anthony in the Fields Church, Terrey Hills

This first of 2 parish film and soup nights showing *The Letter*, was held on a Friday evening starting at 6.30pm with nibblies for those who needed them.

About 50 people mostly from 2 of the 3 parish churches attended. It began with me doing our Acknowledgement of Country which is on a plaque in the church grounds. Kate and Annabella led the Prayer for Australia by our dear friend, Yaegel elder, Auntie (Rev) Lenore Parker. They spoke briefly (Kate as a young Mum and Annabella as a uni student) about why *The Letter* interested them and their hopes for *Laudati Si'* action in our parish.

After the film, people sat quietly and reflected, then wrote their brief responses on post-it notes to the following: What key message did you hear in the film? What change/growth in our faith are we being called to? What actions will this lead to in your home and in the parish? These were posted on a pin board under those headings and later collated.

Then everybody adjourned to our large country kitchen and yarned over some yummy soup and bread. We plan on having another session at another of the 3 churches on Friday evening 1st September to begin the Season of Creation and are really hoping to have more of the youth group join in this time. From that we hope to gather a larger more representative team to get moving on the LS Action Plan across the parish. A sample of the responses: *We are at a very significant crossroads with climate change and care for our world; We cannot NOT KNOW!; Nature is screaming out in distress – and much of it is man-made!*



SOUTH BELCONNEN from Megan

In the weeks leading up to *Laudato Si'* week, members of the LS Circle visited one of the primary schools in the parish. One visit involved a talk on biodiversity to Year 4 which was followed by planting out some native plants in the school garden. Another visit involved a presentation and discussion with Years 2 and 3 who were studying the solar system and how to care for creation. Their projects were displayed in the church foyer for a week. The teachers found the Primary School resources from CAFOD very helpful:

[Laudato Si' animation for children \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

On Friday in *Laudato si'* week the year-groups, parishioners and some parents attended Mass. An indigenous cloth was used on the altar and a message stick was placed in front of the ambo. At the Offertory Procession, two First Nations children took up grapes and grain using a coolamon and dilly bag. The children read their own prayers of the faithful and sang the *Laudato si'* song from CAFOD at the conclusion of Mass. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTmdrPMEHKE> The Mass was reported in the *Catholic Voice*.

Parish masses: Both churches were decorated with flowers, grapes and sorghum and colourful cloths. Our Parish Priest spoke of our responsibility to respond to “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” Prayers of the Faithful and appropriate hymns were selected. One of the LS Circle members spoke at each of the Masses announcing the release of the draft Parish *Laudato Si* Action Plan that had been developed. The draft plan is displayed at both churches and parishioners have been asked for their feedback.

Following Mass a guided walk was arranged at the Southern Highlands Ecosystems Park (STEP) in the National Arboretum.

An opportunity was provided at morning tea for parishioners to share their experiences of installing solar and/or of purchasing an EV with those who were considering doing so.



CATHEDRAL BENDIGO from Yvonne

Fr Brian spoke over 3 weekends in 3 churches about *Laudato Si'* and the document from the Vatican Dicastery & Swedish Science Institute 'Our Common Home'. Strong negative reaction in one church by 5 people but otherwise very well received. Our Diocese is launching the Season of Creation with the Bishop celebrating Mass in the Whipstick Forest followed by Picnic Lunch - for schools and parishes.



VICTOR HARBOR/GOOLWA from Fran

We are working at getting together a team around Earth-care. We have started with planning Seasons of Creation. A parishioner who lives in the middle town (Pt Elliot) between Victor and Goolwa has been good enough to

hold a series of meetings hoping to get the two churches working together. She arranges a shared lunch and the meeting takes place before, during and after lunch!!! I am hoping this group will persist after SOC. There is also a group of interested people who don't want to or are unable to come to meetings but we are aiming at keeping them "in the loop". I am currently writing up the plan and hope to refine it through this group after SOC. A member of the group is also on the PPC and has agreed to present our progress at their meetings.

LOWER NORTH SHORE from Tricia

We have just produced the 3rd edition of our newsletter, *'... like a mustard seed'*, which comes out every couple of months. The latest one begins ...

