



**LAUDATO SI'
WEEK 2024**

**Seeds
of Hope**

*Primary school resources to celebrate
Laudato Si' Week 2024*

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About Laudato Si' Week

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on caring for creation. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life, and intensify our efforts through the Laudato Si' Action Platform as well as other opportunities for education and action.

In Laudato Si' Week 2024, let us gather in community to contemplate the wonder of creation and nurture seeds of hope for our "suffering planet" (LD 2).

Laudate Deum is a reminder about the urgency of the *Laudato Si'* message and the need for both personal and cultural transformation amidst our ecological and climate crises.

This year's Laudato Si' Week theme is inspired by the symbol for Season of Creation 2024, "firstfruits."

Let us be seeds of hope in our lives and our world, rooted in faith and love.

Learn more at LaudatoSiWeek.org.



Caritas Australia gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program.



Primary School Timetable Y4–6

PLEASE NOTE:

All times listed are **AEST**.

Please adjust for your time zone.

Live Q&As for students

What are Caritas Q&As?

During Laudato Si' Week, our Catholic Earthcare Program is offering the chance to hear from our staff, providing students with the opportunity to learn more about our work in climate justice and to ask questions...live!

These 30-minute sessions are hosted by Caritas Australia on Zoom.

Who can attend a Q&A?

These sessions are open to students in **years 4 to 6**.

How do I register?

Click [REGISTER](#) and select the day and time that suits you.

Monday 20 May	Tuesday 21 May	Wednesday 22 May	Thursday 23 May
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 am• 12:30 pm• 2:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 am• 12:15 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 am• 11:30 am• 2:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 am• 1:30 pm



PRAYER

God of all creation,
Thank you for the gift of our lives
and for the world in which we live.
We thank you for the warmth of the sun in winter,
and a cool breeze in summer.
We thank you for the great diversity of life,
which fills us with wonder and reminds us that we too are creatures.
We pray that we will grow in respect for all life,
and for the Earth itself.
That we will use your gifts with gentleness and wisdom,
not with greed and selfishness.
We pray that our minds and hearts will lead us to an active hope,
as we respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor in our time.
May our hope transform humanity,
to take bold action to protect our world.
At this time of Pentecost
may we call on the Holy Spirit to kindle in us the fire of God's love
and renew the face of the Earth.
May we all be part of that renewal.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.



CHIQUITO'S STORY

Timor-Leste

Watch Chiquito's story

Or

Read Chiquito's story
on the next page.



Chiquito's Story

Seeds of Hope:
Responding to '*the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor*'



Chiquito is 35 years old and lives in Timor-Leste with his wife, two young children and his extended family. When his father died, he had the additional responsibility of looking after his mother, two sisters and their children and making sure there is enough food to feed the whole family.

“Our lives were simple, however we faced challenges when we did not have enough funds to respond to urgent needs, such as urgent medical bills or whenever there were traditional ceremonies,” Chiquito said.

Timor-Leste is one of Australia’s closest geographical neighbours, located just an hour’s flight from Darwin. However, the standard of living between the two countries could not be more different with nearly half of the population (42%) in Timor-Leste live in poverty.¹

In Timor-Leste, the impacts of climate change such as unpredictable rainfall, drought and high temperatures have made it much harder for families like Chiquito’s to grow enough food to eat.

Chiquito explains, “We consume what we grew from our vegetable gardens. We had very limited cash, so buying food was not an option for us. This year the impact of climate change is felt more compared to previous years. The previous year had its challenges, however we were able to get good results. The changing rain patterns make it difficult to decide when to plant our crops, if we make the wrong decision to plant and the rains do not come, we lose the whole crop for the year.”

¹ Source: [The World Bank](#)

Chiquito's Story

Seeds of Hope:
Responding to 'the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor'



Chiquito heard about a program run by one of Caritas Australia's partners in Timor-Leste, Caritas Diocesana Maliana. The 'Sustainable Livelihoods/Disaster Risk Reduction' program aims to reduce the impact of climate change on communities.

The challenge for farmers like Chiquito is the lack of opportunity and support to learn new techniques to increase the amount of food they can grow and to be able to access markets to sell extra food they don't eat.

Through the program, Chiquito learnt new skills that helped make the most of the land he had to grow a wide variety of crops. He also learnt business skills which helped him increase the amount of money he could earn by selling his vegetables to supermarkets in Timor-Leste's capital city, Dili.

Chiquito is now growing more vegetables to eat and sell which means his family has enough income to meet their needs. They no longer have to worry about not having enough cash to buy food or pay for basic medical expenses.

