



Teacher's Notes: Third and Fourth 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. *Laudato Si'* deals with many environmental issues including pollution, climate change, drought, loss of biodiversity and the decline in the quality of human life. Pope Francis is asking us to work together to create a better world for future generations and to take care of, respect and value our 'common home'.

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

From the Curriculum: Level 3

Christian Faith

Mystery of God

- God is faithful and compassionate (CCC 205)
- God is all-knowing and all-powerful (CCC 268)

Creation

- God created the entire universe, including our earth and all that is in it by his Word, from nothing (Jn 1:1–3; Col 1:16–17; 2 Mac 7:28; CCC 290–91, 296)
- God so loved us that he created the world and us in it to share his life and love (Eph 1:5–6; CCC 279–95)
- God keeps everything in existence (DV1; CCC 301, 320)

Liturgy and Prayer

Prayer

- We can pray by being God's hands in helping others (praying by doing)
- By prayer Christians can work for the coming of the Kingdom (CCC 2632)

Word of God

God's Loving Plan of Salvation

- God's Love is Everlasting (Ex 34:6–7)
- God My Rock (Ps 18:1–3)
- Cosmic Hymn of Praise (Ps 148)
- Celebrating Nature (Ps 104)

Christian Morality

Social Teaching of the Church

- Care for creation is a duty, since the world is God's gift to all generations (CCC 373, 2402, 2456)
- Man and woman are called by God to be stewards of creation (Gn 1:26)



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)

Consider

Begin this lesson by reading the Creation Story from Genesis 1–3 with pupils. (See page 1 of the Fifth and Sixth Class resource for this story.) Alternatively, start with a class prayer as below:

Teacher: Today we thank God for the beauty in the world He created. He gave us this beautiful place to grow and live. Help us to remember to stop and see the beauty that surrounds us.

Invite each child in the class to name one thing in the world that they see beauty in.

Pupil: I can see beauty in ... (Suggestions: flowers, my family, a sunny day, etc.)

The focus of the lesson is the beautiful home which God has given us.

Discuss

The Creation Poem on Monday's Activity Page recaps how God created the world in the Bible. Read and discuss the poem with your class.

Activity Page

Ask the pupils to draw an image for each day in the corresponding box on Monday's Activity Page.

Note: While as Catholics we believe that God created the world, this does not mean we are against the idea of evolution. Creation is an ongoing process and a gift from God. It was God who created something from nothing and God is ever-present in creation, even as it changes and evolves. (CCC 283)



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

Creation Poem

Draw an image to match the line in the poem

<p>Day one brought heaven, earth and light. It must have been so very bright!</p>	<p>Day 1</p>
<p>Day two God made the clear blue sky, A place for many birds to fly.</p>	<p>Day 2</p>
<p>Day three brought land apart from seas, With all the plants, grass and trees.</p>	<p>Day 3</p>
<p>Day four shone forth moon, stars and sun. The work of God was not yet done.</p>	<p>Day 4</p>
<p>Day five we see the fish and birds. God did all of this with just His words.</p>	<p>Day 5</p>
<p>Day six God formed all beasts and man To finish His creation plan.</p>	<p>Day 6</p>
<p>Day seven was especially blessed, A day for worship and for rest.</p>	<p>Day 7</p>



Tuesday: Caring for our common home

Reflective Quote: '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)

Consider

Today we are looking at what Pope Francis has to say about our common home in his letter to everyone on earth, *Laudato Si'*. Pope Francis is asking us to look at the damage we have done to the earth and to care for it better.

Go to: www.cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Laudato-Si-animation or www.trocaire.org/sites/default/files/resources/edu/laudato-si-encyclical-primary.pdf

Here you will find an animation that explores *Laudato Si'* in a pupil-friendly manner. You will also find a script and further activities including a poster colouring page and further suggested activities. (Use as much or little as you like.)

The animation provides the basis for today's lesson.

Discuss

Play the animation in full, then ask the children key questions:

- 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?

Activity Page

Following this, pupils can complete a summary of Pope Francis' message to us in *Laudato Si'* on Tuesday's Activity Page.



Tuesday: Caring for our common home – Activity Page



What is the message Pope Francis gives us in Laudato Si'?

Write in your own words

Draw a picture to show the message



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)

Consider

Today we are focusing on ways we can protect our common home by the things we do every day.

It is important to remember that we are called by God and reminded by Pope Francis to protect our home and care for it as it is a gift from God and we are stewards of the earth during our time here. God wants us to cherish all of his creation and make it a better place to live. As Christians, we are called to be agents of climate and social justice in our world.

In order to protect our home, we are looking at how to cut down on the amount of waste coming from our homes, our schools and our community. The way to do this is to **Reduce, Reuse** and **Recycle**. If your school has, or is working towards, a Green Flag, it will help to remind pupils of the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Discuss

Remind pupils of the three ways to cut down on waste.



Reduce: The most effective way of managing waste is not to produce it in the first place. We can do this by not buying packaging and saving packaging from being thrown out. Always look out for packaging that is recycled. Buy things from places that use fewer containers or let you use your own recycled ones.



