



## Teacher's Notes: First and Second Class

### Background for Teachers

*Laudato Si'* is a letter sent by Pope Francis to the world. In *Laudato Si'*, which means 'Praise be to you', Pope Francis reminds us that the earth is a gift from God. This gift is for everyone; it is our common home. Pope Francis goes on to describe the terrible things that are happening to the earth. He reminds us that as Christians we are called to share God's love; a love that extends right throughout creation. During Catholic Schools Week 2017 we will celebrate God's gift of the earth; we will learn about St Francis; and we will investigate ways we can love and protect the earth.

Each day's lesson begins with a reflective quote from *Laudato Si'* (LS) to put our learning into context with the message of Pope Francis in his encyclical.

The entire document is available at: [w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

The activities included in the following lessons encourage active ways we can care for our common home.

### From the Curriculum: Level 2

#### Christian Faith

##### *Mystery of God*

- God invites us to respond in love (Jn 13:34–5; Jn 4:11–12)

##### *Mystery of Jesus Christ*

- Jesus showed us God's love (1 Jn 4:9)

##### *Creation*

- The gift of creation is a sign of God's love for us

##### *Mystery of the Church*

- God's family includes people of every age, race, culture and ability
- St Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and ecology

##### *Other Religious Traditions*

- Christians love everyone because we all have the same Father in heaven who loves us and wants us to love one another
- We are members of one human family and community on earth

#### Liturgy and Prayer

##### *Formal Prayer*

- Glory be to the Father

##### *Spontaneous Prayer*

##### *Additional Prayer*

- A Song of Praise (Ps 95:1–7)
- A Hymn of Praise (Ps 100:3–5)

#### Word of God

##### *God's Loving Plan of Salvation*

- Creation Story (Gn 1–2:3)
- Thanking God (Ps 9:1)
- Hymn of Praise (prayer) (Ps 95:1–7)
- Hymn of Praise (prayer) (Ps 100:3–5)

##### *Jesus' Public Life*

- The Lost Sheep (Mt 18:12–14; Lk 15:1–7)
- Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1–10)
- Healing of Man Born Paralysed (Mt 9:1–8; Mk 2:1–12)

#### Christian Morality

##### *Human Freedom and Responsibility*

- We can make good and bad choices
- Choices affect ourselves and others
- We can choose to act like Jesus

##### *God's Graceful Presence*

- The Holy Spirit helps us to live like Jesus

##### *Social Teaching of the Church*

- Jesus cared for creation
- Each person has a responsibility to care for the environment
- God gave us the intelligence and skill to care for the earth

##### *RSE in a Christian Context*

- Each member of a family has responsibilities to the others



## Monday: Seeing the beauty of our common home

**Reflective Quote:** '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 him in union with them.' (LS 87)



### Let's Look

Where possible, the class might begin this lesson outdoors.

Discuss the children's experience of the world around them.

- Encourage them to name what they see/hear/smell/feel.
- What is their favourite sight/sound/colour/smell/texture?
- How do they feel when they think of their favourite part of God's creation?

### Prayer

(Based on Psalm 95)

God within us ... (Holds hands to the heart)

God beyond us ... (Hold hands outwards, at arms level, palms upwards)

Creator of the earth ... (Hold hands upwards, at shoulder level, palms upwards)

Thank you for your gifts of Creation. (Hands joined in prayer)

Amen.



### Let's Learn

In the Bible we read about God's gift of the earth. We remember that God's gifts are for everyone. We call this gift our world. It is our home. It is a home for everyone. When we read the beginning of the Bible we remember all the wonderful things that God created.

Share the Creation Story with the children.

**Note:** Adapted version of the scripture is available in:

- *Grow in Love*, First Class, Theme 9: Creation, Lesson 1: God made the world, pp. 242-3; Lesson 2: God made us ... we are special, p. 248
- *Grow in Love*, Second Class, Theme 9: Creation, Lesson 1: God created us, p. 242

Watch the following videos in Theme 9: Creation, 'The Beauty of God's Creation' and 'Taking Care of our World'.

