

LIVING LAUDATO SI' TE KAWE I NGĀ TIKANGA LAUDATO SI'

POPE FRANCIS AND LAUDATO SI'

Catholic social teaching guides us in our daily actions and life choices. One of the most powerful and challenging letters in recent times was written by Pope Francis in 2015. *Laudato Si'* (translated as *Praise be to You*) calls us all to take action and care for our common home.

As we reflect on how people can show love and help others, let us be challenged to live out *Laudato Si'* every day!

Key Messages

- We are hurting our common home
- Everything is connected
- Change (ecological conversion) is required
- Indifference and selfishness are part of the problem
- Less is more
- The poor are disproportionately affected
- Ongoing discussions are required



When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship in union with them. [#57] **TAKE TIME TO PRAISE OUR CREATOR**

The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. [#21] **FIND WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE**

Climate change is a global problem with serious implications, ... it represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity today. [#25] **RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. [#211] **MAKE SMALL CHANGES TO CARE FOR CREATION**

The misuse of creation begins when we no longer recognise any higher instance than ourselves, when we see nothing else but ourselves. [#6] **THINK OF OTHERS AND TRY NOT TO BE SELFISH**

All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good. [#205] **HOLD ON TO JOY AND GIVE THANKS WHENEVER YOU CAN**

There is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet's population, billions of people... Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. [#49] **REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE EXCLUDED AND FORGOTTEN**

...the principle of the common good immediately becomes a summons to solidarity with the poorest of our brothers and sisters. [#158] **STAND UP AND HELP THE POOREST**



When media and the digital world become omnipresent, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. [#47] **REFLECT ON HOW TECHNOLOGY IS USED AND HOW LIFE CAN BE KEPT SIMPLE**

Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-wracking distractions, or the cult of appearances? Many people today sense a profound imbalance which drives them to frenetic activity and makes them feel busy, in a constant hurry which in turn leads them to ride rough-shod over everything around them. [#225] **TAKE TIME TO LISTEN, REFLECT AND PRAY**



CHALLENGE FOR US TO CARE FOR CREATION AND LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE

HE WERO KIA TĀTOU KIA TIAKINA TE AOTŪROA KIA NOHO HEI TANGATA AROHA I TE AO

Y11-13

KEY CHALLENGE

Hear the cry of
the earth and the
poor

★★★★★ Example – Greta Thunberg

Back in 2018, as a 15-year-old, Greta Thunberg began protesting outside the Swedish parliament as a climate change activist. In 2019 her 'school strike for the climate' directly led to more than a million students following her example in over 100 countries around the world. She travelled for two weeks by yacht to speak at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York.



★★★★★ Example – Deniz Çevikuş

At only 11 years of age, Deniz Çevikuş has shown great passion and devoted time to carry out demonstrations in some of the busiest shopping districts in Istanbul. Holding a sign inviting people to stop and have a conversation about the current climate crisis, she has made quite an impact.



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. – Pope Francis, Laudato Si' (#13)

Why is it important and how can we do it?

In our busy lives surrounded by noisy devices it is very easy to forget to listen to the cry – of both the earth and the poor. When we are able to quieten our lives and see what could be improved, we still need to take up the challenge and be part of the change (like Greta and Deniz).

Our planet has more than 700 million people living in extreme poverty (surviving on a daily basis below the poverty line). In New Zealand we have unprecedented levels of poverty amongst certain groups and young people. Their cry may be softer than the latest advert on television, but their need is the greatest.

More than ever, the issue of climate change is very real and generating much debate. Some choose to ignore it, many have chosen not to react, and those that have responded may have done too little too late. As Albert Einstein rightly pointed out a long time ago, 'The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.' We must act... now... together.



LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

1. Consider practical ways they can hear and respond to the cry of the earth and the poor
2. Propose a unique idea to care for creation through the inaugural Caritas Kaitiaki2Share competition



KARAKIA

Begin this lesson by sitting in silence and just trying to reflect and listen. The key challenge from this lesson is 'to hear'. Some may be hearing their own voice inside and others may be listening for God's voice. A short, spoken prayer from the **Prayer Booklet** may be a good way to finish the silence.



SETTING THE SCENE

Already we have learnt about communities in need from the previous lessons. Their challenges and locations are all very different. In 2015, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical called *Laudato Si'* to encourage all of us to care for creation. As we reflect on the state of our planet, in terms of the levels of poverty and injustice and environmental deterioration, we can see that there is still a pressing need for all of us to make changes in the way we live.



VIEW

Watch [Laudato Si' Animation for Children](#) to understand the main messages of *Laudato Si'* at a basic level. Give out the **Living Laudato Si'** page to students to help them see more of the key messages and quotes.



REFLECTION

Highlight paragraph 49 of the letter: *'There is little in the way of clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded. Yet they are the majority of the planet's population, billions of people... Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'* Pass on the last sentence to students to keep as their personal challenge.



DISCUSSION

After reading this quote a couple of times ask students to share what images and thoughts come to mind. How can we 'hear the cry' more effectively? How may we need to change our behaviour?



ACTIVITY

Challenge students to find out more about young student activists like [Greta Thunberg](#) and [Deniz Çevikus](#) who are raising their voices for people to hear the cry of our earth in relation to climate change.



DISCUSSION

Talk about the motivations behind such passionate responses (at both extremes). What drives people like Greta and Deniz to respond the way they do? Can we all follow their example?



REFLECTION

How do Catholic social teaching (CST) principles connect to both the messages of *Laudato Si'* (many are mentioned specifically) and the actions of youth activists such as Greta and Deniz?



VIEW

Watch videos made by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), an American Caritas agency, that outline three of the key related CST principles to help the reflection above. This includes [Solidarity](#), [Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable](#) and [Stewardship \(Care for God's Creation\)](#).



DISCUSSION

Which CST principles are the most important? Get students to rank which principles are the most important to themselves.



ACTIVITY

Give out **Worksheet 35: Kaitiaki2Share** to encourage students to enter the inaugural Caritas Kaitiaki2Share competition. Students are challenged to come up with new fresh ways that we can care for creation. There are five possible formats for them to enter the competition



DISCUSSION

Share thoughts and ideas based on the Kaitiaki2Share competition and the endless possibilities.



ACTION

Get students to continue considering practical ways they can hear and respond to the cry of the earth and the poor... and make it happen.



WORKSHEET 35 WHĀRANGI MAHI 35

Kaitiaki2Share

Starting this year, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is running a competition to find great practical ideas on how we can care for our planet. The Caritas **Kaitiaki2Share** competition will provide a platform for the greatest and most creative minds in our country (our young people) to come up with new fresh ways that we can care for creation. Check [online](#) for details about [prizes](#) and more.



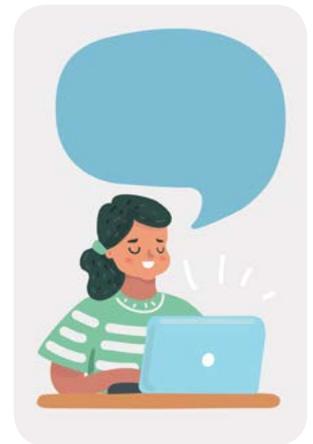
Design an ingenious plan

OR

Write an inspirational poem

OR

Craft a meaningful short story



Draw a clever diagram, image or piece of art

OR

Create a motivational video



All entries can be sent to education@caritas.org.nz before 15th May 2020.

The best entries will be shared on the Caritas website and go into the draw to win a prize.