



**With Sr Patricia Mulhall
And
Sarah Gardner Lobo**

ZOOM MEETING HELD ON 21st April 2021 AT 7:30PM

Laudato Si' - What might I do now?

Participants: 20

Contributions

GROUP 1

- The expertise of Sister Patricia and Sarah is highly appreciated.
- Could we have our church as a free trade church.
- We could educate the young in our schools.
- Urge retail shops to give up plastic packaging.
- Live simply so others can live.
- People today benefit from all the advances in technology.
- The danger of using plastic and deforestation is enormous.
- There are terrific challenges.
- Do what you can control - like choose a diet that favours root crops over meat, insulate our homes and chose proper personal transport”.
- A big concern is what are we handing on to the next generation.
- Get rid of plastic !!
- *Laudato Si'* give us “prods to action”. There are people who manufacture recyclable paper packaging.
- We should be able to use people’s knowledge on producing recyclable packaging.
- Encourage young people to use solar panels and not use other forms of energy.



- Younger people who are actively thinking about what kind cleaning agents are inspirational.
- *Laudato Si'* is long overdue.
- A huge advantage of *Laudato Si'* is sharing experiences with other people. We need to restore recyclable packaging.
- Discuss with local housekeepers how to refill containers rather than repackage with plastic.
- *Laudato Si'* has opened our eyes.
- Watch the government.
- The Indonesian government has controlled logging by just one man who started to fine companies who logged: One man, one action. The people in power are often corrupt and take back-handers. We should ask "Where was this made?" and "Where did this come from?"

Group 2

Most of the points raised by Room 1 were also discussed and expressed by Room 2.

The points additional to this were as follows:

With respect to what we have enjoyed about studying *Laudato Si'*:

- Becoming more aware of the urgent need to do something and reading about the crises in the context of our faith.
- Appreciation for Pope Francis taking up this challenge and leading by example. The creation of the Global Climate Change Movement.
- Praise for the way in which *Laudato Si'* is written and how it speaks to all people of good will, it is not just for Catholics.
- Some said as well as enjoying the publication they have found it depressing at times but at the same time uplifting and encouraging that individuals can make a difference.
- The *Laudato Si'* Way of the Cross was beautiful in that it helped us reflect on how poorer countries are suffering from the non-environmentally friendly actions of the richer countries in the context of Christ's passion and death.

With respect to what we would like to carry forward:

In addition to ideas put forward by Group 1 -

- Personal changes in our behaviour and to commit to pray for a global conversion and commitment to change and to cherish our planet.



- Family and community, supporting the young as they are already educated and committed, but also help them to learn the true value of stuff and to reject over consumerism. We welcome suggestions as to how the Sacred Heart community could make changes.
- At political level to lobby MPs and those in power to pull support for non-environmentally friendly companies, e.g., fossil fuel and to force changes such as initiatives to reduce packaging and air miles on fruit and vegetables. To commit to raising awareness of *Laudato Si'* and its messages.
- Going on 'litter picking walks'.
- Sign Petitions.
- Buy local products.
- Watch links on climate change and read as much as possible about it.
- Learn more about Human Trafficking and get involved.
- Tumbler drier uses high amount of electricity – dry washing naturally.
- **All the R's – REFLECT, REDUCE, REPAIR, REUSE AND RECYCLE.**

GROUP 3

WHAT HAVE YOU ENJOYED SO FAR IN OUR *LAUDATO SI'* JOURNEY?

- The mangrove story today was good – it was a good illustration of how business and our natural world can be made to benefit from each other.
- Reading *Laudato Si'* has made some sense of other books, like those on the human planet, universal basic income, and donut economics.
- There is a richness in *Laudato Si'* – so much material to consider, like how to live the simple life, also the interconnectedness of life (people, animals and plants): what we do and how it affects others.
- We can buy local goods and support *Fairtrade* by buying local produce seasonally and by choosing to buy *Fairtrade* goods. We should recognise that we are in the rich world and that many places in the world have been forced into poverty by having their land taken away. We need to support initiatives like the Kenyan lady who started Karen Roses which now employs more women than men, and looks after the workers' families' health, education and housing. CAFOD is interested in



developing small enterprises run by women, who are mostly farming the land but have no control over it.

- Paragraph 80 in *Laudato Si'* talks about respecting all of God's creation. This can be done through parish ecology groups which work on educating the community and the clergy on living simply, recycling and supporting relevant charities.
- Many denominations are joining together to make Windsor a *Fairtrade* town. Education is key. People need to make the connection between what they buy and how it affects people they have not met in far off lands. Some children in a UK school wrote letters to children in Ghana, who, they were astonished to discover, had never tasted chocolate!
- *Laudato Si'* is a wonderful document, created by some of the best brains around, with the stamp of approval from Pope Francis, and read by many different religious denominations. Many women ecologists were involved but sadly were not acknowledged.
- *Laudato Si'* has made us realise how grave the global ecological system is since the technological age began in the 1950's. The destruction of the natural world, particularly the Amazon and Congo basins (the lungs of the world) has got to stop. Abortion and trafficking of human beings has got to stop. We need to act now!

WHAT CAN WE DO GOING FORWARD – INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY?

- Ask for *Fairtrade* goods and if they do not have them, walk away.
- Do not drink bottled water – Thames's water is safe!
- Raise awareness of the impending breakdown of our eco-system. Most people live in blissful ignorance.
- It is important that we propagate the points raised in *Laudato Si'* in our churches and local areas. During Creation Month in September 2021, there could be short talks given by lay people at the end of Sunday Mass, outlining what is happening and what we need to do to avert global disaster.



- Promote buying *Fairtrade* and living simply. Ensure rubbish is being recycled efficiently. This can be met with resistance as it needs organisation and funding, but we need to be fearless in our quest to change the world.
- The pandemic has shown us that we need to live free of material possessions. Simplicity inspires. Women are good leaders and need to be given a chance. *Laudato Si'* is a mine of information. Things are starting to happen.
- There are Living Simply projects being started in parishes, spreading useful information in the local areas. It is impressive that the Church is so involved and is insisting on projects to help the poor.
- We should challenge our local MPs about the move to cut foreign aid that so many poor countries depend on. The clergy should be involved, and we need to look at ourselves and what we are doing. Over-fishing is becoming a huge issue – maybe we should become vegan.
- We need to bombard our MP's with correspondence regarding ecological issues and foreign aid cuts until they realise we're serious and do something about them.
- Our young people are all conscious that we are in a terrible global state and want to do something about it. We need to harness their energy and engagement and involve them in projects that make a difference.



NEXT MEETING

5th May 2021

7:30 p.m.

Laudato Si'

Chapter Chapter 4: *"Integral Ecology"*

Paragraphs 137 - 162

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