

Letters and Petitions

inspired by Laudate Deum for COP28

As one of the 85 Catholic Earthcare parishes and dioceses in Australia, our Parish Climate Action Group received a number of emails from the Co-coordinator of Catholic Earthcare and the Laudato Si Movement requesting Catholics to write letters and sign petitions relating to COP28 in the light of Pope Francis recent statement, Laudate Deum. We outlined two of these actions in the parish newsletter of 26 November 2023. Here are two more suggested actions.

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:17)

1. Sign this petition – click on the link



This year, during Advent, between November 30 and December 12, COP28 will take place in Dubai, where leaders from around the world, including Pope Francis, will gather to make key decisions for the future of our planet.

That is why we propose that you respond to the Pope's call in Laudate Deum and send a clear message to Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, president of COP28, by signing the petition with our requests and hopes.

[Read and sign the petition here](#)

Remember: during this Advent, our action and prayer is critical for our Common Home and that of future generations: “Let us not love in word, nor in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

2. Send this email letter to as many Members of Federal Parliament as you wish.

The email address of our local Jaga Jaga MP, Kate Thwaites is Kate.Thwaites.MP@aph.gov.au

The email address for the Minister for Climate and Energy, Chris

Bowen, is Minister.Bowen@DCCEEW.gov.au and for the Assistant Minister, Jenny McAllister is AssistantMinister.McAllister@dceew.gov.au

The email address for the Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek, is

Minister.Plibersek@dceew.gov.au



Dear

I am writing to you today to ask you to sign this important pledge on the issue of climate change-induced loss and damage.

We are now in the era of loss and damage. Climate impacts are spiralling out of control across the world. The increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events are going beyond our ability to adapt, as made crystal clear by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#). Day by day, changes to our seas, ecosystems, and weather systems are crippling lives, livelihoods and economies. The time for action is now!

On 4 October 2023, Pope Francis published Laudate Deum ("Praise God") on the climate crisis. It is a reminder of the threat posed by the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather such as heat, drought and storms to human dignity in the lead up to COP28 in Dubai. He went on to call for all people of good will to respond with greater international action. As he put it, "the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point."

Pope Francis also said that "the effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world." He said "'How can we forget that Africa, home to more than half the world's poorest people, is responsible for a minimal portion of historic emissions?" Reminding us that the most vulnerable people suffer the most despite being the least responsible for its cause.

And almost all Australians think that big polluters should pay for the damage they are doing, and a Loss and Damage fund is one important part of that. In the lead up to COP 27, research from Caritas Australia showed that 89% believe that the world's largest polluting nations should pay for the impacts of climate change.

Pope Francis expressed his hope that COP28 could be the chance for a "change in direction" for substantial changes made by world governments.

This includes the loss and damage fund that will be negotiated at COP28 to help compensate developing nations most effected by natural disasters. He said this fund would "give a new voice and a greater role to developing countries" and that it is the responsibility of wealth and polluting countries to contribute their fair share.

All elected representatives and lawmakers must now also step up and make their voice heard. Parliamentarians and legislators have a huge role to play in addressing loss and damage across the world; in developing, scrutinising and passing legislation and holding governments to account, ensuring climate responses are just, equitable and accountable to communities at the frontline of the climate crisis. This means money, technology and support must flow from those with means and responsibility to communities on the climate frontlines. New laws must be passed across the world, both to introduce new forms of raising finance based on the principle of polluter pays which can also help to drive down

emissions, as well as introducing legislation which ensures finance to address loss and damage gets to communities who need it most.

The role of parliamentarians is vital in driving forward the level of ambition that this crisis needs and in turning up political ambition beyond the technocratic and incrementalist approaches which often slow down the pace of action required.

Your support is vital in driving forward the level of ambition making sure action is taken fast.

This is why I am asking you to sign the Global Parliamentarians Pledge of Loss and Damage from the Loss and Damage Collaboration and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance and endorsed by Caritas Australia, the aid and development arm of the Catholic Church.

We need to show the world that we are all in this together, and that we each have our role to play in protecting those on the frontlines, especially the poorest, from the worst impacts of climate change.

I therefore urge you to show your support for action to address loss and damage by going to <https://www.lossanddamagecollaboration.org/parliamentary-pledge-on-loss-and-damage> and signing this important pledge.

Many kind regards,

Your name

Suburb and Postcode

Your email address