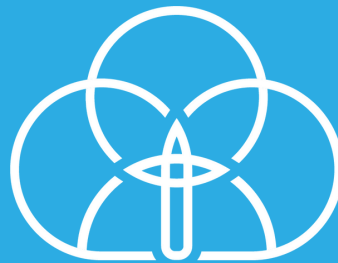




CATHOLIC EARTHCARE PARISH **AUDIT TOOL**

LAUDATO SI' IN ACTION



Catholic
Earthcare
AUSTRALIA

A PROGRAM OF  **Caritas** AUSTRALIA

STEP 2: AUDIT INTRODUCTION



Taking time to reflect on what you currently do is an important step in your ecological conversion and in the process of becoming an Earthcare Parish. It is also a critical step towards inspiring local action and care for our common home.

The Earthcare Parish Certification Process is about considering a range of aspects of parish life, assessing their sustainability and ecological impacts, and beginning to imagine what you as a community might do in response.

This Earthcare Parish Audit Tool is organised in terms of People, Place and Practice. Each includes some audit themes and questions designed to help you to think in different ways about how your parish contributes to sustainability.

Each question aligns with one or more of the 7 Laudato Si' Goals: Response to the Cry of the Earth; Response to the Cry of the Poor; Ecological Economics; Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles; Ecological Education; Ecological Spirituality; and Community Engagement and Participatory Action.

This is not an exhaustive set of questions, of course! You may have other, better questions that are specific to your parish's People, Place and Practice.



Do you sort your waste and compost any kitchen or garden scraps?

HOW TO USE THE EARTHCARE PARISH AUDIT TOOL



- Consider each audit theme and question. (Remember that some questions might be more or less relevant to your particular parish and local setting.)
- Briefly discuss and/or reflect on each as you go.
- Keep the Laudato Si' Goals in mind.
- Record any comments that might be useful later, when you decide on what actions your parish will take towards improving sustainability and better caring for our common home.
- Once you're done, send the completed document through to our Earthcare Team catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au who will award a second star and be ready to support you as you plan your next step.
- Move onto the next step of the Earthcare Parish Certification Process – STEP 3: ACT.