God asks us to look after the beautiful world that we call our home. It is a home for the whole world to share. When we care for the world we are sharing God's love. We **praise** God and thank him for our wonderful world.

**When we praise  
God we are giving  
him thanks.**

**Note:** Other video resources that you may find useful include:

BBC Planet Earth – 'Hoppipolla', song by Sigur Ros (HD): [vimeo.com/140574110](https://vimeo.com/140574110)

Planet Earth II: Official Extended Trailer – BBC Earth: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8aFcHFu8QM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8aFcHFu8QM)

(Always view material before sharing with the class)



### Let's Live

The children may record their reaction to the beauty of our common home in a variety of ways (e.g. paint, draw, collage, etc). The children should colour and sequence the story of how God created the earth on Monday's Activity Page.

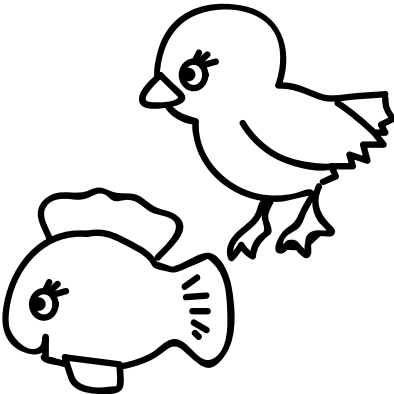
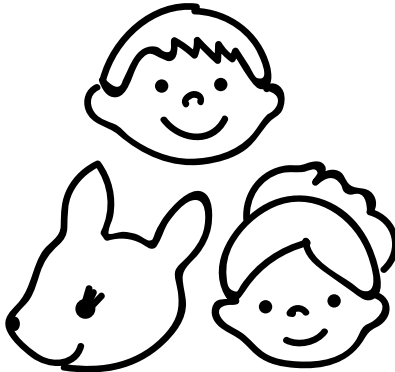
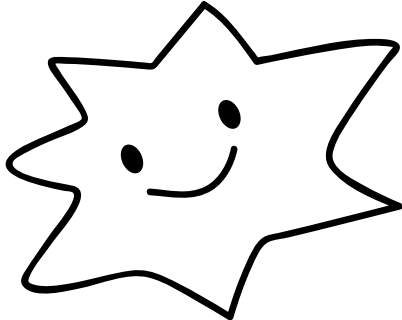
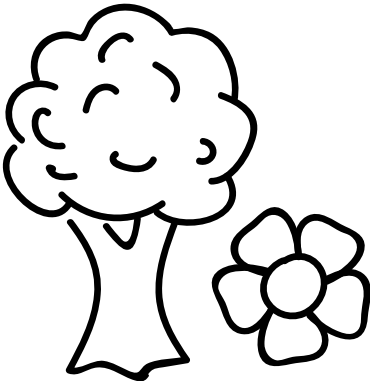
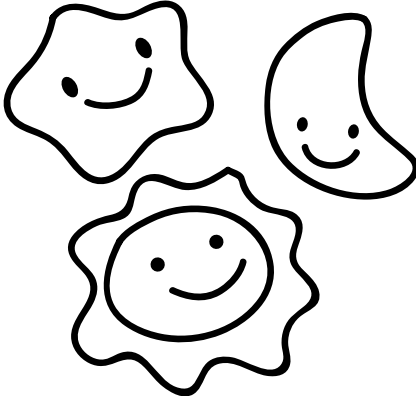
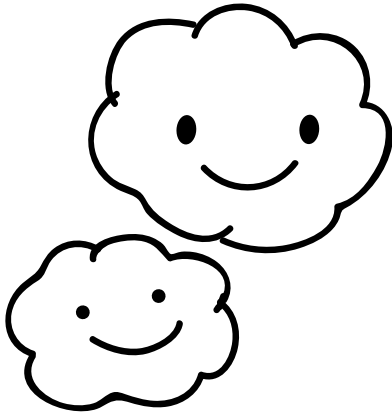
**Song:** 'Gifts of God' (Bernard Sexton)



**Monday:** Seeing the beauty of our common home – Activity Page

**Colour the pictures, cut out each box and paste them in the correct order**



<p>God made the birds and fish!</p> 	<p>God made animals and people!</p> 	<p>God made light!</p> 
 <p>God made land and sea, plants and trees!</p>	 <p>God made the sun, moon and stars!</p>	 <p>God made the sky!</p>





## Tuesday: Caring for our common home

**Reflective Quotes:** 'Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.' (LS 139)

'I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically.' (LS 10)

'What is more, Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.' (LS 12)



### Let's Look

Remind the children of yesterday's activity.

