



## A Garden Reflection during Lent

Where gardens are mentioned in the Bible, they are described as places of beauty, peace and fruitfulness. Our first parents were reported as meeting God in a garden *with all kinds of trees pleasing to the eye and good for food* (Genesis 2:9). That is generally our experience too. Yet Pope Francis reminds us in his letter *Laudato Si'* that today: ***The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth***" (21).



In the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing what lay ahead of him, Jesus suffered deeply on our account. He must have been tempted to give up on us. He persisted, and went to the cross for us: *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8)

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, heartbroken, was looking for Jesus in the garden around his tomb. As Jesus came up to her, Mary, *thinking he was the gardener, said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."* (John 20:15).

Is it just a coincidence that on the morning of the Resurrection, Jesus meets Mary in a garden?

Lord Jesus, help us to change our hearts and our ways to care better for our earthly Garden, so that when we see you face to face, we might rejoice with you in your heavenly Garden.

## Shop fairly this Easter



To ensure the chocolate you buy is not produced with slave or child labour, look for products with labels that certify they have been produced under fair conditions. Here are three common labels that you will see on fair trade products. For more information on

fair trade chocolate see <https://www.choice.com.au/food-and-drink/sweets/chocolate/articles/ethical-easter-eggs>



## Forum for Parishes: Implementing Laudato Si', Tuesday March 8

This online forum, organized by members of St Dominic's Parish Justice and Peace Group and Our Lady of the Assumption and St Agnes parishes Care for our Common Home Group, drew more than 80 people from around eastern Australia, with very positive feedback. The recorded presentations are available at [https://www.stdominics.org.au/integral\\_ecology.html](https://www.stdominics.org.au/integral_ecology.html)

### Laudato Si' Action Platform

The Laudato Si' Action Platform invites Catholic families, parishes, schools and organisations to join in a seven-year *Action Plan* towards eco justice and sustainability.

The first part of the Plan requires us to *Reflect* on our current situation and do a *Self-Assessment* of our energy and resource consumption, as a basis for seeing if we can do better. The OLA/St Agnes Care for our Common Home Group, on behalf of the parishes, has commenced this process and will keep you informed as the Plan develops. Families and individuals can start their own Action Plan by logging on to <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>



### Rare and precious metals



Do you have rare and precious metals in your drawers? If you have a broken or old mobile phone or two lying around at home, then the answer is 'Yes!'. Supplies of these metals, such as cobalt (in lithium batteries) and gold and platinum in the circuitry, are finite on our planet. Earth will not be getting any more soon. We should reuse everything we can from our obsolete devices.

The shift to electric cars means a growing demand for cobalt. 'Blood Cobalt', a recent episode of the ABC's 'Foreign Correspondent', showed us the shocking human cost of mining cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo. MobileMuster recycles our old mobiles. Drop off your old mobiles at Optus, Telstra, Vodaphone and Officeworks stores. <https://www.mobilemuster.com.au> (source: Sydney Morning Herald)

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, help us to change our hearts and our ways to care better for our earthly Garden, so that when we see you face to face, we might rejoice with you in your heavenly Garden.*