

## **Laudato Si' Book Club**

Welcome to this Laudato Si' book club resource. We are delighted that you are embarking on this Laudato Si' journey with your parish / community group. Pope Francis has declared this year a special **Laudato Si' Anniversary Year** which runs from May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 to May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021. He has urged Catholics to come together to Live Laudato Si' in our parishes so that we can care more deeply for our common home. It is in response to this call that we are inviting people to read Laudato Si' during this special anniversary year.

### **About this resource:**

This resource is an accompaniment to reading Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home. It is a series of seven PowerPoint presentation which can be used as part of a book club discussion on Laudato Si'.

### **Who is this resource for?**

This resource is for parish groups, faith communities or any group who are interested in exploring Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' – On Care for Our Common Home.

### **Do I have to be an expert in theology or Laudato Si' in order to run this?**

No. We hope that this resource contains all the information you will need to *journey* with a group. What is required is an openness to exploring the richness of Laudato Si' and to see where it leads you.

### **How do I gather a group?**

- Contact people in your area who are interested in environmental issues and who would like to work with you on this venture.
- If in a parish setting, engage the support of your parish pastoral council, a member of the local parish team or the parish priest.
- While Laudato Si' concerns the environmental crisis, it is also a deeply spiritual document and will interest people who wish to go deeper in their own faith journey, their relationship with God and with creation.
- You can advertise in newsletters, social media, local papers, local radio and bulletins.
- There may be local eco-groups in your community who are already doing work on these issues, you could invite them to join you. Laudato Si' is addressed to everyone on this planet, not just Catholics.
- Due to COVID19 restrictions it may not be possible for you to gather in a parish centre or another venue. You need to adhere to government restrictions, but it is still possible to run this book club. A popular choice for this resource is to run it via a conferencing app such as Zoom.
- If a small number can gather in a parish centre, you could simultaneously run the same book club via webinar to include those who may be unable to physically be there.

## Where can people access Laudato Si'?

- **Laudato Si** is available for purchase from Veritas:  
<https://www.veritasbooksonline.com/laudato-si-praised-be-9781847305978-18201/>
- It is also available for free online from the Vatican website:  
[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

## How do I run these sessions?

- You can download the PowerPoint presentations from the Trocaire website.
- There are seven presentations. The first one '**An Introduction to Laudato Si'** is an overview of the entire document. We recommend you start with this. No prior reading is required by participants before this presentation.
- Following the introductory week, you can run one session per week exploring the document chapter by chapter. Participants read the chapter prior to the session.
- Suggested outline of a one-hour session:
  - 5 minutes welcome, introduction and prayer/reflection.
  - The presentation should take no more than 30 minutes.
  - 25 minutes for discussion and questions.
- Know your audience – feel free to make the presentations your own to suit your local audience in terms of language, content etc.
- Following the PowerPoint presentation, open the floor to questions and discussion. You may choose to enlist another facilitator for this process. There are prompt questions for reflection at the end of each PowerPoint. It is a good idea to share these questions with participants **prior to the session** itself. This will aid their reading and reflection and also the discussion which follows. Some key questions are:
  - *What stood out for you in this chapter?*
  - *What questions do you have?*
  - *What gave you hope?*
- **NB:** You do not need to know all the answers in order to run this series. You can encourage people to research, or you may like to invite 'guest speakers' from time to time who might develop a particular theme.
- We are here to support you in this venture. Please feel free to contact our Laudato Si' Officer, Jane Mellett by email: [jane.mellett@trocaire.org](mailto:jane.mellett@trocaire.org)

**"Truly much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 180)**