- Who created the world?
- List some of the beauty of God's creation.

Yesterday's lesson focused on a special word: **praise**.

**Differentiation:** Introduce another translation: *Laudato Si'*. Explain to the children that this is Latin for 'Praise be to you'. Latin is a very old language that people learned a long time ago.

Today we will be using a new word: **care**.

- How do we care for our friends/our teeth/our body/our family/our environment?
- What would happen if we didn't care and instead left it up to other people to care for all the important things?

Encourage the children to recall times when they were caring.

- Can they recall an example of Jesus caring for someone?

Share one of the following stories with the children:

- Healing of Man Born Paralysed (Mt 9:1–8; Mk 2:1–12)
- The Lost Sheep (Mt 18:12–14; Lk 15:1–7)
- Zacchaeus (Lk 19:1–10)

**Note:** Adapted version of the scripture is available in:

- *Grow in Love*, First Class, Theme 2: Jesus, Lesson 3: Jesus healed people, p. 66; Theme 5: Reconciliation, Lesson 2: The lost sheep, p. 149
- *Grow in Love*, Second Class, Theme 5: Reconciliation, Lesson 2: Zacchaeus made bad choices, pp. 154–5

### Prayer

Loving God, we give you praise for the wonderful gifts you have shared with us.  
Help us to be loving and caring just like your son Jesus.  
Help us to remember to always care.  
Amen.



### Let's Learn

God asks us to care for each other and for our beautiful world. When we care for each other and the environment we know we please God our Father. God is happy because we have done what Jesus asks us to do.





Show the children the image of Pope Francis. Encourage discussion about him. The image may be printed and included on the Prayer Space.

**Note:** Information on Pope Francis is available at: [www.adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Trifold-on-Pope-Francis-for-Children.pdf](http://www.adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Trifold-on-Pope-Francis-for-Children.pdf)

Pope Francis has a special job. He has been chosen by God to teach us how to live the way God wants us to. Pope Francis chose his name because he learned about caring for the environment from another man called Francis. Pope Francis refers to St Francis as his 'guide and inspiration' (LS 10).

**Note:** Further information available on St Francis:

- *Grow in Love*, Junior Infants, Theme 2: Our World, Lesson 3: We can care for the world
- *Alive-O* 6, Term 1, Lesson 4: St Francis Cares for Creation

St Francis loved everything about God's wonderful creation. Many stories have been written about Francis and the ways in which he helped people to understand that the world is a beautiful gift from God. St Francis taught people to show respect for God's creation and to praise God for all he has done. One way we can show respect is by caring for the environment.

**Note:** Further information available on:

- St Francis Taming the Wolf: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNDFJJvI77E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNDFJJvI77E)
- St Francis and the Wolf: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8227Vy4d28](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8227Vy4d28)

### Look and Respond

Show the children the image of St Francis and the Wolf and ask the following questions.

- What do you see?
- How many people are in the image?
- What kind of creatures are in the picture?
- How many do you see?
- What, do you think, is the man saying to the wolf?