EARTHCARE PARISH AUDIT TOOL



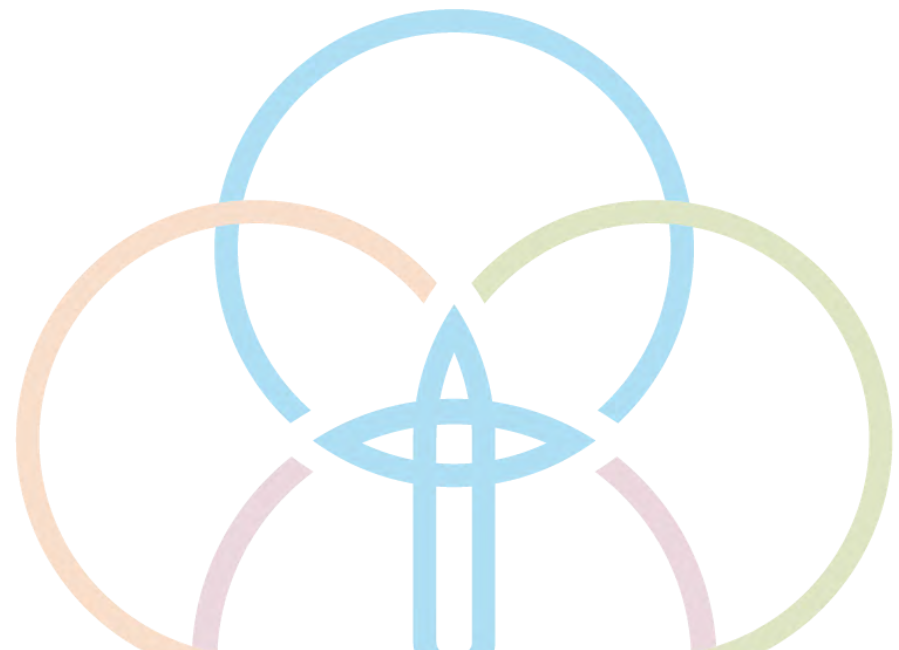
Parish _____

Date _____

Name of
person/people
completing this

EARTHCARE PARISH
AUDIT TOOL

catholicearthcare@caritas.org.au
www.catholicearthcare.org.au



1. PEOPLE

AUDIT THEME & QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	LAUDATO SI' GOAL/S	COMMENTS	DATE
First Nations people			
Do you:			
- Have a connection with local First Nations people and organisations, and: - know and celebrate their strengths, as they identify them? - have an awareness of any challenges they experience and how you might help support them in this?	7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Where possible and appropriate, invite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of your parish onto leadership teams, and/or seek First Nations perspectives on parish matters?	6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Your church community			
Do you:			
- Share a level of understanding about <i>Laudato Si'</i>, including its emphasis on Care for Our Common Home as something: - we, as Christians, are each called to play a part in? - for the wellbeing of all people and living things?	6. Ecological Spirituality		
Share a level of understanding about ecological justice issues ideas, including integral ecology?	5. Ecological Education		
Periodically (e.g. once a year) identify your church community's current strengths and future opportunities for growth in ecological justice awareness and action?	5. Ecological Education 6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		

People and groups who are currently vulnerable, at risk and marginalised			
Do you:			
- Support organisations working with people who are vulnerable, at risk and marginalised: - in your local community (e.g. Vinnies)? - In the global community (e.g. Caritas Australia)?	2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
In parish liturgies, programs and communications, promote solidarity with people who are vulnerable, at risk and marginalised?	2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Ensure that ecological information and events acknowledge, include and are accessible to a wide variety of people, including people living with disabilities, speaking languages other than English, of diverse genders, from different age groups, etc.?	5. Ecological Education 6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Parish liturgies			
Do you:			
- Focus on <i>Laudato Si'</i>, including its themes and goals? - Themes: Care for Our Common Home, integral ecology 7 goals: Response to the Cry of the Earth, Response to the Cry of the Poor, Ecological Economics, Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality, Community Engagement and Participatory Action - Do this in ways that acknowledge, include and are accessible to a wide variety of people, including people living with disabilities, speaking languages other than English, of diverse genders, from different age groups, etc.?	5. Ecological Education 6. Ecological Spirituality		
Make use of liturgical resources provided for Laudato Si' Week (May) and Season of Creation (September)?	6. Ecological Spirituality		

Minimise single-use paper resources?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
Use indoor spaces in energy efficient ways (e.g. by choosing spaces to suit numbers, closing off areas to keep heat in, etc.)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
Use outdoor spaces, where possible and as seasons allow?	6. Ecological Spirituality		
Approaches to education			
Do you:			
Share <i>Laudato Si'</i> quotes and green tips and resources with your congregation/s and wider local community?	5. Ecological Education 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Learn from and work with local environmental groups (e.g. Landcare, Greening Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation) and schools with sustainability programs?	5. Ecological Education 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Offer opportunities for members of your wider local community to learn about <i>Laudato Si'</i> and understand it more deeply?	5. Ecological Education 6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Make ecological justice information accessible and easy to find on parish websites and noticeboards?	5. Ecological Education		
Help grow parishioners' knowledge and awareness of ecological justice and ways they can contribute to it?	5. Ecological Education		

Outreach			
Do you:			
Link with local groups and support community projects to care for the environment (Clean Up Australia Day, Credit Union, food bank)?	7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Connect with local school communities to support their sustainability initiatives and foster ecological justice projects that bring generations together to work in this area?	5. Ecological Education 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Offer an outdoor area for prayer, contemplation and/or recreation that is open to members of the wider local community?	6. Ecological Spirituality 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Beyond your local community			
Do you:			
Support the work of our international development agency, Caritas Australia?	7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Support the work of national and international conservation and environmental agencies (e.g. Australian Conservation Foundation, WWF, Friends of the Earth, etc)?	7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Support and promote Fair Trade and slavery-free products and enterprises, and source products that are produced according to environmental sustainability standards?	2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics		
Provide and promote information and advocacy opportunities on issues including climate change, refugees, local and global poverty, First Nations justice?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		

2. PLACE

AUDIT THEME & QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	LAUDATO SI' GOAL/S	COMMENTS	DATE
First Nations Country			
Do you:			
Know which First Nations Country you are on and about the First Nations history of the parish site and surrounds? (Refer to this AIATSIS map.)	5. Ecological Education 6. Ecological Spirituality		
The ecosystem your church grounds are a part of			
Do you:			
Have any waterways moving through or near your church grounds?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
Know which native flora and fauna species live locally (i.e. are indigenous to the area)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 5. Ecological Education		
Provide and preserve habitat, food and water for local animals, birds and insects?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		

