A CELEBRATION OF

Laudato Si

We have taken the discussion sheets from our School and Home resource packs and made them easier to print out for parents or teachers to use with their children.

Laudato Si Useful Quotes

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications. (25)

Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. (13)

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (14)

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. (14)

The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. (84)

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (42)

Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. (237)

We were not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature. (44)

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. (23)

The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish. (21)

The deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet. (48)

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. (159)

We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that "less is more"...it is a way of living life to the full. (222-223)

Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility, above all on the part of those countries which are more powerful and pollute the most. (169)

Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. (230)

Laudato Si Useful Questions

What do you think 'less is more' means? Why could it be important?

What do you think the difference is between a house and a home?

Why do you think Pope Francis thinks resting is so important?

Pope Francis talks about a 'throwaway culture'. What do you think this means?

What do you think the difference is between the words 'nature' and 'creation'?

Can you list different ways mistreating the planet can cause poverty?

Pope Francis asks us: 'What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? (160)' - How would you answer this question?

What do you think 'ecological conversion' means?

What do you like most about spending time in nature?

What do you think the term 'common good' means?

What do you think is the most important action to help stop climate change? Why?

What does Laudato Sí teach us about Science and Religion?

Pope Francis speaks about our world as 'our common home'. what do you think that means?

What are the good and bad aspects of social media and technology?

Canticle of the Creatures
St Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour,
and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.
Be praised, my Lord, through all your
creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through
him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his
splendour!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon
and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious
and beautiful.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother
Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious
and chaste.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is
beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister
Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who
produces
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.
Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will
find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.
Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility

A Prayer For Our Earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

A Christian Prayer in Union With Creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!
Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.
God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

You will need:

Meadow flower seeds

Peat-free compost

Water

Powdered Clay

Mixing bowl

Method:

Mix 1 part seeds with 5 parts compost and 2-3 parts powdered clay.

Slowly mix in water until everything starts to bind together.

Form the mix into small balls and leave to dry.

Once dry, throw into areas of garden that you want flowers to grow. Don't worry the burds wont eat the seeds because of the clay!

You will need:

A Pine Cone
Suet or Vegetable Fat
Wild Bird Seed
Twine

Method:

You will first need to find some pine cones - take a look in your local park or woodland. Once you have a pine cone, tie a string around the bottom of it with a loop at the other end.
Apply a thick layer of your suet or vegetable fat.
Make sure you fill all the gaps in the pine cone. Then roll the ball in seeds until the whole pine cone is covered.
Finally hang from a hook or tree and watch the birds come!

How Else
Can I Help?