**Laudato Si’: Parish PowerPoint Notes**

**Slide 1 – Laudato Si’**

Title Slide

**Slide 2 - Laudato Si’ - an Encyclical**

Laudato Si’, an encyclical from Pope Francis, was released in June 2015.

An *encyclical* or *teaching document*, is a letter that the Pope circulates to the Church. Laudato Si’ is a *social* encyclical – a Catholic Social Teaching letter.

A “social encyclical” applies the consistent, traditional moral teachings of the Church to the social and economic challenges of the current day.

**Slide 3 - Laudato Si’, mi Signore**

The Encyclical takes its name from the invocation of St. Francis, “Praise be to you, my Lord”, in his Canticle of the Creatures. It reminds us that the earth, our common home “is like a sister with whom we share our life, and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”. We have forgotten that “we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters”. (Laudato Si’ 2)

**Slide 4 – Laudato Si’ – to Everybody**

The Encyclical is addressed to everyone on the planet (not just Catholics) as we all share this common home, and in doing so we affect each other, and all life on the earth, in one way or another.

It is no accident that the subtitle for Pope Francis’s recent encyclical, “On Care for Our Common Home,” refers to the earth with an image that suggests family life. The main idea of the phrase is to remind us that all people on earth make up a single human family. It warns of the dangerous changes the earth’s climate and ecosystems are undergoing.

**Slide 5 – Laudato Si’ – Ecology**

Several main themes run through the text that are addressed from a variety of different perspectives, traversing and unifying the text: the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the conviction that everything in the world is connected, the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology, the call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress, the value proper to each creature, the human meaning of ecology, the need for forthright and honest debate, the serious responsibility of international and local policies, the throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle.

**Slide 6 – The Gospel of Creation**

In the ‘stewardship model’ of the Creation story, Gen 2:15, humans have a duty ‘to till and keep the earth’. Humans came from ‘the breath of God’, from dust, made up of the same elements of every other living and inanimate thing in the universe. We are all from the same beginnings. The world is not for our dominion, but for us to take care of. We too are creatures from the Creator. Each community has the duty to protect the earth and ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (LS67)

**Slide 7 – The Stewardship Model**

Pope Francis emphasises the importance of all living creatures on earth, all creatures – humans, animals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, we are all family members and are inter-connected.

**Slide 8 – The Earth belongs to God and is on loan to us**

The Pope also refers to inanimate objects: air, water, land, mountains and seas, ‘brother sun, sister moon’, all are important for the balance of living on earth. We all belong to God, the Creator. The task is for everyone to work together for the same goal of caring for the earth and all its living creatures, but especially the poor.

**Slide 9 – World’s Worst killer?**

Spend a brief moment thinking about what preventable cause is responsible for the most deaths in the world today. Slide 14 repeats the wording and reveals the answer, which will become obvious from slides 10-13.

**Slide 10 – What is Happening to our Common Home?**

Chapter One (LS17-61) entitled ‘What is Happening to Our Common Home’ discusses the very worrying situation of climate change and the misuse of resources of the planet today. The main headings are:

1. Pollution and Climate change (LS20-26);

2. The Issue of Water (LS27-31);

3. Loss of Biodiversity (LS32-42);

4. The Decline in the Quality of Human Life and the Breakdown of Society (LS43-47);

5. Global Inequality (LS48-52);

6. Weak Responses (LS53-59)

7. A Variety of Opinions (LS60-61).

**Slide 11 – Pollution – Noxious gases**

The biggest problem in many countries in the world today is pollution.

**Slide 12 - Pollution – ‘The Planet’s Dirty Killer’ – (Headline)**

NZ Herald – 21/10/17 – ‘The planet’s dirty killer’ article – filthy air, contaminated water – is killing more people every year than all the war and violence in the world. More than smoking, hunger or natural disasters. More than Aids, TB and malaria combined.

**Slide 13 – The Planet’s Dirty Killer (NZ Herald)**

The NZ Herald article quotes medical sources and the medical journal, ‘The Lancet’ explaining just how bad the situation is. LS23 states clearly – ‘The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. . . . a disturbing warming of the climatic system. . . . Humanity is called to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat the warming or at least the human causes which produce and aggravate it.’

**Slide 14 – World’s Worst Killer? -** returns to the discussion question from Slide 9

**Slide 15 – Fossil Fuels**

For your information - Fossil fuels were formed over millions of years, from the remains of dead organisms. Coal was formed from dead plant material and crude oil and gas were formed from dead marine organisms. When fossil fuels are burned and used, the emissions from them often cause harm to the environment. They produce greenhouse gases, which may cause harm to the ozone layer.

