

Exploring Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical for families

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Laudato Si' resources for children

We have produced a range of resources to support children's exploration of Laudato Si'.

- Animation film, slides and script: view online or download at cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Laudato-Si-animation
- Poster and postcards: order from shop.cafod.org.uk

Background information about Laudato Si'



Laudato Si' is an encyclical written by Pope Francis, it was published on the 18 June 2015. Encyclicals are open letters written by the pope.

Laudato Si' discusses the damage being inflicted on the Earth by humans and calls on 'every person living on this planet' to make urgent changes to our lifestyles and how we consume energy in order to protect the planet. It deals with many environmental issues including pollution; climate change; water; loss of biodiversity and decline in the quality of human life. In his letter Pope Francis implores us to work together to create a better world for future generations and asks us to make the necessary changes in our lives in order to take care of, respect and value our 'common home'.

The aim of the animation is to help explain and communicate the message of Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si' to children, and to inspire them to take action. The animation can be used:

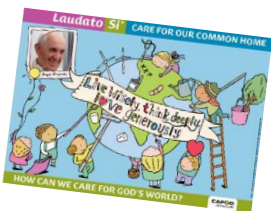
- In a reflection
- To introduce the theme of climate change
- To explore key principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- To support RE learning

Introducing the animation

- Play the animation in full then think about these key questions together:
 - *What is the Pope asking us to do in his letter?*
 - *What do you think Pope Francis means by 'common home'?*
 - *How does the Pope say we have treated the Earth?*
 - *What has happened to the Earth because of this?*
- Play the animation for a second time, stopping to ask critical questions:
 - *Why do you think Pope Francis wrote this letter?*
 - *Who is suffering because of our actions?*
 - *How can we play our part to look after our 'common home'?*
 - *What kind of world do we want to leave for future generations?*

Responding to the animation and Laudato Si'

Use the Laudato Si' poster...



- Question for children: What is happening in this poster?
- Discuss together: How can we care for God's world? Share ideas.
- Read the banner on the poster. What does this mean? In Laudato Si' Pope Francis asks us to care for the earth by doing all three of these

things. *How can we live wisely? Think deeply? Love generously?* Create a family list of actions. Explain that they are all going to try for the next month to live wisely, think deeply and love generously. The list should help them to know how to do this.

- Create a display using the Laudato Si' poster, **images from the animation** and photos of the family taking action.
- At the end of the month ask the children to write a letter to Pope Francis explaining the ways they live wisely, think deeply and love generously.
 - Address for postcards: His Holiness Pope Francis, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City.

Explore the animation's message...

- Share the animation slides and ask children to discuss what is happening in each slide. Does this show care for Our Common Home? What is the most important message in this picture?
- Use the animation script as a starting point for writing reflections, poems or prayers.