

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 KI A TĀTOU KIA TIAKINA TE AOTŪROA KIA NOHO HEI TANGATA AROHA I TE AO

Y3-4

KEY CHALLENGE

Think of others
in need

★★★★★ Example – Charlotte from Wellington

We all get excited when it is time to celebrate our birthdays. Many of us look forward to the presents we may receive. Last year, a year 2 student living in Wellington, named Charlotte, decided that for her birthday she would ask her friends to give money towards families in need over in South Sudan (rather than receive gifts for herself). She ended up raising \$300 by putting others before herself. What a star!

Why is it important?

In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus cleverly shows us all that we are to love our neighbour and to look beyond our own needs. Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si'*, reminds us again saying, 'We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.' (#229)

How can we do it?

Like the example of Charlotte (above) proves, it doesn't matter how old we are or where we come from, we can all show love to others and care for people when they are in need. It is simply as easy as:

- Looking out for people who may need help
- Being willing to engage with people
- Making an effort to do something (that may be out of the ordinary)



LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

1. Identify and respond to the main messages of *Laudato Si'*
2. Create a unique idea to care for creation through the Caritas Kaitiaki2Share competition



KARAKIA

Start today's lesson by asking the class to share names of any family members or friends that are currently sick or are needing help. Write these names down on the board. Take a few minutes to pray as a class for the people on the board (purposely looking beyond ourselves and focusing on people in need).



SETTING THE SCENE

From the previous lessons we know that Caritas works with some of the poorest communities in the world. In places like Cambodia, Tonga and Papua New Guinea, where access to food, water and shelter have been challenging at times. In 2015, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical called *Laudato Si'* to encourage all of us to care for creation (God's people and his environment). He challenged us to remember that we need each other and have a responsibility to look out for others in need.



VIEW

Watch [Laudato Si' Animation for Children](#) to see a great summary of the key messages of *Laudato Si'*. Ask students to share what they thought some of the key messages were after watching the video.



ACTIVITY

Using the **Living Laudato Si'** page, write down some (or all) of the key messages on the board for students to see. Get students to choose the statement that they think is the most important. Get them to discuss why this is.



VIEW

Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) or watch the [animated version](#) for students to understand the call to love our neighbour.



DISCUSSION

Ask students if they think God's desire for us to care for others has changed at all since the time of Jesus. If so, how?



VIEW

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



ACTIVITY

Brainstorm different scenarios where students may encounter someone in need. These may include school settings, at home, around the community, and even overseas. Get students to act out how they could respond with each scenario. You may choose to arrange students into groups or work together as a class.



ACTION

Read the example of **Charlotte from Wellington** from the previous page and then challenge students to think of one action that they could focus on to help others in need. Get them to write it somewhere in case they forget. Help students to reflect on their chosen action regularly and how they can achieve it.



DISCUSSION

Talk with students about how caring for people connects to caring for our environment. How can we care for others by looking after the environment?



ACTIVITY

Give out **Worksheet 11: 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. You may choose to get students to present their ideas to each other.



WORKSHEET 11 WHĀRANGI MAHI 11

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.



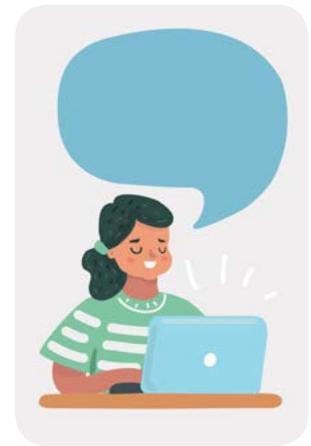
Design a plan

OR

Write a poem

OR

Craft a short story



Create a video

OR

Draw a diagram, image or piece of art



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.