Developing countries: have yet to set up air pollution monitoring systems; policies on developing the economy take priority over health; control regulations are weaker; technology is outdated; dirty fossil fuel is used.  Also, increased levels of certain gases and pollutants, such as carbon dioxide and CFC’s, causes what is commonly known as the ‘greenhouse effect’.

**Slide 16 – Pollution - Climate**

The climate is a common good belonging to all and meant for all (LS23)

**Slide 17 – Effects of Pollution**

For your information - Concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have increased since the beginning of the industrial era. Almost all of this increase is attributable to human activities. Historical measurements show that the current global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide are unprecedented compared with the past 800,000 years, even after accounting for natural fluctuations. A stronger greenhouse effect will warm the oceans and partially melt glaciers and other ice, increasing sea level. Ocean water also will expand if it warms, contributing further to sea level rise.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of 1,300 independent scientific experts from countries all over the world under the auspices of the United Nations, concluded there's a more than 95 percent probability that human activities over the past 50 years have warmed our planet.

The industrial activities that our modern civilization depends upon have raised atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million in the last 150 years. The panel also concluded there's a better than 95 percent probability that human-produced greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have caused much of the observed increase in Earth's temperatures over the past 50 years.

**Slide 18 – Greenhouse Gases**

Greenhouse gases and the effect on the planet. Global warming and rising sea levels are affecting many island and coastal areas. Global warming, for example, has created a problem for Abaiang and Kiribati, among other island groups. Houses in Tebunginako village have been abandoned.  As storm surges became more frequent and spring tides more forceful, eventually the erosion was so great that the village had to be abandoned. The remains of about 100 thatched homes and a maneaba (community meeting hall) are now up to 30 metres (98 feet) offshore. The villagers relocated themselves further inland, with the new village retaining the same name. Climate change has forced a change, as milkfish are not as common and plant life is dying off because of the increased salt in the water table.

**Slide 19 – Pollution – Poverty**

LS25 discusses the implications of climate change, how it affects all creatures including animals and plants, but most importantly the poor, who have no resources to move away and live somewhere else, or to combat the environmental degradation. Many become refugees, striving to exist in deprived conditions with no legal protection whatsoever.

**Slide 20 – What can we do?**

Some suggestions. Ask the participants for their ideas.

Slide 21- Banksy’s art work.

**Slide 22 – Pollution - Rubbish**

Pollution of the earth with hundreds of millions of tons of rubbish generated every year.

**Slide 23 - Our Common home**

Quotes from Laudato Si’ - Not only is the air polluted, but ‘Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive from homes businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources.’ (LS21)

Pope Francis refers to the ‘throwaway culture’ and then states that, ‘The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.’ (LS21)

**Slide 24 – Reduce Pollution – the 5 ‘Rs’**

**Slide 25 – The Issue of Water**

LS Section 2 - The issue of water and ‘how millions of people have no access to fresh water, which is basic and a universal human right, since it is essential to human survival’. (LS30)

This affects general daily living and health, with water borne diseases causing many deaths in developing countries.

**Slide 26 – Water – a basic human right**

The task of obtaining water daily affects the lives of the poor in developing countries, where many children, mainly girls, cannot attend school because they have to bring water from long distances. They need money to dig wells to make fresh drinking water more easily available.

**Slide 27 – NZ Water Pollution**

Discuss the effects of pollution and over-fishing of the marine life. The state of the rivers in New Zealand is a topical point at the moment with many rivers (and beaches) polluted and unsuitable for swimming.

General Information -

### Domestic - [Urban runoff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_runoff) is polluted with detergents, waste oil, litter and faecal matter. Some storm water drains have a fish logo pained on the curb to highlight storm water pollution.

### Industry - Industrial processing frequently involves the discharge of process waste-water to waterways. For example, Fonterra has been discharging wastewater containing milk condensate into the [Tui River](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tui_River&action=edit&redlink=1). The [Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tasman_Mill), now owned by [Norske Skog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norske_Skog), has been discharging waste into the [Tarawera River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarawera_River%22%20%5Co%20%22Tarawera%20River) since 1955.

### Recreation - High numbers of visitors to parks and other areas where there are no toilets are increasing the chance of pollution from [human waste](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_waste). [Freedom camping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_camping), a popular activity in some areas, is suspected of causing water pollution due to the incorrect disposal of human waste.