## St Francis and the Wolf

A long time ago, when Francis was living in Gubbio, a fierce wolf appeared and began attacking livestock. Soon the wolf began to attack humans, and eat them. The ferocious wolf would wait outside the city gates for anyone who ventured out. No one could capture the wolf and most of those who tried came to a grisly end! Very soon the whole city was terrified of the wolf. Eventually Francis announced that he was going to meet the wolf. Everyone advised him to stay away from the fierce creature; however, Francis decided that the time had come to meet this creature that was causing so much fear. He went to the gate of the city, blessed himself and walked out into the countryside. A crowd followed – at a distance. When Francis came close to the wolf's lair, the crowd stayed back but were close enough to see what happened next. The wolf spotted Francis and raced towards him with his jaws open wide. Francis blessed himself and in a loud voice told the wolf to stop. The crowd gasped and could hardly believe their eyes when they saw the wolf slow down to a trot, then walk over to Francis and place his head in the hands of the holy man.



Francis spoke to the now tame wolf. He said, 'Brother Wolf, you have done some terrible things. You have filled the entire city with fear. Everyone wants to be rid of you. Please, Brother Wolf, stop attacking the people. Let us make peace.'

The wolf answered, 'I am happy to make peace. I have done terrible things and I am sorry. If the people can leave a little food for me every day, I won't be hungry and will never attack anyone again.'

The wolf held out his paw to Francis and they shared a sign of peace. Then Francis led the wolf back into the city, where the people looked on in shock. In the marketplace, Francis gave a sermon to all the people. He asked them to share peace with all God's creation. The wolf lay at Francis' feet all the time he spoke. From that day on, the townspeople always remembered to leave out food for the wolf and when he died he was buried in a special place.

St Francis called all creatures, big and small, by the name of 'brother' or 'sister'. This helps us to understand that we should care for all God's creation the way we care for our brothers and sisters.



### Let's Live Consider

- How do we care for God's creation?
- How do we care for God's creatures?

Encourage the children with pets to share how they care for their pets.

St Francis called all creation his brothers and sisters.

- How should we treat our brothers and sisters?
- How can we treat God's creation like our brothers and sisters?

### Prayer

A Hymn of Praise (Ps 100:3–5)

(Children repeat after teacher)

O Lord, my God,

We praise you for the beautiful world that you have created.

We praise you for creating all the people.

We praise you for all the life you have created.

We give thanks with joy.

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.





**Tuesday:** Caring for our common home – Activity Page

**Colour the picture of St Francis and the Wolf**





## Thursday: Protecting our common home

**Reflective Quotes:** 'I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are sharing the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.' (LS 14)

'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.' (LS 21)

The problems of pollution and waste are 'closely linked to a throwaway culture ...' (LS 22)

'Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.' (LS 33)



### Let's Look

Revise what we mean when we refer to the gift of creation.

Revise who reminds us to care for creation. (Pope Francis and St Francis)

Today we are going to investigate what Pope Francis refers to as our common home.

### Prayer

Praise to you God,

for the wonderful gifts you share with us.

We give thanks for all you give us.

Help us to mind and care for your creation.

Amen.



### Let's Learn

In his letter Pope Francis speaks about the earth hurting.

- Did you ever get hurt? What happened?
- Did someone care for you? What did that person do?
- How can the earth hurt?
- What might make the earth sad?
- Have you seen anything in God's creation that might make you sad?

Let's watch a video that explains Pope Francis' letter: [www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Laudato-Si-animation](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Laudato-Si-animation)

**Note:** Resources to accompany this video are available on: [www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/26710/245753/version/4/file/Laudato%20Si%20animation%20guide%20with%20poster.pdf](http://www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/26710/245753/version/4/file/Laudato%20Si%20animation%20guide%20with%20poster.pdf). Further resources available from Trócaire on: [www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/education/resources](http://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/education/resources)



### Let's Live

Consider a spring clean of our school bags, the classroom or the school environment. (This may provide an opportunity to revise how we dispose of waste.) Take 'before' and 'after' photographs. Encourage the children to continue the spring clean at home.

