

# Explore the encyclical animation with your class



This is a resource to explore the encyclical animation with your post primary class. The main aim of this animation is to help explain and communicate the message of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si' (Praise Be to You)* to young people.

This encyclical was published on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The encyclical discusses the damage being inflicted on the Earth by humans and calls on 'every person living on this planet' to make urgent changes to our lifestyles and how we consume energy in order to protect the planet.

*Laudato Si'* deals with many environmental issues including pollution; climate change; water; loss of biodiversity and decline in the quality of human life. Pope Francis implores us to work together to create a better world for future generations and asks us to make the necessary changes in our lives in order to take care of, respect and value our 'common home'.

This animation is designed to communicate the main elements of the encyclical to young people and motivate them to act. This resource can be used as an introduction to the topic of climate change and climate justice. Suggestions of how educators may use this in their classrooms and links with the junior post-primary curriculum are outlined below.

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## Key Questions following on from animation:

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### Religious Education:

- *Do you think it is important that the Pope speaks about modern issues such as climate change? What impact do you think the encyclical will have on people thinking about climate change and climate justice?*

### English:

- *What do you think the Pope means when he suggests that 'real relationships are replaced with virtual friendships which we can choose to accept or reject'?*

**Activity:** Walking debate - do you agree with the idea that 'the digital world is polluting us with noise and distractions, stopping us from learning how to live wisely'? Write an opinion piece for a newspaper based on this walking debate.

### CSPE/LLW:

- *What actions could we, both individually and as a class, undertake in order to 'undergo an eco-conversion' and conserve energy?*

**Activity:** Junior Certificate Action Project- discuss ways in which you can promote awareness around climate justice and design a plan for ways in which the school can conserve energy, reduce waste, recycle etc. Eg: Hold a Climate Justice Day, design posters, give talks to other classes based on the topic etc.

### Geography/Environment & Society:

- Discuss the causes and effects of climate change. Discuss methods for conserving energy, conserving water, recycling, reducing waste etc.  
Case studies: Kolkata/Calcutta's shortage of clean water and irrigation schemes in California, Australia and the Nile Valley.



# Curriculum Links

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

SUBJECT	STRAND
Religious Education	A1 Community; A2 Communities at Work; A3 Communities of Faith; Journal Work (The Moral Challenge)
CSPE	Democracy; Rights and Responsibilities; Human Dignity; Interdependence; Development; Stewardship
Geography	Unit A2 The Restless Atmosphere: The Heat Engine Unit B1 Population-distribution, diversity and change. Unit C1 Primary economic activities: the earth as a resource.
English	Oral language, Reading, Writing

## NORTHERN IRELAND

SUBJECT	STRAND
Religious Education	Developing Pupils as Contributors to Society (Objective 2); a the Economy and the Environment (Objective 3)
Learning for Life & Work	Local and Global Citizenship (Human Rights and Social Responsibility, Equality and Social Justice , Democracy and Active Participation)
Environment & Society	KS3 Thematic Unit: Dodging Doomsday, Education for Sustainable Development Year 9 (Employability Unit: Does business have to cost the earth?; Geography Unit: What if the Ice Melts?; Science Unit: What if the Lights Go Out?; Technology and Design Unit: What If the Oil Runs Out?)
Geography	KS3 Objective 3: investigate the impact of conflict between social, economic and environmental needs both locally and globally, for example climate change. Explore how we can exercise environmental stewardship and help promote a better quality of life for present and future generations, both locally and globally  KS4 Unit 1 (Theme B): Our Changing Weather and Climate; KS4 Unit 2 (Theme C): Managing Our Resources.

