



15 May 2020

Dear Sacred Heart parishioners,

We would like to invite you to join us to mark the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si. Pope Francis has invited everyone to join a week of prayer and action for our planet, 16-24 May (see 1 minute film clip: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHlzOWp8ZQY&feature=youtu.be). As a parish, we are planning two main actions:

Laudato Si World Day of Prayer – Father John will include the attached prayer during 10am mass on Sunday 24 May. You may also want to use it at home.

Can you help us create a photo montage for the parish website - 'Caring for our Common Home during Lockdown'? Please send in photos that show the 'little daily actions' you are taking to live sustainably and/or appreciate the beauty of the natural world during this challenging time.

It could be your veg patch, a meat-free meal, repairing old clothes or appliances, the rubbish you've sorted for recycling or the local plants and wildlife you see from your window or daily exercise. If you can't get outside at the moment, now might be a great time to look back - and share - old photos of the beauty of nature, to inspire others to take better care of our Common Home. Please send to sarah.tobin@btconnect.com by 20 May. By submitting, we assume permission to use your photo on the parish website, but please state whether we can use your name or not.

If you are looking for other ideas to respond to the Pope's renewed invitation for us all to 'hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor', how about:

Use the lockdown as an opportunity to read Laudato Si' –It can be downloaded here <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical> or watch this 5 minute film as an appetiser: <https://youtu.be/IG-8fQ1-qN0>

Register for online talks/ a special online Laudato Si' Mass on Wednesday 20 May at 6pm with Bishop John Arnold- the English bishop responsible for the environment: <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

Join Pope Francis's call for debt forgiveness – follow this link to sign CAFOD's petition. <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Pope-Francis-debt-forgiveness>

Volunteer or donate – Sacred Heart School is asking for donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries to support local families in need, to be dropped at the school during school hours 8am-3.30pm. Or, if you would like to volunteer to help with Merton Borough's Community Fridge, please contact communityfridge@sustainablemerton.org.

Take part in #NoMowMay - let your lawn grow! Then, from 23-31 May, count the wildflowers on a metre square to see how much nectar they provide for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. You can find out more [here](#).

Become a Young Climate Warrior – children can sign up to receive fun weekly challenges to cut carbon emissions at <https://www.youngclimatewarriors.org/youngclimatewarriorssubscribe> and



Sacred Heart primary school has put together a range of activities at <https://www.sacredheart.merton.sch.uk/walk-in-to-nature-with-god/>

Read Pope Francis's Earth Day message - as promised in our last update, here is a transcript: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200422_udienza-generale.html

With best wishes,
Sarah - on behalf of the Sacred Heart Environment Group

PS - you are receiving this email as you signed up to receive information about the Sacred Heart Environment Group. We will only send you occasional emails to let you know about upcoming parish environmental events, but if you no longer wish to receive such emails, please email me back and I will remove you from our distribution list.

COMMON PRAYER
for the 5th anniversary of
Laudato Si'

Loving God,
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your image and made us
stewards of all your creation, of our common home.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful
land so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us,
but to all future generations, and that it is our
responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of
being left behind.
Transform our fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation
into hope so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing
the consequences of this global pandemic,
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that
are needed in search of the common good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected, in our efforts to lift up the cry of the
earth and the cry of the poor.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

LAUDATO SI'
WEEK 2020