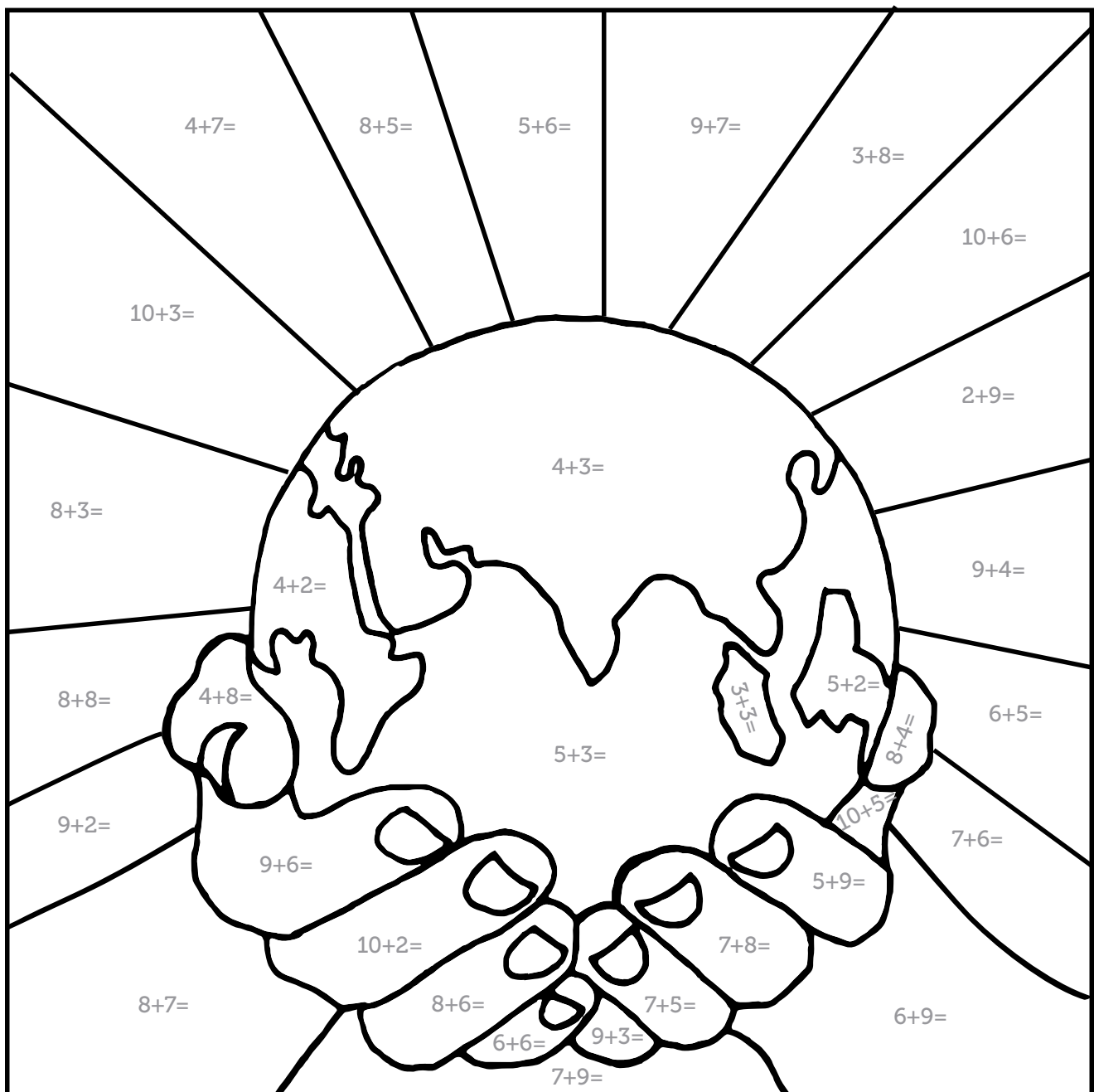
Give the pupils a copy of Thursday's Activity Page and help them to crack the code to decorate the earth.

