

St Ninian and St Cuthbert's Parish

Caritas and Laudato Si



Laudato Si Bookclub & Caritas Activities

Laudato Si Chapter By Chapter Overview

Week 1. The Introduction

A brief overview of Laudato Si is given covering what is an encyclical, our broken relationships with God, one another and creation, the nine themes running through it, the effects of climate crisis in global south, the way ahead.

Recommended viewing for next meeting..... Before The Flood (free on YouTube)

Week 2. Chapter 1. What Is Happening To Our Common Home?

The scientific evidence is presented along with an explanation of the IPCC. A description of other threats to the environment is given including threats to water supplies and biodiversity. It looks at the effect of the digital world on human life and at the global inequality of the environmental crisis.

Recommended ViewingThe Social Dilemma (Free on Netflix)

Week 3 Chapter 2. The Gospel of Creation

Consideration is given to whether science and religion are in opposition to one another before looking at the biblical account of creation and meditating on the mystery of the universe, which Pope Francis sees as a continuing revelation of the divine.

Recommended Viewing..... My Octopus Teacher (free on Netflix)

Week 4. Chapter 3. The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

The belief that science and technology can solve all our problems is examined and the promise that it can secure unlimited growth is discussed. The need for "more balanced levels of production, a better distribution of wealth, concern for the environment and the rights of future generations are explored.

Recommended Viewing Dark Water (starring Mark Ruffalo).
True story of the difference one person can make.

Week 5 Chapter 4. Integral Ecology

This chapter considers that there is just one complex social and environmental crises rather than separate social and an environmental crises. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.

Recommended Viewing....Kiss The Ground (YouTube to rent/buy)

Week 6. Chapter 5. Lines of Approach and Action

The need for dialogue on environmental policy in the international, national and local communities is presented. This needs to include transparent decision-making so that the politics serve human fulfillment and not just economic interests. Religions and science approach the environment differently and a solution requires them to work together for the common good.

Recommended Viewing. Breaking Boundaries The Science Of Our Planet (free on Netflix)

Very hard viewing initially but stay to the end. There is hope.

Chapter 6. Ecological Education and Spirituality

Personal and communitarian ecological conversion is needed to change convictions, attitudes and lifestyles. The global crisis requires community networks to solve the complex situation facing our world today. The need to embrace a spirituality that motivates us to have a more passionate concern for the protection of our world is explored. The need to live simply so others can simply live is discussed. Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care needs to make itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.

Recommended viewing.....The Letter (YouTube find by typing in The letter Pope Francis

Week 8 What Is Our Response?

An opportunity to consider what can we do now to make our school and community more environmentally friendly.

Other Films Worth Watching

A Life On Our Planet. Netflix.

Our Planet. A series on Netflix

Brave Blue World. Netflix.

Seaspiracy. Netflix

Cowspiracy. Netflix.

Don't Look Up. Netflix

Living In A Time Of Dying. YouTube.

The Rights of Nature. YouTube

Living The Change. Inspiring stories for a sustainable future. YouTube

Landfill Harmonic. YouTube

Caritas Student Programme

St Ninian and St Cuthbert's Parish try to give its young Caritas parishioners an appreciation of Catholic Social Justice teaching and an chance to put it into practice through Caritas activities .

Each week of their programme, they received training for the Children's Liturgy before participating in it. They would prepare tea and toast for parishioners at the Sunday cafe, wash dishes and clear up as well as engaging with the people who came. The parish has an active One World Group which fund raises for Mary's Meals and SCIAF. The students wrapped teddies for a neighbourhood Christmas Fair. They made gifts for the Martinmas Fair in the parish. They were each allocated some money to spend on real gifts but discovered that by pooling their money together they could buy more life sustaining gifts for communities in need. In the church they helped lead the Stations of Beauty and the Rosary for peace with the Legion of Mary.

Hearing of our young parishioners experience, other Caritas students expressed interest in the Laudato Si Bookclub and their school decided it could be delivered to all their Caritas pupils this year. The pupils wanted to respond to what they had understood and bring change in their school. They suggested that water fountains could replace the need for plastic water bottles, classroom light monitors could save energy, a vegan meal option could be on the school menu and for the school could become a Laudato Si School.

Finally the students were asked them to give us honest feedback that would allow us to improve the Bookclub for next years Caritas group. This is the feedback we received;-

"It has made me want to do more things to help such as reducing the amount of plastic I buy and changing my diet to have a vegetarian lifestyle instead "

"Laudato Si allowed me to reflect upon what it means to be part of the Catholic Church "

"It has changed my way of thinking and that we should take extra care of our environment as God would want us to. It has taught me to be grateful for what I have and give to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. "

" Each week we had a different chapter and in one session we spoke about the small changes we could make to try and help improve our environment by turning off lights when we were finished with them and reducing the amount of plastic we threw away.

"It taught us that although our voices are small alone when we work together we can make change happen" .

"We also wrapped up donated teddies for the Christmas fare. The money raised from this event went to Mary's meals and Sciaf. With the Sciaf share of the money we worked together to buy real gifts such as water supplies for five families and a goat. This helped show all of us how different things we take for granted like running water is something that isn't accessible for all."

"Mary's meals helps those who are less fortunate than ourselves to allow children to have a meal and go to school. We raised a lot of money to give to Mary's meals which allowed us to see how the power of faith can be used in such a positive way to the benefit of lives of others. "

"We also enjoyed helping out at the coffee morning and helping with the children's liturgy."

"Overall our experiences of Caritas within the parish have really allowed us to grow closer to our faith and ultimately change our way of thinking towards the world. It allowed us to work together with her fellow Caritas students and other members of the church community."