Dear friends,

The Laudato Si' Acton Platform Group continues to be active. As ever, there is much work to be done and the labourers are few.

We have started a weekly Monday night prayer. As advertised in the parish bulletin: Monday 7.30PM (sharp) to 8PM St Leonard's Naremburn we are reading and reflecting in silent prayer and then praying the rosary for the intention of a respectful and informed discussion on the Voice Referendum and for the unity of our nation. Please join us. This initiative comes out of our Plan's support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and is further supported by the Bishops of Australia, who recently issued a statement on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, which you can read elsewhere in this newsletter.

We continue our monthly one hour clean-ups, which give us both the opportunity to keep lots of plastic out of Middle Harbour and the occasion for some interesting conversations with passing strangers. Our next will be Saturday 5 August, starting at St Leonard's Naremburn after the 9am Mass. You can register to join here or turn up on the day.

On June 4, the Australian Catholic Bishops issued a media release to announce the launch of their LSAP We are thrilled that our parish is already well ahead on this! Below you will find an abridged version of that statement, which can be read in full here: <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishops-conference-launches-laudato-si-action-plan/#more-9550> ...



PENSHURST from Kate

Our previous Parish Priest, John Crothers, has written a song [Let's Say Yes](#)

CSSV WEBINAR SERIES has taken place but here are the recordings of each of the sessions:

- Session 1 – Professor Melissa Castan and Sherry Balcombe > *What is the Voice to Parliament all about?*: <https://youtu.be/bRdG8Mgcl64>
- Session 2 – Fr Frank Brennan SJ > *The Church, CST & engagement with First Nations Peoples* : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGU8GdOI-c4>
- Session 3 – Uncle Ron Briggs, Esmail Manahan & Cr Anne Dennis > *First Nations Voices: Panel Discussion*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG7bRfOQozc>



For those in the Sydney area: **Sydney Archdiocese Social Justice Gathering: Getting ready for the referendum 2 September 2023** hosted by the social justice group at St Brigid's Coogee . In this Gathering we will delve into the bishops' 2023-24 social justice statement, which will be officially launched on 17 August in Emerton. Register at [Getting Ready for the Referendum Tickets, Sat 02/09/2023 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite](#)

MORDIALLIC/ASPENDALE from Julie

RE THE Voice: we used the video of Thomas Mayo & Kerry O'Brien
<https://www.vwt.org.au/watch-recording-of-authors-thomas-mayo-and-kerry-obrien-on-the-voice-to-parliament-handbook/>

We chose sections of the interview and broke into groups to discuss relevant questions for each of 4 sections. We had acknowledgment of country and prayer time at beginning and end.

We also had a resource table with lots of handouts for after but first we handed everyone a card with Uluru statement on it as they came in the door. We finished with Thomas Mayo stating the Uluru statement of the Heart it is very powerful and it's on that video link.

Other news: I went to NAIDOC week celebration at our local Gathering Place and local council sustainability stall gave me information about Willum Warrain Aboriginal Bush Nursery at Hastings. We have now purchased bush tucker seedlings to add to our Community Herb Garden



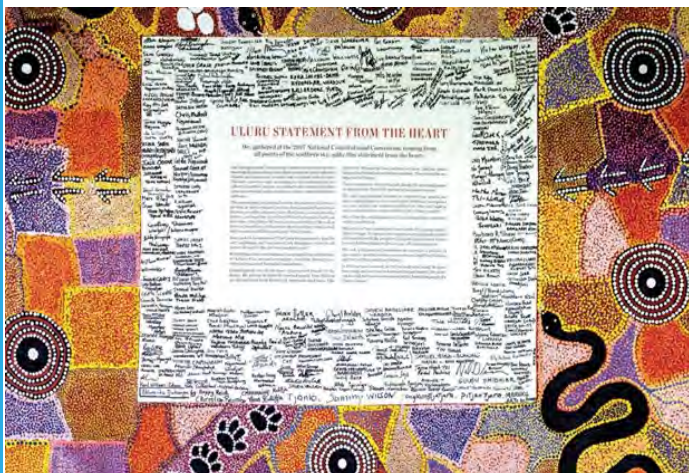
The IMAGE! This was shared with us by St Declan's Penshurst following Laudato Si' Week 2022 and copied by many parishes throughout last Season of Creation & this year's LS Week. If you would like a copy of the high resolution image suitable for such enlargement, let me know.

