# Invitation to contribute to our Parish’s

# Reflection on the *Laudato Si’* Goals

The St Matthew’s and St Vincent’s Parish Pastoral Council has decided to enrol the Parish in the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform (LSAP). Our Parish is already caring for creation in many ways—through our beautiful gardens, our work with the poor in our community, and the use of solar power on our Parish buildings. By enrolling in the LSAP, we will embark on a journey to deepen our connection with each other, our Creator, and all creation. It will enable us to respond more fully to the ecological crisis we face as a human community. No action, prayer or change is too small.

The first step is to prepare a reflection on how our values and work as a parish connect with the goals of *Laudato Si’.* To help the Parish Pastoral Council prepare this reflection, we are inviting all the groups, families, and members of the parish to share one or two ideas on how our values and work connect with the goals of *Laudato Si’.* (The goals are set out on the next page)

This invitation is open to every person and group that participates in the life of the parish in some way. You don’t need to be an expert on *Laudato Si*’ or to have read the encyclical. The *Laudato Si’* goals invite us to deepen our understanding of ideas that are ancient to our faith—Genesis shows human life grounded in three relationships: with God, with our neighbour, and with the earth itself. Please reflect on the *Laudato Si’* Goals over the page and make a short response to one or both these questions:

How do we/I care for our common home?

How do the values and work of my Parish group connect with the *Laudato Si’* Goals?



You may respond as a group, a school, a family or as an individual. You may write something by hand, send an email, draw something, or make a short video. Please email your contributions to the parish office by 15 June, 2022 using this email address: [belconnensouth@cg.org.au](mailto:belconnensouth@cg.org.au). Alternatively, you can hand your response to the parish office.

## The Seven *Laudato Si’* Action Platform Goals.

Please reflect on these goals and make a short response to one or both of these questions:

* How do I/we care for our common home?
* How do the values and work of my parish group connect with these goals?

An email or hand-written note with a couple of sentences is sufficient to bring your voice to our response. You do not need to respond to all of the goals or fill in this form.

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| ***Laudato Si’* Goals** | **Explanation**  **(taken from the LS Action Platform)** | **How do our/my values and work connect with this goal?** |
| **Response to the Cry of the Earth** | A call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. |  |
| **Response to the Cry of the Poor** | A call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and to defend all forms of life on earth. |  |
| **Ecological Economics** | Acknowledges the economy as a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. |  |
| **Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles** | Grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. |  |
| **Ecological Education** | About re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reforming the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. |  |
| **Ecological Spirituality** | A spiritual life associated with worldly realities. Profound ecological conversion to ‘discover God in all things’—in the beauty of creation, the sighs of the sick and the afflicted. |  |
| **Community Resilience & Empowerment** | Envisages a synodal journey of community engagement and participation at many levels. |  |

## The *Laudato Si’ Action Platform*

Many parishioners will have read or heard about Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’*: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html>. In June 2021, Pope Francis invited all Catholic individuals, families, schools, religious orders, dioceses and parishes to become involved in taking practical steps to care for our Sister, Mother Earth. To support us on this journey, he has established the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform. Its purpose is to enable a ground-up approach to action to protect our common home. Information about the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform can be found here: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/about/>

The Pope has issued the invitation to take up action planning by way of a video on the website at <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Social Justice Statement 2021-22, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, made a commitment to embarking on the seven-year journey towards the *Laudato* Si’ Goals. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Social-Justice-Statement-2021-22.pdf>

## Next Steps

The Parish Pastoral Council is being assisted in its work on the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform by the Parish’s *Laudato Si’* Circle. The Circle is a group of parishioners committed to working with people of goodwill in our community to realise the goals and vision of Laudato Si’ and make practical changes that will make a difference to the wellbeing of our common home.

The *Laudato Si’* Circle will combine your responses into a document that we will share with the Parish Pastoral Council as a draft Parish Reflection. The Reflection will also be provided back to the parish for further comments before being finalized. The Reflection will go onto the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform website where it will be shared along with the Reflections of parishes, schools, and religious orders from around the world on the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform website.

Once the parish has become enrolled in the *Laudato Si’* Action Platform, we will move on to develop a *Laudato Si’* Plan for the year ahead. The *Laudato Si’* Action Platform is designed to run for seven years. Organisations enrolled in the Action Platform are expected to develop and evaluate their plan each year. They are also asked to share their plans and evaluations with others from around the world.

If you wish to discuss this, please contact one of the following:

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Brendan Gibson PPC co-Chair, *Laudato Si’* Circle (brendangibson@iinet.net.au)

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