## Thursday: Protecting our common home – Activity Page

## Crack the code to decorate the earth

Answer	=	Colour
6, 7	=	Green
8	=	Blue
11	=	Orange
12, 14, 15	=	Your skin colour
13, 16	=	Yellow

## We care for the earth





### Friday: Sharing our common home

**Reflective Quotes:** *'Our insistence that each human being is an image of God should not make us overlook the fact that each creature has its own purpose. None is superfluous. The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.'* (LS 84)

*'... we realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.'* (LS 159)

*'A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal.'* (LS 202)

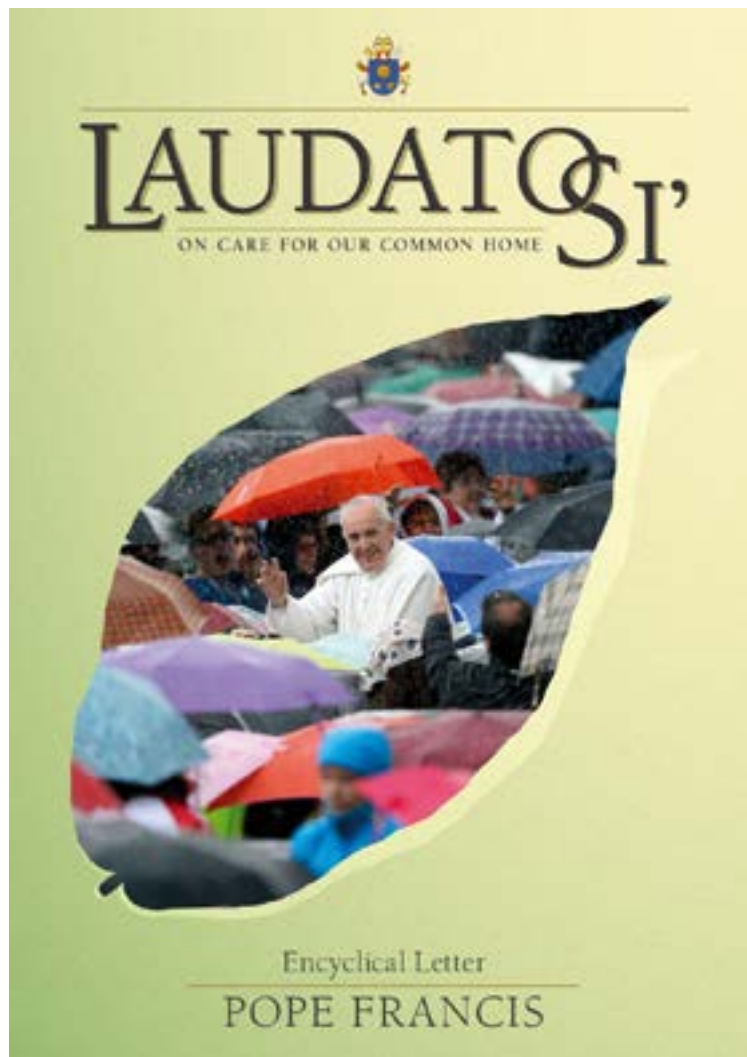


#### Let's Look

This week we have looked at God's creation. We have given praise to God and we have said thank you to God for the world, this home that we all share. We listened to a story about St Francis and heard how he helped the people of Gubbio to be respectful of all God's creatures. Pope Francis sent a letter to the whole world. In the letter he asks everyone to mind and care for our home.

#### Prayer

Glory be to the Father







### Let's Learn

When we care, we don't just think about ourselves, we think about other people and the environment too.

Recall the children's experience of the Green-Schools programme.

- What do we do with litter and waste?
- How do we save energy?
- How do we conserve water?
- How do we keep healthy and cut down on air pollution?
- How do we care for plants and animals in our locality?

**Note:** Information available at: [www.greenschoolsireland.org/](http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/)



### Let's Live

Decide on what you as a class will focus on over the next few weeks to protect our common home.

Ask the pupils to write a letter to Pope Francis on Friday's Activity Page, outlining their plan for caring for our common home. This should include details about their favourite parts of creation and explain how they care for the environment. Display the letters on the Prayer Space. Consider reading out the letters at school assembly or at Mass during Catholic Schools Week 2017.



**Friday:** Sharing our common home – Activity Page

**Write your letter and decorate the page**

**Dear Pope Francis,**

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**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

