

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (Laudato Si’, 160)

Laudato Si’

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR
24 MAY 2020 – 24 MAY 2021



16th September 2020
Feast of St Ninian

Dear head teacher colleagues,

Please find enclosed an information leaflet inviting your school to become a Laudato Si’ School. This is an exciting new initiative, created to answer the Pope’s call to embed **Ecological Education** within our schools.

Background

On 24 May 2015 Pope Francis signed *Laudato Si’*, the watershed encyclical letter that called world’s attention to the increasingly precarious state of our common home. The fifth anniversary of the encyclical came in the midst of another watershed moment - a global pandemic - and *Laudato Si’s* message is just as prophetic today as it was in 2015.

The Holy Father, through the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, announced a special Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year from 24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021, inviting the whole Church to join together to create a more caring, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world. More information can be found at: www.LaudatoSiYear.org

One of the proposals for this year was to create seven areas of **Ecological Action** in; homes, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals and health care centres, businesses and religious orders.

Response

As a response to this call to **Ecological Action** the Scottish Catholic Education Service, SCIAF and Justice & Peace Scotland’s created Laudato Si’ Schools Scotland. This is an invitation to all schools to respond to the call to be stewards of God’s creation and aims to meet the Holy Father’s goal of creating an **Ecological Education** within our schools.

Links to learning

Laudato Si’ Schools uses the teaching of the Church to explore:

- Learning for sustainability
- Environmental education
- Equity
- Children’s rights
- Justice and Peace
- Stewardship for creation
- Christian responsibility and global citizenship
- Advocacy and action
- Outdoor learning
- How to address inequality, poverty, prejudice and discrimination

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Information leaflet

The enclosed information leaflet outlines the three elements of Laudato Si' Schools Scotland and details how to register as a Laudato Si' School. As you will see, Laudato Si' Schools is not an award or charter, but rather a pledge or commitment to make a change for good within your school, based on the Pope's teaching. It has been designed to be accessible by any school in any context and hopefully the flexibility of the programme will allow all Catholic schools in Scotland to integrate this into school life over a number of years.

When you register as a Laudato Si' School you will receive a Laudato Si' Schools Scotland resource pack, based on 12 quotes from the encyclical, containing; prayer and reflection resources, learning and teaching materials, ideas for action for your school community, a username and password to access on line materials, and a beautiful 1200mm x 1200mm wall display to track and celebrate your progress.



There is a one off fee of £200 that will be invoiced to your school to cover the cost of the resources and wall display.

Registration and delivery of resources

In order to register for Laudato Si Schools Scotland, please email: mail@sces.uk.com , marking your email "Registration for Laudato Si' Schools"

Due to the size of the wall display SCES will be using a courier service to deliver the resources. In order for the resources to be delivered in time for Catholic Education Week (16th -30th November) could I please ask that you return all registration emails by **Friday 9th October**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this, or any other matter.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Coupar

Director
Scottish Catholic Education Service