


Session 2:

How do we impact
the Earth and its
people?



Guardians of Creation



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



Laudato Si' Centre

DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

Today's prayer



Dear God,

We pray for your love and guiding spirit as we reflect on the impact of our actions on the Earth and its people.

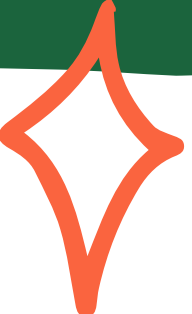
As we respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, we ask that you help the poorest members of our global community and inspire us to care for your creation in every aspect of our lives.

Praise be to you!

Amen

So far, *we've learned*



- 
- What's happening to the Earth, our common home
 - The differences between stewardship and dominion
 - How Pope Francis calls all people to be stewards of God's creation

Activity: Eco-choices



- 1 minute writing down 3 activities you do every day

Example: Brushing your teeth

- 1 minute writing how those 3 activities impacts the environment

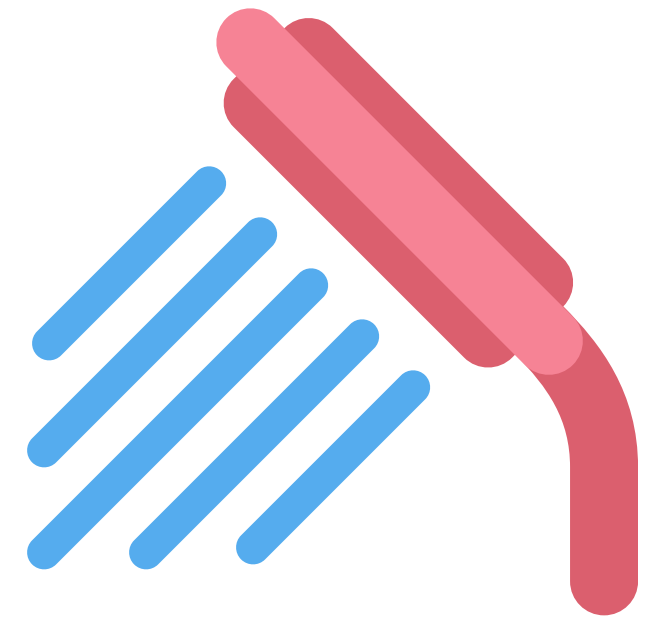
Example: Uses water (how much water? where is the water from?), toothpaste (in a plastic container? Ingredients like fluoride that pollute the water?), and toothbrush (made from plastic?)

- 2 minutes writing what you could do to reduce that environmental impact

Example: Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, switch to a plastic-free toothpaste, use a toothbrush made from recycled or sustainable materials.

A daily shower

- A 10-minute shower uses 150 litres of water, on average (WaterWise, 2009)
- That adds up to 54,750 litres of water on showers per person each year
- 62% of the UK's annual water footprint is imported from other countries (WWF, 2008)
- 40% of the world's population experience water scarcity each year, and '55 million people globally are affected by droughts every year' (WHO, 2018)



