

The Language We Use and Why

Please explore the terms below to find out more about some of the language we use and why.

Carbon literacy

An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

Care for our Common Home

The full title of *Laudato Si'* is "The Encyclical of the Holy Father Pope Francis on Care for our Common Home". Throughout the document, Pope Francis regularly refers to our world as our "common home", highlighting the interconnectedness of all things and the shared responsibility we all have to care for our planet and our brothers and sisters around the world. This phrase reminds us that creation is a gift for all but our actions have led to inequality in how the earth's resources are shared around the world.

Care of creation

A theme of Catholic Social Teaching, drawing on the seventh commandment to respect the integrity of God's creation. It encompasses a sense of responsible stewardship, caring for the earth and the people living on our shared planet.

Cry of the Earth and Cry of the People

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis is clear that our ecological crisis is both environmental and social, and that both aspects require healing and renewal in their turn. He said: "There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself."

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? The question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal."

This phrase serves as a reminder to look at both sides of the coin as we strive to build a better future.

Ecological Conversion

Another key phrase in *Laudato Si'* is “ecological conversion”. Through this phrase, Pope Francis seeks to remind us that our call to address our climate crisis is not simply political or economic: it is a matter of faith and spirituality and must be grounded in our Christian response to the Gospel. Pope Francis said: “What [we] need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effect of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.”

As such, our call to respond to the needs of our planet and people around the world is an integral aspect of our faith and a key part of our responsibility as stewards of the earth - a role given to all humanity, as described in the Book of Genesis. However, the actions of our past has led to a disconnect to this sacred call, and so our first steps to healing our world must be within our own hearts, to help us acknowledge the mistakes we’ve made and to discern the path ahead.

Ecological Crisis

Human-induced activities that cause highly dangerous and irreversible changes to the earth’s systems, significantly damaging life as we know it and undermining human relations to themselves, to other humans and to all creation.

Encyclical

A papal letter that is circulated to all bishops in the Roman Catholic Church.

Guardians of Creation

A project to develop a generalisable framework for sustainability transition in the Catholic Church, for use in the Catholic Church of England and Wales, and beyond. The project is support by the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales, with Bishop John as the project sponsor.

The project team, which includes researchers from St Mary’s University, The Laudato Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford, and The Tyndall Centre, The University of Manchester are developing this framework over a two-year pilot case study in the Diocese of Salford.

Integral Ecology

Integral ecology is a term used to describe the interconnectedness of all creation and how that can shape our response to the political, social, economic, and environmental challenges we face across the world.

Interconnectedness

Pope Francis often talks about the interconnectedness of creation. A key part of *Laudato Si'* is about understanding how all creation relies on each other: how different species rely on the earth, the relationship of these species and the earth with humanity, how humanity interacts with each other, and how all of this is underpinned by our relationship with Creator God.

Pope Francis reminds us that our actions - however small or insignificant they might seem - can have a considerable impact on people and places right across the world.

Laudato Si'

The 2015 encyclical from Pope Francis. Named after St Francis of Assisi's canticle "Laudato Si', mi' Signore" - meaning "praise to you, Lord" - this powerful document celebrates the wonderful gift of creation, highlights how our actions have damaged creation and caused suffering to our brothers and sisters around the world, and issues a call for all the people of the world to work together to build a future of environmental and social justice.

Laudato Si' Centre

The 'Laudato Si' Centre' at Wardley Hall, Worsley, is our bold and ambitious response to the international call by Pope Francis to people of all faiths in his letter *'Laudato Si' - Care for Our Common Home'*.

The vision for the Centre, when complete, is that the centre will operate as an education and outreach mission that generates environmental hope, rooted in the belief that we can all make a difference through the actions we take. Our mission is to provide the tools and learning needed to enable all to hear and respond in hope to the cry of the earth and cry of the people.

Transformation and Healing

For decades, environmental experts have talked about the need to limit the impact the climate crisis is having on our planet and the need to develop a more sustainable way of living. However, recent reports from the IPCC have revealed that time is running out to reverse much of the damage we have already caused. As such, our attention must now turn to healing this damage, as opposed to reversing it, which requires a fully transformative approach to how we live our daily lives.

Our Hearing the Cry themes:

Working with Nature: Exploring our relationship and interconnectedness with God's created world, protecting and regenerating nature and living consciously in oneness.

Spirituality, renewal, and wellbeing of self: Recognising and strengthening the spiritual dimensions of each other as God's children and providing individuals and communities the chance to flourish in their wholeness as God's children.

Regenerative Living: Living simply with care and kindness for our common home given into our care by God, to improve the health of our air, soil, water and habitats so that others can simply live.

Fairness and Social Justice: Seeing the dignity of all our brothers and sisters as God's children, working for a healthy world for all, and understanding the impact of our activities & actions on our brothers and sisters.