

# Laudato Si'

## CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



A set of six photo cards with teacher's notes.

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development **CAFOD**



## INSTRUCTIONS AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

### Welcome to the *Laudato Si'* reflection cards!

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote a letter called *Laudato Si'* addressed to every person on the planet, asking us all to protect the earth. This photo and activity pack explores quotes from *Laudato Si'* and scripture, with accompanying photo stories from CAFOD's work with our sisters and brothers around the world.

Here's how to use the cards in your classroom and beyond:

Watch the *Laudato Si'* animation for children as an introduction, and then each card can be shared between a small group, or shared as a class. Each offers children an opportunity to reflect on the messages of *Laudato Si'* and scripture, and make links between faith, learning and action.

### LITURGICAL PRAYER

Invite your pupils to lead a liturgy using our *Laudato Si'* resources.

### CREATIVE WRITING

When you have reflected on *Laudato Si'*, why not write a poem, prayer or reflection?

### MUSIC

Download and learn the *Laudato Si'* song.

### CAFOD CLUB

Register a CAFOD club at your school, and bring global learning into your chaplaincy team. How will your club care for our common home throughout the year?

### AUGMENTED REALITY

Meet the eco brigade in Peru and download the interactive posters to show how children around the world are taking care of the environment: [cafod.org.uk/changemakers](http://cafod.org.uk/changemakers)

### SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

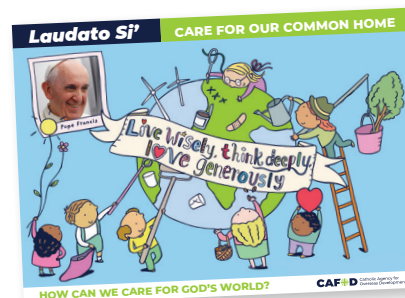
Look at the quotes and reflect on how they link to your school's mission statement.

### WEEK OF WONDER

Hold a 'Week of wonder' on *Laudato Si'* by choosing quotes for each year group in your school to reflect on.

### LIVESIMPLY AWARD

Take a look at the **LiveSimply** award ideas and consider how your school could take action to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity.



[cafod.org.uk/LaudatoSi-schools](http://cafod.org.uk/LaudatoSi-schools)



'The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.' *Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 23*



## The eco brigade

### Lima, Peru

Lima is the capital of Peru. Although it is by the coast, it is a very dry city.

In Lima, there is an area called Lomas de Carabayllo. It is one of the most polluted areas of the city, and there is also a lack of space for children to play. In the district there is an area called the Lomas de Primavera, part of a chain of hills and mountains which are known as Lima's green lung.

But this area is under threat from land traffickers, people who illegally sell the land to others, and mining companies who are trying to invade the area. There is also a lack of space for children to play.

In several local schools there are eco-brigades, whose job is to be environmental leaders and protectors. They do a range of activities to protect the environment. By planting and protecting trees they are helping the planet breathe.

- *Why do you think the area is called the 'green lung'?*
- *Why is protecting the environment important?*
- *If you have an eco council or green team, what are the similarities between them and the eco brigade in Peru?*

**'God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.'**

Genesis 1:31

**'We come together to take charge of this home which he has entrusted to us.'**

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 244

In these lines from Laudato Si', Pope Francis reminds us that we must work together to look after the Earth, our common home. It belongs to everyone, and we all have the responsibility to take care of it. The eco brigade in Peru are working together with each other to help their area but are also helping their global neighbours by planting trees that help the planet to breathe.

- *How can we take care of the Earth, our common home?*
- *Why is working together important?*
- *What does 'the climate is a common good' mean?*

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES:**

Common Good, Stewardship



'Each of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation.' *Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 14*

## Laudato Si' CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



### Fabiano Uganda

Fabiano used to spend hours every day collecting water from a well. He would walk there and back, 5km overall, and it would take him an hour. Sometimes he would make this journey three times a day. It made going to school hard as he was too tired.

But Fabiano loved school and he was determined to go after collecting water, even when he was tired. In fact, he never missed a day of school.

Thanks to help from CAFOD's global network, Fabiano's community now has a pump in the village. It means it's much easier to collect water for cooking and cleaning. It also means that the community can grow vegetables.

Fabiano has much more free time now. He is enjoying his school and helping other people to understand how the water pump can help everyone stay clean and healthy.

- *Why is having a pump in the village important?*
- *What do you use water for each day?*
- *How can you help communities like Fabiano's?*

**'I have come that you might have life – life to the full.'**

John 10:10

**'Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life.'**

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 213

As well as calling on us to take care of the Earth, our common home, Pope Francis' letter makes other points too. We need to listen to the needs of others.

We need to learn from each other, and as this quote says, education is one of the most important parts of life.

As we see from Fabiano's story, taking care of creation is linked to the rights of others, such as the right of children to go to school, and not spend all day fetching water.