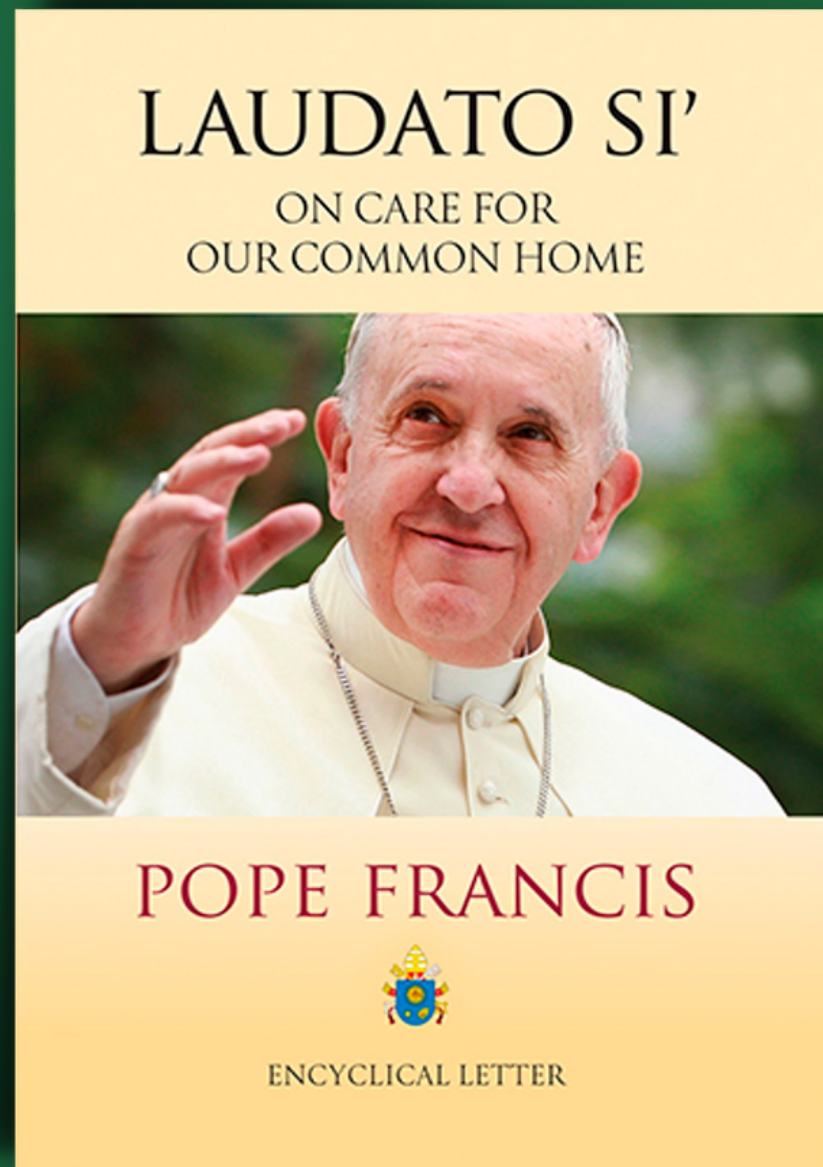
How do our actions impact the environment?

- Taking 3-minute showers can save the average household up to 230,000 litres of water each year (WaterWise, 2009).
- If the UK's 27.8 million households made this change, that's 6.39 trillion litres of water saved annually. (ONS, 2021).
- Other factors: Energy and water suppliers, the products we use in the shower



Think *Global* → Act *Local*

How do our actions impact the environment?



Since "today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an integral ecology" (LS, 137)

What is *Ecology?*



The connections between living things and their environments.



What is Integral Ecology?



“ A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if **our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.** It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor [...]

Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to **resolving the problems of society.**”

An integral ecology is also made up of **simple daily gestures** which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness. " (LS: 91, 139, 230-231)



What is *Integral Ecology?*

What is Pope Francis saying here?

- Because everything is connected, we need to address environmental and social issues together.
- For example, human trafficking and animal trafficking are parts of the same problem. They both come from a lack of respect and care for all parts of God's creation.
- We can achieve this by changing our daily habits to show love and compassion for one another. We can also look for ways to connect with nature.

Integral Ecology

"We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (LS, 49)



The cry of the *Earth*

- Rising temperatures
- Mass extinction
- Habitat destruction
- Rising sea levels
- Extreme weather

The cry of the *Poor*

- Political injustice
- Economic poverty
- Social inequality
- The most vulnerable in our society



Activity: Which choices?



- Look back at some of the eco-choices you identified earlier

Example: Taking the bus instead of the car

- Are these choices accessible to everyone?

Example: Buses are often inaccessible for disabled people, mothers with pushchairs, and the elderly. They are often quite expensive, excluding low-income groups.


- What changes need to happen to make them more accessible?