Chiquito's determination has made him a role model for other people in his community. He is using the money he earned from selling his vegetables to invest back into the farm and also provide employment to two other people to work with him. He also volunteers to help at the farm of the orphanage just across the road, sharing his skills and knowledge with the nuns.

The new skills Chiquito has learnt through the program have provided seeds of hope for the future.

Along with your generous support, this program is also supported by the Australian Government, through Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Photos: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

Chiquito's Story | Reflection (See – Judge – Act)



Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

Reflect on Chiquito's story following the Cardijn See–Judge–Act rhythm.

See

- How is the changing climate making it hard for Chiquito and his family to have enough food to eat?
- How is Caritas Australia helping?

Judge

- How do you think God wants us to care for each other and the environment?
- Which Catholic Social Teaching principles are evident in Chiquito's story?
(Human Dignity, Preferential Option for the Poor, Solidarity, Participation, The Common Good, Care for Our Common Home)

Act

- What can you do to care for our common home?
- What can you do to support communities like Chiquito's?
- How can you and your community work towards the Laudato Si' Goals?



RESPOND TO THE
CRY OF THE EARTH



RESPOND TO THE
CRY OF THE POOR



ECOLOGICAL
ECONOMICS



ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE
LIFESTYLES



ECOLOGICAL
EDUCATION



ECOLOGICAL
SPIRITUALITY



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE
AND EMPOWERMENT

LAUDATO SI' WEEK ACTIVITIES

About TOGETHER WE

Together We is Caritas Internationalis' global campaign. It is not only a call to action, but also a call to inner conversion and social change. It is a call to restore the broken relationships we have with ourselves, each other, and the natural world around us. It is a campaign to remind us that no one is an island, that we are all dependent on each other and the delicate eco-system of God's creation which sustains all life.

Planting seeds at your school

We encourage schools to both advocate for change and be the change by planting seeds in gardens or to rejuvenate local green spaces.



Activity 1 – TOGETHER WE: Tree of Life



Activity 2. Planting seeds of hope



Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

Activity 1

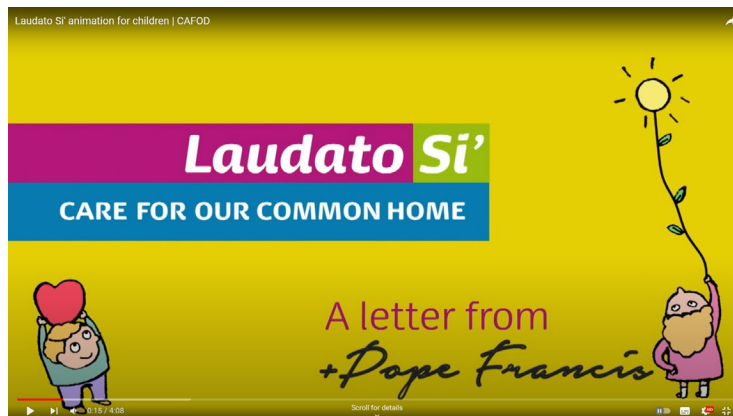
TOGETHER WE: Tree of Life

In the spirit of a culture of encounter, we invite communities from around the world to take action with our Tree of Life campaign. Simply write a message to your Member of Parliament (MP) on how we can care for our common home together with them, in the language and spirit of cooperation.

Step 1. Watch the Together We Belong animation



Alternatively, you might choose to watch this animation on *Laudato Si'* for primary students.