Reuse: This is the continued use, or repair, of a product for its original purpose or for a new purpose; for example, instead of throwing out your old microwave when you get a new one, you could sell it at a garage sale or trade it in. Try and use containers, plastic bags and newspapers as many times as possible.



Recycle: Wash, squash and recycle. Make old things into new or different products. You can make new useful things from recyclable objects; for example, using old plastic containers as lunch boxes, making crafts from old boxes and containers, making jewellery boxes from old containers, making original and unique toys out of unwanted objects or even making costumes from recycled material. Junk isn't always something messy like a banana peel, it can include perfectly usable, clean objects that just no longer serve their original function.

Activity Page

On Thursday's Activity Page make a list of practical examples of how to cut down on waste everyday. Then create posters to display in your school/classroom with the title 'Protectors of God's World' or 'Protect the World in the Name of the Lord'.

Additional Activities

Discuss with the pupils how else we can protect the world God has created for us. God calls us to care for and protect our beautiful world. How can we help our environment in God's name? This is part of our mission as Christians. We are called to be agents of climate and social justice in our world.



Thursday: Protecting our common home – Activity Page

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in the Name of the Lord

When we Reduce, Reuse and Recycle waste, we are protecting and caring for the world God created for us

List ways you can Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in the name of the Lord:

Reduce



1. _____
2. _____

Reuse



1. _____
2. _____

Recycle



1. _____
2. _____

We are the Protectors of God's Creation!
Make a poster to display in your school/
classroom with the title 'Protectors of God's
World' or 'Protect the World in the Name of the
Lord'.

How else can we protect the world God has
created for us?

God calls us to care for and protect our
beautiful world!
Design a picture of how we can do this. How
can we help our environment or the people we
share our world with in God's name?





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)

Consider

On the last day of Catholic Schools Week we are focusing on sharing our common home with everyone who lives here on earth. Humans, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere, are causing climate change or global warming. Our home is a shared resource so everything we do here on earth has positive and negative results for those we share our home with!

Discuss

Discuss the weather outside today. Discuss different climates in countries around our world using the terms Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere.

Note: Climate is the average weather, usually over a thirty-year period, for a particular region. Climate is not the same as weather, but rather it is the average pattern of weather for a particular region. Weather, on the other hand, describes the short-term state of the atmosphere.

Activity Page

Use Friday's Activity Page to explore global warming with the class. In pairs, have the pupils use their dictionaries to find the meaning of the words in **bold**.

Additional Activities

Discuss with the class any natural disasters they have heard about. For example, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. Explore what this disaster means for the people of that country and how we can help in these situations.

Pray

Finish the lesson by praying with the class for people who have experienced natural disasters as a result of global warming. (Prayer found on Friday's Activity Page.)

Note: For more information and further ideas on how to expand the topic of global warming/ climate change with your class please see: www.trocaire.ie. Here you will find a huge amount of resources on the subject, in particular the Trócaire Lenten Campaign for 2017, [Climate Change](#), [Climate Justice](#), a continued exploration of climate change and why it's not just an environmental issue.



Friday: Sharing our common home – Activity Page

Things are heating up here on earth: Sharing our home!



Did you know the world is getting warmer?

More than one hundred years ago, people around the world started burning large amounts of coal, oil and natural gas to power their homes, factories and vehicles. Today, most of the world relies on these fossil fuels for their energy needs. Burning **fossil fuels** releases **carbon dioxide**, a heat-trapping gas, into the atmosphere, which is the main reason the climate is changing.

What does this mean?

Some of these gases are naturally in the atmosphere, where they help keep the earth warm enough for plants and animals to live. But people are adding extra gases to the atmosphere. These extra gases are causing the earth to get warmer, setting off all sorts of other changes around the world – on land, in the oceans, and in the atmosphere. And these changes affect people, plants, and animals in many ways. Most of the extra gases are coming from the Global North or **Northern Hemisphere** of earth (where places like Ireland, Europe and the United States of America are located) but the damage is often happening in the Global South or **Southern Hemisphere** (where countries like Kenya, Pakistan and the Philippines are located). Some signs of global warming are rising temperatures, more severe flooding, bigger storms, melting of the **polar ice caps**, **tsunamis**, increased **drought** and **famine**. Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and even more serious as a result of global warming!

Sharing the Load!

We all share this world, so everything we do can affect others who also call earth home. We have a responsibility to do our bit to share the world equally and help those who are being affected by global warming. As followers of Jesus we need to know what is going on and learn what we can do to help!

Dictionary Work

Find the meaning of the **eight** words in bold in the information above.

Lord, you made a wonderful world for us.
Help us to take care of our common home.
Help us to know that the earth is shared by all who live here.
Help us to play our part in making it a better place to call home no matter where we live.
Help those in danger after natural disasters,
Lord be with them.
Amen.

How can we help stop global warming and support people in places where more natural disasters are happening?



See www.trocaire.ie