

Thank you for accepting this invitation to  
become a

# Laudato Si' School!

**Laudato Si' Schools Scotland** aims to meet the Holy Father's goal of creating an "Ecological Education" within our schools. It is being launched as part of the Scottish Catholic Education Service, SCIAF and Justice & Peace Scotland's response to the special anniversary year marking the 5th anniversary of the encyclical.

**Laudato Si' Schools** is an invitation to all schools to respond to the call to be stewards of God's creation. The Holy Father challenges us to do this in his encyclical and his global compact on education during 2020.

Using the prayer service attached schools can make a commitment, as a community of faith and learning, to *CHANGE FOR GOOD*. As soon as you pray together, promising to love God, look after each other and protect the world you are a Laudato Si' School, starting your journey to *CHANGE FOR GOOD*.

This prayer service of commitment is offered as a starting point to explore what the Holy Father calls "**Ecological Spirituality**". This is where we develop a conversation with God and a religious vision of God's creation. An ecological spirituality encourages greater contact with the natural world asking us to 're-see' it in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude. This spirituality uses creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develops ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.

This service, and the prayers within **PART two: Learn- Pray-Act**, will help pupils and staff begin their conversation with God. You can use this prayer service of commitment in various different ways; at a whole school assembly, during class prayer time, within the school oratory during a week of commitment, as part of a prayer evening with families and parish members (on-line if required). However it is done, encourage pupils, staff and families to see this as the start of your **Laudato Si' School** journey and celebrate their enthusiasm and commitment to make a *CHANGE FOR GOOD*.



# Prayer Service of Commitment

promising to be a Laudato Si' School  
(Secondary Schools).

## Opening Hymn:

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder

## Words of welcome and opening prayer

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:** (Makes the sign of the cross)

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In his letter, Laudato Si', Pope Francis asks us to love God, look after each other and protect the world. He tells us about the challenges we are facing in our world and asks us to make things better.

That's why we want to become a Laudato Si' School, to love God, look after each other and protect the earth. Let us listen to the book of Genesis and remind ourselves of the trust God placed in us when he gave us creation.

**READER 1:**

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A reading from the book of Genesis.  
 God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**READER 2:**

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Laudato Si' Schools want to make a *CHANGE FOR GOOD*. These three words sum up why we are promising to be a Laudato Si' School! We want to celebrate all the things that our school does for the earth and the common good of all humanity. We want others to know we are a positive and powerful force for God's love in the world, and that our actions can help change what is bad or seemingly hopeless into something good. We want those changes to last, to be purposeful and sustainable, we want to form habits that will be with us for the rest of our lives, we want to *CHANGE FOR GOOD!*

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**

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We gather today in thanksgiving for the glorious gift of creation, and we ask for the Lord's help to care for our world. We say together:

**ALL:**

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God of all creation,  
your spirit dances throughout the earth.  
You give drink to the trees,  
shade for the birds,  
bread for the hungry.  
You bring life and make all things holy.  
Flood our hearts with your grace,  
so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty,  
and reflect your kingdom here on earth.  
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**

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But we know that there is inequality in the world, we know the challenges we are facing in the world because of poverty, consumption of goods and disrespecting the earth and those who live on it. We gather together in sorrow at how the gift of creation is being treated, and we ask for the Lord's help to be better stewards of his earth.

**READER 1:**

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A reading from the book of Genesis.  
God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

**READER 3:**

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And I said "See I have taken those seeds and stored them so that only I can grow them, and I will take those fruits and put them behind gates and fences so that you cannot reach them, and I will sell you God's work so you can have them for food.

**READER 1:**

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God said, 'And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.'

**READER 3:**

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And I replied, "I will cage those beasts, capture those birds and kill those creepy crawlies. I will cut down every green plant you have given to the animals for food and sell that land as my own, as it is mine, you have given it to me I can do what I want."

**READER 1:**

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And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

**READER 3:**

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And then things started to go wrong. The seeds would not grow, the fruit stopped to flourish, so I put the prices up, but they could not afford it. The animals stopped breeding and they disappeared from the earth. The land that I sold became flooded and the people suffered and I knew it was all your fault God, so I became angry with you and I stopped believing in you.

**READER 1:**

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And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**READER 3:**

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And now each evening I don't know how many mornings are left.

## Penitential prayer for the care of creation

Chaplain/ Leader: We recognise our world is in need of healing. Let us ask God for forgiveness for the times we have neglected to care for the gift of creation.

**READER 4:**

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Father, creator of all...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

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Jesus, healer of all...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

---

Holy Spirit, beholder of beauty...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

---

Father, source of light and hope...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

---

Jesus, friend of the poor...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

---

Spirit of grace and prayer...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**

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May God who is love have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

**ALL:**

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Amen.

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**


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We gather today in thanksgiving for the glorious gift of creation, in sorrow at how the gift of creation is being treated and in hope, that we can answer God's call, care for creation once more and make a change for good.

Before we make our promise to be a Laudato Si' School, let us listen to the words of Pope Francis from his letter, Laudato Si', reminding us of the vital role that schools play in changing the world for good.

**READER 5:**


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*"Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or carpooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices.*

*All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity.*

*We must not think that these efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread. Furthermore, such actions can restore our sense of self-esteem; they can enable us to live more fully and to feel that life on earth is worthwhile."*

(#211 & 212)

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**


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As a community of faith and learning we make this promise together

**ALL:**


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We the family of \*\*\*Name of School here\*\*\*  
 promise to love God,  
 look after each other  
 and protect the earth.  
 We will learn, pray and act  
 to protect all life,  
 to prepare for a better future,  
 of justice,  
 peace, love  
 and beauty.

Amen

# Prayer Service of Commitment

promising to be a Laudato Si' School  
(Primary Schools).

## Opening Hymn:

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder OR All over the world the Spirit is moving

## Words of welcome and opening prayer

### CHAPLAIN/ LEADER: (Makes the sign of the cross)

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In his letter, Laudato Si', Pope Francis asks us to love God, look after each other and protect the world. He tells us about the challenges we are facing in our world and asks us to make things better.

That's why we want to become a Laudato Si' School, to love God, look after each other and protect the earth. Let us listen to the book of Genesis and remind ourselves of the trust God placed in us when he gave us creation.

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### READER 2:

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**READER 3:**

---

We want others to know we are a positive and powerful force for God's love in the world, and that our actions can help change what is bad into something good. We want those changes to last, we want to form habits that will be with us for the rest of our lives, we want to *CHANGE FOR GOOD!*

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You bring life and make all things holy.  
Flood our hearts with your grace,  
so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty,  
and reflect your kingdom here on earth.  
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**

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## Penitential prayer for the care of creation

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Holy Spirit, beholder of beauty...  
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**READER 4:**

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Father, source of light and hope...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

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Jesus, friend of the poor...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**READER 4:**

---

Spirit of grace and prayer...  
Group: Have mercy on us.

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**

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May God who is love have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

**ALL:**

---

Amen.

**CHAPLAIN/ LEADER:**


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 We will learn, pray and act  
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 of justice,  
 peace,  
 love and beauty.

Amen

Prayer service created using resources adapted from:  
 Cafod: Vigil for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation  
 Cafod: Penitential prayer for Care of Creation