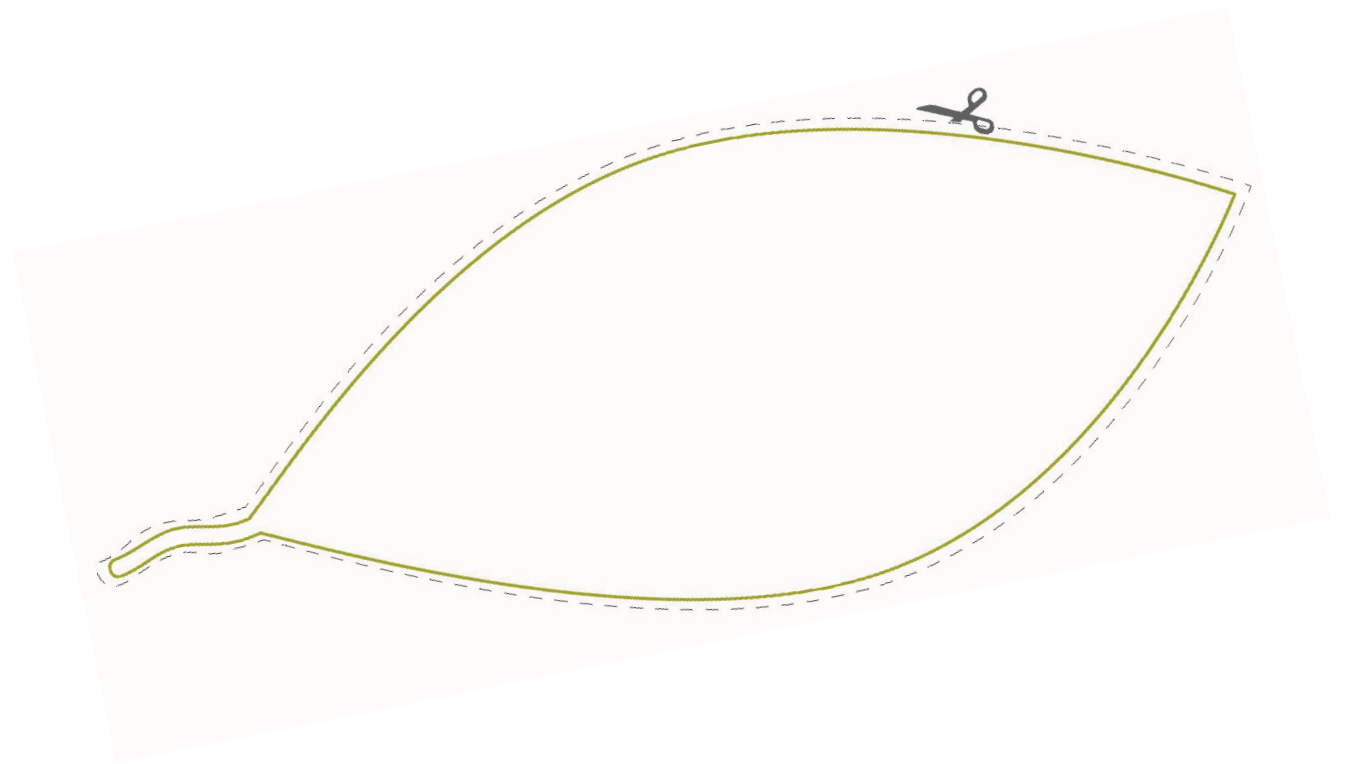


Activity 1

Step 2.

Write a message to your Member of Parliament (MP) on how we can care for our common home together. Use the leaf template provided in the [Together We Campaign Pack](#)

- Consider what you would like to be the focus of your message to your MP. Is there a local issue or a global issue that needs our help?
- Rather than thinking about 'I', think about 'We'. Think about the community you belong to, and how your voice is representing a real community need.
- Explain the problem you are asking them to address, and how together we can work to bring about positive change.

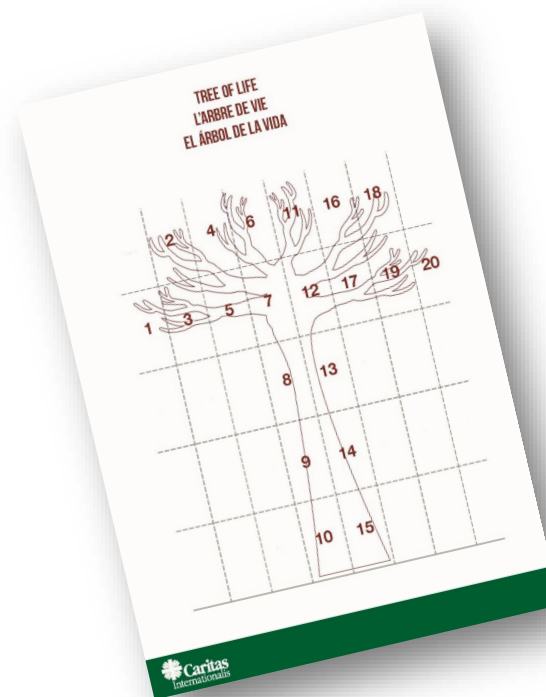


Activity 1

Step 3. Create your Tree of Life display and share it on social media

- Construct a tree (trunk and branches). You can use large branches that have fallen to the ground or create a paper tree with the **Tree of Life template** provided in the [Together We Campaign Pack](#).
- Stick the leaves (letters) to the tree and leave them there for others to read.
- When your display is complete, please take a photo and share your tree on social media using #TogetherWeBelong, and don't forget to tag **Caritas Australia, your local MP, @catholicearthcareaustralia** and **@iamcaritas**

Step 4. Invite your MP to your school or arrange to visit your MP to share your ideas



Activity 2

Planting seeds of hope

Step 1. Determine where you can plant seeds (or seedlings)

Some ideas:

- Rejuvenate an old garden bed or build a new one.
- Start a community herb garden.
- Create an indigenous garden and prayer space.
- Restore an unused green space.
- Restore sand dunes or riverbeds.
- Provide seeds for students to take home to their own gardens.
- Consider if you are planting for food or pollination.