### Urban areas - The most significant source of water pollution in urban areas is due to [sewerage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanitary_sewer). Broken sewers and faulty connections allow sewerage to enter storm water systems. Also, during flooding sewerage pumping stations are inundated with the floodwaters and sewerage is released.

Water run-off from roads contains pollutants such as zinc, copper, lead and hydrocarbons from vehicle wear, vehicle emissions and from the road surface itself. Sediment run-off from exposed soils in new subdivisions does occur and if it occurs due to breaches of the [resource consent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resource_consent) prosecution may result. To limit sediment run-off during earthworks straw bales and storm water settling ponds are used. These are completely inadequate in high rainfall events where the interceptors are overwhelmed and silt laden waters flow into streams and rivers.

**Slides 28 and 29 – Pollution of the seas and oceans**

Toxic metals can destroy the biochemistry, behaviour, reproduction, and growth in marine life. Plastic debris can absorb [toxic chemicals](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/top-10-worst-toxic-pollution-problems.php) from ocean pollution, therefore poisoning whatever eats it. [Plastic pollution](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/causes-effects-solutions-of-plastic-pollution.php) is one of the most serious threats to the ocean. Plastic does not degrade; instead, it breaks down into progressively smaller pieces, but never disappears. They then attract more debris. It poses a significant health threat to the various sea creatures, and to the entire marine [ecosystem](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/what-is-an-ecosystem.php). Overall, plastic is the number one [source of pollution](https://www.conserve-energy-future.com/PollutionTypes.php) in the ocean.

**Slide 30 – Ocean Life**

The Pollution of the oceans is now at a critical stage. We don’t know all the types of marine life in the depths of the oceans, therefore it becomes more difficult as time goes by to know just how much damage pollution is doing and how much it is affecting plants and fish.

**Slide 31 – Pollution of the Oceans**

The fish eat the plastic particles in the ocean and everything else that eats the fish, bigger fish, birds and humans will be contaminated with plastic.

**Slide 32 – Sea Pollution – how bad is it?**

Research estimates anywhere from [15 to 51 trillion particles of floating micro plastic](https://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/marinedebris.html) are in our oceans, weighing between 205-520 million pounds. This includes plastic microbeads (used as exfoliates in some personal care products) and synthetic fibres, both of which are too small to be filtered out by many waste water treatment plants. At this rate, we would expect nearly one ton of plastic for every three tons of fish in our oceans by 2025 — an unthinkable number with drastic economic and environmental consequences,” Nicholas Mallos, director of Ocean Conservancy’s marine debris program.

In a [recent report](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/marine-debris/stop-plastic-trash-2015.html), Ocean Conservancy claims that China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam are pouring out as much as 60 percent of the plastic waste that enters the world’s seas. In countries where the law is flimsy, garbage truck drivers will often save time and fuel by simply dumping trash by the roadside. These illegal dump sites are having devastating consequences for the seas.

**Slide 33 – Pollution of Water – what can we do?**

What can we do?

1. Choose to reuse when it comes to shopping bags and bottled water. Cloth bags and metal or glass reusable bottles are available locally at great prices.
2. Be careful about what you throw down your sink or toilet. Don’t throw paints, oils or other forms of litter down the drain.
3. Use environmentally friendly household products, such as washing powder, household cleaning agents and toiletries.
4. Take great care not to overuse pesticides and fertilisers. This will prevent runoffs of the material into nearby water sources.
5. Don't waste water - take shorter showers, make sure taps aren’t left running.
6. Refuse single-serving packaging, excess packaging, straws and other "disposable" plastics. Carry reusable utensils in your purse, backpack or car to use at BBQs, potlucks or take-out restaurants.
7. Reduce everyday plastics such as sandwich bags and juice cartons by replacing them with a reusable lunch bag/box that includes a thermos.
8. Bring your to-go mug with you to the coffee shop, smoothie shop or restaurants that let you use them, which is a great way to reduce lids, plastic cups and/or plastic-lined cups.
9. Go digital! No need for plastic CDs, DVDs and jewel cases when you can buy your music and videos online.

 10. Seek out alternatives to the plastic items that you rely on.

 11. Recycle. If you must use plastic, try to choose #1 (PETE) or #2 (HDPE), which are the

 most commonly recycled plastics. Avoid plastic bags and polystyrene foam as both

 typically have very low recycling rates.

 12. Volunteer at a beach clean-up.  Support plastic bag bans, polystyrene foam bans and

 bottle recycling bills.

