

***The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dew drop, in a poor person's face.*** *Laudato Si (n.233)*

## **Laudo Si Week: 16-24 May 2020**

In 2015 Pope Francis published his encyclical, ***Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home***. Pope Francis was concerned about the way we are neglecting our relationship with Earth. Pope Francis reminds us ***“that our common home [Earth] is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us”***. Yet Pope Francis identifies that our ***“sister [Earth] now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will”***. Pope Francis wants us to address this by changing our relationship with our Mother Earth, through experiencing ecological conversion.

***"Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of her creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth".*** (n.92)

This is not just being concerned about the environment. This is a call to have our hearts transformed again, this time drawn into the deeper relationship with the Presence that is God in all Creation. This is a living Presence, a mystical Presence of Love, that makes us aware of how everything is connected in our Earth, in our Solar System, in our Milky Way Galaxy, in our Universe. We are

made of the stardust of a supernova. We are evolving just as the universe and life on Earth has been evolving. God is present in all of this calling us into deep connection with everything. It is this interior ecological conversion that fills each of us with a new appreciation of our Mother Earth. It brings forth a deep desire to care for our common home and to seek reconciliation with Creation.

This year Pope Francis has created ***Laudato Si Week*** from **16-24 May**. It is an invitation to connect again with God in Nature.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=9&v=DHlzOWp8ZQY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=DHlzOWp8ZQY)

During *Laudato Si Week* the *Being with God in Nature* ministry will offer an online retreat from **18-22 May**, “**Connecting with God in Nature**”. It will be a chance during COVID-19 to stop and reconnect with God in all Creation. I invite you to join us (see flyer below).

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## Other Laudato Si Week Resources

**Being with God in Nature Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/beingwithgodinnature/>

**Global Catholic Climate Movement**

<https://laudatosiweek.org>

**Catholic Earthcare Australia**

<https://catholicearthcare.org.au/>

**Your invitation.**

You are invited to a Laudato Si Week Prayer, Reflection and Celebration of 5 years since the launch of Laudato Si.

When: May 21 2020 11.00am Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://caritas.zoom.us/joining/register/tJ0kceqpqz8sGNFp3NlbCsuTwyHQGT9ZxzfW>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