Step 2. Harvest seeds from other plants or purchase new seeds (or seedlings)

Some ideas:

- Consider where you could collect seeds instead of buying seeds.
- Consider the time of year and your climate in addition to where you are planting when choosing your seeds.
- Are there native/indigenous (local to your areas) plant species you could plant?
- Are there any local programs that can assist you to purchase seeds or could you ask your school community for donations?
- If planting for pollination, use the B&B Highway guides for your climate: [hot/arid](#), [warm/humid](#), [cool](#) or [temperate](#).

Activity 2

Step 3. Plant seeds of hope!

Tips:

- Ensure the soil is good quality or boost the soil quality first.
- Ensure you have all the equipment and seeds ready to go.
- Enjoy!

Step 4. Care for your seeds.

Tips:

- Learn how to care for the seeds and plants once established.
- Have a roster to help water the plants.
- Share with others, the beauty (or produce) your plants provide.



Additional Resources

Join our Catholic Earthcare Community!

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference invites you to develop a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan and upload it to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare Team are here to support you!

Join the Catholic Earthcare community now as a parish, school, organisation or household and together we can learn how to better care for all creation.

When you join our Catholic Earthcare Community you will receive your free *Australian Guide to Laudato Si' Action Planning* as well as other supporting resources for your sector.

Join Catholic Earthcare



The Laudato Si' Goals – PPT

Caring for Creation - PPT

Laudato Si' Nature-based Activities

LAUDATO SI'
Nature-based activities for students and families to enjoy.

This collection of nature-based activities for the whole family seeks to encourage a shared sense of awe and contemplation about nature, leading to a renewed sense of commitment and action towards the protection of the planet and its people. It is our hope that these activities are a gentle way in which students and families can take some time to connect with nature and each other.

Australian Curriculum links Geography Science MATS Religious Education The Arts	Cross-Curricular Themes Ecological and Forest Street Islander Indigenous and Culture Sustainability	General Capabilities Numeracy Critical and Creative Thinking Ethical Understanding Intercultural Understanding
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Photo credits to right: Thea/Lee/Photo by Rohan Haveright; Photo by David Fitzhugh; Sam/Photo by David Fitzhugh; Photo by David Fitzhugh.

www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare

Set of 7 Laudato Si' Goals Reflection Cards – For staff reflection

REFLECTION 1
RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Are we responding in a way that is listening to the cry of the earth? Are we considering how our choices will impact the earth and its precious resources?

Everything is related and we humans depend on each other and nature. We are a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love of God for each of his creatures and which also carries within itself the seeds of our mutual responsibility. We are called to protect and care for our common home.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #12

Creator God, You fill the earth with life. Lead us to love and harmony with the earth you have created. May we respect as life from the smallest of plants to the tallest of trees, the treasures of the waters and the tiniest insects to the wisest beasts. We ask this in your name. Amen.

REFLECTION 2
RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

Are we responding in a way that is listening to the cry of the poor? Are we considering how our choices will affect all forms of life, especially those who are most vulnerable?

The impact of present indifference is also seen in the premature death of those at the present in conditions marked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are inseparably intertwined in a global agenda.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #16

God of Compassion, You made us in your image and likeness. Open our eyes to see you in others. Open our ears to your city. And open our hearts to love like you. So that we may live as one human family. We ask this in your name. Amen.

REFLECTION 3
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Are we responding in a way that is considering ecological economics? Are our economic transactions respecting fair production, consumption and investment?

This shows us the great need for a sense of shared responsibility on the part of everyone. "We are living in a shared economy – and our shared economic – work."


Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #10

God of Wisdom, You gifted us with insight, judgment and courage. Help us to listen to the cry of the earth's precious life, and care for them wisely. Apply with us as we stand out. Guide our thoughts and actions as we care for our common home. We ask this in your name. Amen.



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International Aid and Development**

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