Example: Ask the council to redesign buses, making them more accessible and affordable.


The cry of the poor




Women and girls are 14 times more likely to die during a natural disaster. Yet, 67% of decision-making roles about the environment worldwide are held by men. (UN Women UK, 2021)



70% of the global poor rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, making them the most vulnerable to climate change's adverse effects. (UN, 2015)



In the US, Black and Hispanic minorities were up to 63% more likely to suffer health damage due to air pollution than non-Hispanic white groups. (Tessum et al, 2019)



The cry of *the poor

Women and girls are 14 times more likely to die during a natural disaster. Yet, 67% of decision-making roles about the environment worldwide are held by men. (UN Women UK, 2021)

Limited access to education

Earn 30% less than men

Primary caregivers

Poorer healthcare

Less secure housing



Not included in decision making





Pause and Reflect

Spend a few speaking with the person next to you about what we've covered so far.

- Now we understand integral ecology, how does it impact your perspectives on stewardship?
 - Had you heard of climate justice before? How do you feel about the statistics we covered?
- 
- 



What can we do?

Developing your hopeful mission



Staying hopeful

77% of students experience climate anxiety (Global Action Plan, 2020)

"Hope is the power by which we firmly and constantly long for what we were placed on earth to do: to praise God and to serve him; and for our true happiness, which is finding our fulfillment in God" (YouCat, 308)

When it comes to addressing climate change, finding hope that's rooted in our spirituality can allow us to:

- Look towards a positive future where we care for our common home
- Inspire trust in God, especially through tough times, that lead towards sustainable action





What is a mission statement?

Mission statements are like a guide, a blueprint, or a compass. Just as companies and schools have mission statements to guide their actions, your mission statement is there to help you keep your goals in mind and navigate your actions towards a sustainable future.

You can use your mission statement to:



Help recenter your actions if you feel lost or overwhelmed



Remind you why you're taking these this sustainable journey



Record your journey—update your mission statement as you go!

'Mission' comes from the Latin 'mittere', meaning 'to send'. What will your mission statement send out into the world?

Example mission statements:

My Mission Statement

My mission is to help support biodiversity and wildlife in my local area.

I will do this because I love wildlife; it is beautiful and full of wonder. Preserving this beauty for future generations empowers me in this mission.

I will know that wildlife is thriving at home because I will hear the birds sing in the morning and see the birds and insects every day.

I commit to doing everything I can to raise awareness and support the wildlife around me, empowered by my family and faith in God.

I will...

Love my God and the Earth
Open myself to new ideas
Value myself, my beliefs and emotions
Educate others about climate change

&

Commit to living simply
Act to support the environment
Respect my neighbours and the Earth
Empower others to take action



Your direction of travel



“Would you tell me please which way I ought to walk from here?”
“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat
“I don’t much care where—” said Alice,
“Then it doesn’t matter which way to walk,” said the Cat.

- Lewis Carrol, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

When we're writing our mission statements, it's essential to think about our direction of travel.

If a sustainable future is our goal, how will we know when we've arrived? What steps do we need to take to reach our destination? Keep your end goals in mind as you map your journey.

Reflection: Mission Possible



- Imagine that reaching a sustainable future is a journey you need to take. To plan for that journey, you need to consider the following:

1. **Motivation**- Why do you want to take this journey? What's your motivation for helping the environment? These motivations will help govern your actions.
2. **Mission**- What do you want to do to help the environment? What talents and skills do you have to offer? Write down three key goals to help direct your mission and guide your journey.
3. **Materialise**- What is it like when you reach your destination? How will you know you've achieved your mission?
4. **Map**- How do you plan to get there? What actions will you take? Write down three key steps you need to take to arrive to your destination.

- Once you have imagined what your journey might look like, write it up as a mission statement. You can format this in any way you like, whether it's a few simple sentences, a poem, an acronym, or something else entirely!

1. Motivation



2. Mission



3. Materialise



4. Map

Mission Possible

