



Parishes of Our Lady of the Assumption,
Cheltenham and St Agnes, Highett
CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME GROUP
PARISH UPDATE APRIL 2024



Easter 2024

In his Easter Message Pope Francis used the image of the stone at Jesus' tomb as a symbol of "the stone of war, the stone of humanitarian crises, the stone of human rights violations, the stone of human trafficking, and other stones as well. Like the women disciples of Jesus, we ask one another: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (cf. *Mk 16:3*). "On this day when we celebrate the life given us in the resurrection of the Son, let us remember the infinite love of God for each of us: a love that overcomes every limit and every weakness".



Photo Lutheran World Federation

Some Good News on Climate

News of climate disasters reach us nearly every day. We wonder what the future holds. There is some good news, if we have eyes of faith and hope to see.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son" (John 3:16). God wants to help us to protect the Earth from our own excesses. He will not do it for us, since He has put us in charge of caring for the Earth (Genesis 2:15), but He will help us if we ask Him.

In "Laudato Si' – On Care for our Common Home", Pope Francis calls all people to profound cultural and spiritual change in the way we treat each other and the Earth. We have the user guide, are we using it? (Ask us how!)

The world has *started* to take global warming seriously. In 2015 in Paris, 195 countries agreed to act to hold global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius (2°C) and ideally below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Every year world leaders meet to review progress and adjust climate management strategies.

Countries are racing each other to reach net zero The US, China and most countries are in a race against each other to develop new technologies, to be leaders in the net zero emissions economy.

Disastrous floods, fires and famines are constant reminders that we need to change our behaviour. These "reminders" will become stronger and more frequent until we change our ways.

We humans are very ingenious When the world decides to take all-out action on climate change, humans will do amazing things to make life on Earth liveable.

We have been told what we need to do to care for our precious Earth. There is time, there is hope, but *nations, governments and we must quickly move away from using fossil fuels*. Let's do what we can, and put our trust in God for the rest.

Earth

Earth is a 2023 BBC series of five one-hour episodes, telling the 4.5 billion year story of our planet, Earth. The story is interestingly told by Chris Packham and enhanced with computer generated imagery. More than 200 leading palaeontologists, geologists, climatologists, and other specialists were consulted for the series. You can watch it on ABC iView.



A Muslim Sibling to *Laudato Si'*

In 2015, Pope Francis addressed his ecological encyclical *Laudato Si' : On Care for Our Common Home* to all the world's people, not just to Catholics. Since then this document has inspired and guided the efforts of many to understand the climate crisis faced by all humanity as a betrayal of God's creation, to advocate for the poor who are more affected by this crisis than those who are well off, and to partner with Indigenous peoples whose attachment to country and deep knowledge of it are a gift to the planet.

On 27 February 2024, *Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth* was issued in Nairobi, Kenya, during the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. This document, developed by Islamic scholars for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, has been described as a "Muslim sibling" to Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*.

'Al-Mizan' means 'balance' in Arabic and is taken from a passage in the Quran that states, "He (God) set up the balance (*al-mīzān*) so that you may not exceed the balance. Weigh with justice and do not fall short in the balance. He has spread out the Earth for all living creatures." Islamic scholars call Muslim nations to cut fossil fuels, echoing 'Laudato Si' ' | National Catholic Reporter (nronline.org)

Prayer

Let us pray with Pope Francis that the stones of war and suffering may be rolled away, and that people may know the peace that only Jesus can give (John 14:27)

Join us! contact Adrian Foley 0497 780 233, ade.foley@gmail.com