

LAUDATO SI' GOALS

Hope for the Earth and the Poor

What does Laudato si' mean?

The words are from St Francis of Assisi's Canticle: "Praise be to you, my Lord, with all your creatures". Laudato si' is also the title of an encyclical letter by Pope Francis (written in 2015). It has the subtitle, "On care for our common home".

What is the letter all about?

The Pope reminds us that God's creation is "of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things" (LS77). We are the subject of that love and "every creature is the object of the Father's tenderness" (ibid). We must rediscover nature, but "never at the cost of the freedom and responsibility of human beings" (LS78). Developing his assessment of the world today, the Pope exhorts us to stop exploiting people and nature (because this is causing untold damage to creation), and to start "a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future" (LS14).

What's the idea behind the seven Laudato si' goals?

The goals, formulated as part of a platform, serve the whole human family to turn Pope Francis' encyclical into action. He says, "We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all" (LS14). People worldwide are meeting regularly for prayer, reflection and group action to address these goals, taking a ground-up approach. With your help, we want to create a local group.



Is this just a Catholic thing?

No, Laudato si' is an appeal to "every person living on the planet" (LS3). Although the initiative is from within the Catholic church, the aim, with the help of the Holy Spirit, is to engage everybody to take urgent action to protect the poor and future generations against the injustice of the climate emergency and the ecological crisis.