3. PRACTICE

AUDIT THEME & QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER	LAUDATO SI' GOAL/S	COMMENTS	DATE
First Nations Country and people			
Do you:			
- Have a Message Stick (from Aboriginal Catholic Ministry) publicly displayed and used in the liturgy on appropriate occasions? - Acknowledge the original custodians of parish land on your website, in your weekly bulletin and/or in your Welcome to Mass?	6. Ecological Spirituality		
Your parish buildings			
Do you:			
- Energy - Read bills and meters to assess energy usage, and encourage parishioners to do the same at home? - Consider commissioning an energy consultant to assess the energy efficiency of your buildings? - Collect and store energy (e.g. through a solar panel and battery system)? - Have energy efficient heating and cooling system/s? - Have energy efficient lighting (e.g. LED light bulbs) installed? - Have appliances/equipment/systems serviced regularly and ensure any new appliances have low energy usage ratings? - Use a 'green' renewable energy provider? - Switch off appliances/equipment/systems at the power point when not in use (rather than leave on Stand By)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 5. Ecological Education 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		

• Water - o Have tanks for collecting and storing rainwater? - o Use water mindfully and in ways that avoid waste (e.g. by using drip irrigation on a timer)? - o Have efficient taps installed and/or regularly check taps for leaks? - o Use tank water (e.g. for flushing toilets) or grey water (e.g. for watering garden beds)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
• Building Maintenance - o Consider installing or renewing insulation? - o Consider fitting draught excluders around doors and windows? - o Consider the cost and efficiency of ongoing repairs? - o Consider possible long-term replacement and/or renewal opportunities? - o Consider ecologically sustainable development (ESD) for any new building designs?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
Your church grounds			
Do you:			
• Maintain church gardens in ways that are sustainable and good for local wildlife (e.g. avoiding pesticides)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
• Select plant species that are drought tolerant and indigenous to your area?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
• Compost garden and kitchen waste?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
• Use green, paper and plastic waste recycling services (e.g. provided by local council)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
• Collect and/or recycle water for use on garden beds?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
• Avoid excessive water use for lawns and/or review use of land currently given over to lawn?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		

Have a suitable amount of well-located hard landscaping (e.g. areas of paving or concrete) (e.g. to trap heat in cooler months, limit excessive water run-off issues that might impact the catchment, etc.)?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth		
Have a parish community garden where herbs and vegetables are available to all?	4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		
Your day-to-day parish activities			
Do you:			
- Finances - Know if your bank's investments are ethical and sustainable? - Use local suppliers and service providers, including First Nations-led organisations, wherever possible? - Take a minimalist approach to purchasing: choose to buy good quality items that are second-hand rather than new; choose environmentally ethically sourced items rather than single-use, etc.?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics		
- Office activities - Minimise your use of paper? - Use recycled paper and envelopes? - Use electronic communication wherever possible? - Use Fair Trade/slavery-free products? - Use local suppliers and service providers, including First Nations-led organisations, wherever possible?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
- Meetings - Use rooms that best suit the size of the gathering group, to maximise energy efficiency? - Use digital technologies (like Zoom or Microsoft Teams), as a strategy to reduce travel-related emissions?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		

• Kitchen and Catering - o Use Fair Trade/slavery-free products? - o Use local farmers' markets, suppliers and service providers, including First Nations-led organisations, wherever possible? - o Use locally-grown produce? - o Use reusable cups, crockery and cutlery, rather than single-use ones? - o Use reusable food storage containers and biodegradable food coverings?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
• Cleaning - o Clean in a way that ensures health and safety standards <i>and</i> sustainable use of resources? - o Use environmentally friendly products? - o Consider the health, safety and wellbeing of your cleaner/s (whether volunteer/s, staff member/s or contractor/s)? - o Clean windows regularly, to maximise light?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 3. Ecological Economics 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles		
• Waste Management - o Minimise waste? - o Re-use or re-purpose wherever possible, and/or recycle? - o Ensure waste is sorted correctly? - o Compost? - o Promote, collect for and/or donate quality used goods to local Vinnies stores, parish jumble sales, 'bring and buy' or commodity exchange events?	1. Response to the Cry of the Earth 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor 3. Ecological Economics 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles 7. Community Engagement and Participatory Action		