- *How can we learn from each other today?*
- *Why is learning from each other important?*
- *How can we all live life to the full?*

#### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES:

Distributive Justice,  
Human Dignity



'The climate crisis is worst for the poor who are doing least to cause it.' *Pope Francis, Laudato Si'* 48

## Laudato Si' CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



### Fatima Bangladesh

Fatima is 8 years old and lives in Bangladesh with her father and her mother. There is no electricity inside her home. The floor is cold and hard, with a small dug out hole in the middle where her mother Rubima cooks food and makes a fire. Fatima's home used to be so wet with rain coming in that her mother was unable to cook anything.

Fatima is not able to go to school. She spends her days looking after her father when her mother goes to find food from local villages or neighbours.

Her parents want to be able to send Fatima to school. Fatima says she 'does not dare to dream' as she knows she must look after her mother and father. When she grows up she wants to help people.

CAFOD is helping Fatima's community by giving out seeds that will survive the weather, trying out new crops and teaching people new ways to farm in the area.

- *How would you feel if your house inside was wet every time it rained?*
- *Why is it important to be able to go to school?*
- *How can you help your family?*

**'The world is a gift which we have freely received and we should share with others.'**

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 159

**'I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.'**

Matthew 25:35

In Fatima's story, her life is being affected by changes in the climate. It is hard for her mother Rubima to grow food, and this makes it hard for Fatima to go to school.

But as we see from the quote from Pope Francis' letter, people like Fatima and Rubima have done the least in the world to cause the problems that they face.

We have freely received the great gift of the Earth. The responsibility is on all of us to work together so that we can share our common home.

- *Why is sharing with others important?*
- *How can we work together to care for our common home?*
- *Why do we need to take responsibility ourselves?*

#### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES:

Human Dignity, Preferential  
Option for the Poor

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'We need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family living in a common home.'

*Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti 12*

## **Laudato Si'** CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



### **Mary and Waleed**

#### Jordan

Mary and Waleed live in Jordan. They were born in Syria and had to leave their homes because of conflict. They are refugees.

Mary says "I am from Syria. I was five when I came here. I miss things, like my grandmother who passed away. We used to play together."

She lived in a small house in Syria that was very beautiful.

"We had a garden and I used to play hide and seek there with my brothers and sisters. I like to play."

When she grows up, she would like to be a doctor.

Mary and Waleed are taking part in a project where they use films and puppets to talk about their experiences and start to rebuild their lives.

- *If you had to leave your home, what things would you pack first?*
- *How would you feel if you could not go back to your home?*
- *Why is it important to have a safe place?*

**'Let us think of refugees and the displaced. Let us hear their true stories.'**

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti 261

**'Love your neighbour as yourself.'**

Luke 10:27

There are many children around the world like Mary and Waleed, those who have had to leave their homes. As Pope Francis says, they are often forgotten. But we must think of them, hear their stories and reach out to help like the Good Samaritan.

- *What does the story of the Good Samaritan teach us?*
- *How can we support our global neighbours like Mary and Waleed?*

#### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES:**

Human Dignity, Solidarity



'Let us not miss a kind word, smile or small gesture which spreads peace and friendship.'

*Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 230*

## **Laudato Si'** CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



### **Rosana** Colombia

Rosana (far left) is 15 and lives in a town called San Pablo. Here she is with her friends from school.

For many years, there has been a lot of violence and conflict in Colombia. Rosana is part of a peace building project, where she and other young people bring about change in their community. They talk about what peace means for them and they want to leave violence behind.

She says “We still have hope that there will be justice, that there will be peace, that there will be equality for all and there will be respect.”

As well as working together and sharing their dreams, these young people have been leading a project about green spaces at school and tackling bullying and discrimination.

- *What can we do to bring about change?*
- *Why is it important to share dreams?*
- *What does peace mean to you?*

***‘How much our human family needs to learn to live together in harmony and peace, without all of us having to be the same!’***

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti 12

***‘Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.’***

Matthew 5:9

As Pope Francis says, living together in peace and friendship is very important. We need to look out for everyone and be sure to enjoy helping to share peace with others.

Like Rosana and her friends have done, we can talk to others, work out and celebrate our differences so that we can live together as a global family. By thinking of ourselves as a single family living in a common home, we can build a brighter world together.

- *Why is working together important?*
- *What does Pope Francis mean by ‘a single family living in a common home’?*
- *How can we look after others and spread peace?*

#### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES:**

Peace, Subsidiarity



'Young people demand change.' *Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 13*

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### Taking action in England and Wales

These children from across England and Wales are taking action to care for the Earth.

From making changes in school or in their local area, learning about the world and people who live in different places, meeting people who have taken action with their communities, to talking to the people who have the power to change things in this country, they are all caring for our common home.

- *What would you tell those in power about?*
- *Why is it important for us all to play our part?*

***'Love makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world.'***

Pope Francis, Laudato Si' 231

***'Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.'***

1 John 3:18

We all have our part to play in caring for the Earth, our common home. As Pope Francis says, young people demand change. We need to change things in our lives, but also to take action and tell those who can make change happen for the whole country and our sisters and brothers around the world.

- *What changes can we make in our lives today?*
- *How can you share your learning about caring for the Earth with others?*

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES:**

Participation, Solidarity