Spread the word. Talk to your family and friends about why it is important to reduce plastic in our lives and the nasty impacts of plastic pollution. People can’t change what they don’t know about, so help spread the word

**Slide 34 – The Loss of Biodiversity**

Humans are now responsible for causing changes in the environment that hurt animals and plant species. We take up more space on Earth for our homes and cities. We pollute habitats. We illegally hunt and kill animals. We bring exotic species into habitats. All of these activities take resources and habitats away from plants and animals.
Human activity often changes or destroys the habitats that plants and animals need to survive. Because human populations are growing so fast animals and plants are disappearing 1000 times faster than they have in the past 65 million years. Scientists estimate that in the 21st century 100 species will become extinct every day.

The current [rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rate_%28mathematics%29) of *global* diversity loss is estimated to be a 1000 times higher than the (naturally occurring) [background extinction rate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Background_extinction_rate) and expected to still grow in the upcoming years. Even though permanent [global](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_biodiversity) [species loss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species_loss) is a more dramatic phenomenon than regional changes in [species composition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Species_composition), even minor changes from a healthy stable state can have dramatic influence on the [food web](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_web) and the [food chain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_chain) insofar as reductions in only one species can adversely affect the entire chain ([co-extinction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coextinction)), leading to an overall reduction in [biodiversity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity), possible [alternative stable states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternative_stable_states) of an ecosystem notwithstanding. [Ecological effects of biodiversity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_effects_of_biodiversity) are usually counteracted by its loss. Reduced biodiversity in particular leads to reduced [ecosystem services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystem_services) and eventually poses an immediate danger for [food security](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_security), also for humankind.

**Slide 35 – The Throwaway Culture**

Many commentators have noted that the subject at the heart of Laudato Si’ is not so much climate change as the more fundamental problem of consumerism. Climate change, the Pope seems to tell us, is one perilous consequence of a “culture of consumerism” that dominates our society.

What is consumerism? What does it mean to Catholics today, and how can we navigate the moral challenges it presents? Though Pope Francis says much about consumerism, he offers no definition. “Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products,” he writes, “people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending.” Consumerism “prioritizes short-term gain and private interest” (LS184) and makes people “believe that they are free as long as they have the supposed freedom to consume” (LS203).

**Slide 36 – The ‘Me’ Culture**

Human kinship has to be taken seriously. When we put our own needs first then we care less and less about what is happening to our brothers and sisters. We are to take care of the elderly, the unborn, the special needs, the poor. We cannot put our needs and wants first and stand by while others are in desperate need.

**Slide 37 – Decline in the Quality of Human Life**

Blood diamonds really do cost an ‘arm and a leg’. What do we know about these crimes against our brothers and sisters? We must be willing to protest against injustice and corruption.

**Slide 38 - Principle of the Common Good (LS156)**

The Common Good – statements from Laudato Si’ which are very relevant to NZ today – attainable housing, transport, equity and fairness, personal dignity and family wellbeing.

Consideration of what we are leaving for future generations. A central and unifying principle of social ethics - those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment. (LS156)

"Believers themselves must constantly be challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions." (LS200)

“All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education.” (LS214)

Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instil a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land.” (LS179)

**Slide 39 – Things must change (LS202-227)**

(LS206) Pope Francis is calling for a change of lifestyle and attitude. We should boycott certain products to affect the manufacturers; force businesses to consider their environmental footprint and patterns of production, and for consumers to show a sense of responsibility. ‘Purchasing should always be a moral- and not simply economic act’. (LS206)

We are to be thankful and attentive to what we have and conscious of what others are in need of to live a meaningful life without poverty, hunger, and desperation.

**Slide 40 – A New Solidarity**

“Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds. ... The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.” (LS219)

We need to come together and work together to put an end to poverty, hunger, homelessness, exploitation and selfish use of resources. We are all called to do something.

Believers themselves must constantly be challenged to live in a way consonant with their faith and not to contradict it by their actions." (LS200)

“All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education.” (LS214)

Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instil a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land.” (LS179)

The strength is in the ‘pack’ – global consensus.

**Slide 41 – All it takes**

Statements from LS – practise St. Thérèse’s ‘Little Way’ and do small kind things every day to change people’s lives.

**Slide 42 – All it takes**

The strength is in the pack - Global consensus – what are we handing on to the next generation?

**Slide 43 – All it takes is for one good person to restore hope. Be that one good person.**

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