SAYING YES TO THE VOICE

The Bishops' Office for Justice, Ecology & Peace is promoting a range of resources <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2023/02/23/saying-yes-to-the-voice/>

Yes23 (also known as "From the Heart"): (<https://yes23.com.au/>) Yes23 have shared a list of [resources](#), including flyers, banners, postcards, and corflutes. Becoming involved in your [local yes group](#) is an excellent opportunity to learn and share experiences from other advocates and organisations. Finally, the Yes23 team also have a merchandise store available [online](#).

NATSICC You can find NATSICC's resources, including their guide for hosting Kitchen Table Conversations, at <https://indigenousvoice.church/>



Together, Yes (<https://togetheryes.com.au/>) Together, Yes is organised by the Victorian Women's Trust. Together, Yes is co-ordinating a national kitchen-table conversations campaign, and will be hosting information sessions throughout April to empower people and organisations to hold these discussions.

The Uluru Dialogue (<https://ulurustatement.org/>)

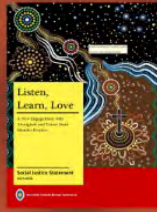
For those wishing to learn more about the Uluru

Statement, and the foundational knowledge underpinning why there are calls for a Voice to Parliament, the dialogue is a wonderful starting point.

An excellent resource for
GOAL 5: Ecological Education
is available on iview!



2023-2024 Social Justice Statement Launch



Thursday 17 August
8.45am for 9am start
Holy Family Primary Emerton

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Drinks and Refreshments to be provided
Parking available at Holy Family Parish, Mt Druitt



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS
CONFERENCE OFFICE FOR
JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

The statement will be launched at Holy Family Primary School, Emerton, in Parramatta Diocese, on Thursday 17 August, at 9:00 AM. [RSVP here](#) by 10 August.

For those who cannot attend in person, it will be **livestreamed on Facebook**.

You will soon be able to order copies of the statement & prayer card in packs of 10 on the ACBC Shop at [this link](#).

Accompanying resources will be uploaded to the OJEP website <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

SEASON OF CREATION

1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER 2023



Let Justice and Peace Flow
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5:24

Launch Invitation

Every year, from **1st September to 4th October**, Catholic Earthcare celebrates the Season of Creation.

The Season of Creation is a worldwide, ecumenical movement that celebrates God's gift of our common home. This year, the theme is '**Let Justice and Peace Flow**'. Drawing on the river imagery in described in Amos 5:24, it challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity losses and other consequences of climate injustice.

Caritas Australia is committed to ecological justice and is here to support your Catholic School, Parish, Family, Organisation or Diocese as you engage with the Laudato Si' Action Platform. We'll help you work towards the Laudato Si' goals with resources and networks tailored to your setting.

Join us at our online launch to hear about the new Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning!

Catholic Earthcare calls everyone to action.

We invite you to join us at the online launch for Season of Creation, to learn more about how you can respond.

Date: 4th September 2023

Time: 6:00pm AEST 5:30pm ACST 4:00pm AWST

Registration <https://www.trybooking.com/CJUOQ>



Online Film Night

Caritas Australia, Catholic Earthcare and Being With God In Nature invites you to an online screening of 'All that Breathes' on Thursday August 31st from 6pm AEST, 5:30pm ACST, 4pm AWST. Bookings are essential via the link <https://www.trybooking.com/CJZLJ>

SEASON OF CREATION PRAYER SERVICE

Go to <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/?>

Keyword=season+of+creation

Parish
PRAYER SERVICE

Catholic Earthcare Australia
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The Prayers of the Faithful may be a useful resource even if not using the Prayer Service as a whole.



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