

On Care for Our Common Home

– would you like to take part in a dialogue on caring for God’s creation?

In 2015, Pope Francis addressed an encyclical, *Laudato Si’* (‘Praise be to you’) – *On Care for our Common Home*, ‘to every person living on this planet’, saying that he’d like to ‘enter into dialogue with all people about our common home’.



In the face of environmental deterioration and an ecological crisis, and recognising that everything is interconnected, the encyclical encourages a wide-ranging dialogue that includes social, ethical, economic, scientific and cultural matters. Reflecting these interconnections, Pope Francis also highlights, by reference to St Francis of Assisi, ‘how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace’ (para 10).

To consider these issues, *On Care for our Common Home* adopts *integral ecology* as an approach which is interdisciplinary in nature, looking at matters which hitherto have often been approached in isolation but that require a more comprehensive, integrated perspective. Integral ecology enables the articulation of fundamental relationships of the person: with God, with other human beings and with creation.

Scientists, philosophers, economists, theologians, anthropologists and civic groups (among others) have been invited to take part in the dialogue. As is everybody, because ‘the analysis of environmental problems cannot be separated from the analysis of human, family, work related and urban contexts, nor from how individuals relate to themselves, which leads in turn to how they relate to others and to the environment’(para 141). And because change is required at personal, community, national and global levels.

Acclaimed as a prophetic challenge for the 21st century, as a game-changer and for its rigour and comprehensiveness in terms of the ethics of climate change, *On Care for Our Common Home* has been influential on the global stage.

Would you like to learn more about this important document and take part in a North Canberra dialogue about caring for our common home? Blackfriars Parish will be coordinating a series of fortnightly discussions starting on Tuesday, 10 August 2021, 7.30 – 9pm (refreshments from 7pm). Further details are on the flyer overleaf.

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What: a dialogue on caring for God's creation, based on Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'* ('Praise be to you') – On Care for Our Common Home.

Who: everyone interested in a respectful and wide-ranging discussion in a Christian context.

When: fortnightly, 7.30 – 9pm, starting 10 August 2021 and ending 16 November 2021. Refreshments available from 7pm.



Where: Parish Centre at Holy Rosary Church or Australian Catholic University, (depending on numbers – TBC); Antill St, Watson. COVID conditions apply.

Cost: no charge but donations to help meet cost of refreshments welcome.

Papal encyclical: *Laudato Si'* is available at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html.

Hard copies can also be purchased (check the Canberra Catholic Bookshop, 55 Franklin St, Forrest; ph 6239 9888).

Registration: Booking through TryBooking (either all 8 sessions or session-by-session) is preferred:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BSSOB>. If this is not possible, please contact Blackfriars Parish Office at watson@cg.org.au or on 6248 5925.

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