

# ***The Society of Jesus in Australia Ltd*** **Care for our Common Home Committee**



The Care for Our Common Home Committee facilitates communication across ministries and identifies resources and initiatives that will assist ministries in their efforts to Care for Our Common Home.

The consistent message from the Society of Jesus in Australia has been:

- an affirmation that Jesuit ministries have a long history of addressing environmental sustainability and social justice;
- and that each ministry is best placed to decide when/how it will take action.

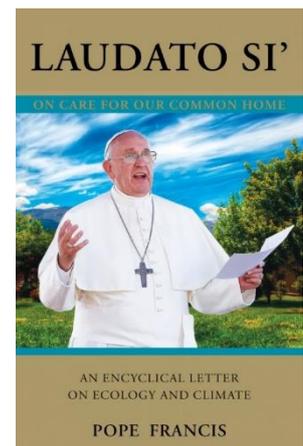
We are responding to the message of Pope Francis' Letter on Care for Our Common Home.

This letter is often known by its Latin name *Laudato si'*. In that letter the Pope calls us to respond to both: *"the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"*

The Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preferences and the Australian Province Apostolic Plan both require that care for creation be an integral part of our way of proceeding.

For more than 20 years there has been an environmental group facilitating communication and resources for Jesuit ministries in Australia.

The impetus was the 2008 General Congregation of the Jesuits that set three reconciliation priorities to *'establish right relationships with God, with one another, and with creation'*.



# Universal Apostolic Preferences

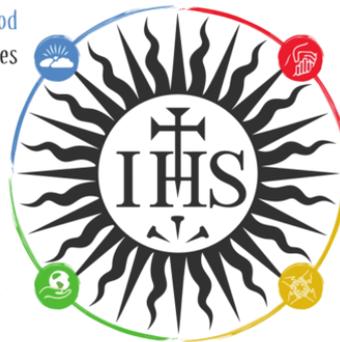
2019 - 2029

In response, the Australian Province established a Reconciliation with Creation Advisory Group

In 2022, the group was renamed the Care for Our Common Home Committee. This new name picks up the same language as the Universal Apostolic Preferences and of the Pope's *Laudato si'* letter.

To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment.

To collaborate in the care of our Common Home.



To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice.

To accompany the young in the creation of a hope-filled future.

The Care for Our Common Home Committee is comprised of representatives from:

- parishes,
- social ministries
- schools,
- Ignatian spirituality and
- there also the possibility of appointing others with particular expertise.

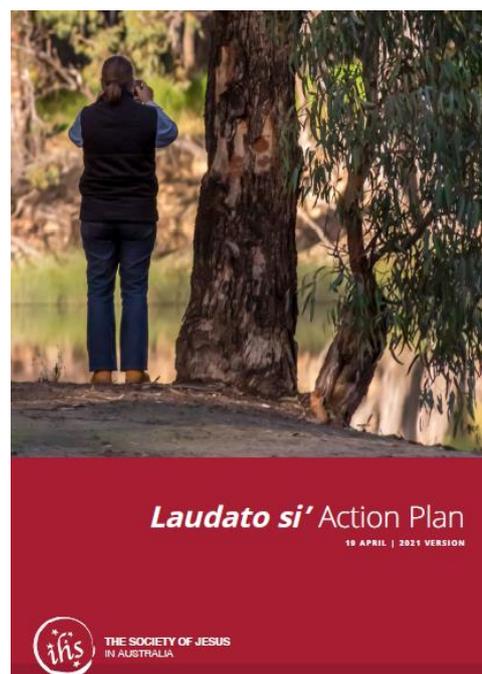
The Provincial and his Assistants appoint Committee members.

The Committee meets every 6 weeks via videoconference with members joining from across South Australia, NSW and Victoria

In 2021, the Committee provided ministries with a *Laudato si'* Action Planning Framework.

This document was developed as the Province expects all ministries to Care for our Common Home.

Ministries are free to use the Framework or another format.





The Framework includes a simple process that ministries might choose to use identify their priorities and to engage their people.

There are also practical suggestions for each of the steps in this process. In 2022 the Committee worked with 3 ministries to develop a spreadsheet for ministries that want to measure their environmental impact.

This calculator helps ministries identify where they can make the greatest positive impact.

The Framework addresses two of the Committee’s main roles:

- ✓ *Assist ministries have developed a Care for Our Common Home plan*

And

- ✓ *Assist ministries report annual on their Care for Our Common Home activities*

Other roles include:

- ✓ *Develop Care for Our Common Home resources and supports*
- ✓ *Provide a forum for ministries to share good practice regarding Care for Our Common Home activity*
- ✓ *Participate in networking with other Care for Our Common Home groups within and beyond Australia*

The Care for our Common Home Project Officer, Sue Martin, represents the Society of Jesus in meetings with our Australian Collaborators:

- ❖ Faith & Ecology Network
- ❖ Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
- ❖ Pacific Climate Watch
- ❖ Catholic Religious Australia’s Ecology Alliance committee
- ❖ Catholic Earthcare

Sue is also engaged with International Jesuit collaborators:

- ❖ Jesuit Social Justice Ecological Secretariat
- ❖ Jesuit Conference Asia Pacific Reconciliation with Creation initiative
- ❖ The River above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Network (RAOEN)
- ❖ Ecojesuit Global Ignatian Advocacy Network

The Care for our Common Home Committee is unique in that it connects the diversity of Jesuit ministries in Australia.

The Committee is a resource that assists each individual ministry fulfill its goal of caring for our common home.

The Committee also enables all ministries to collaborate on their shared goals and activities.

We hope that in your role within the Society of Jesus in Australia that you will both contribute to and benefit from the work of this committee

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#### **Image credits:**

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Page 1 Cover of *Laudato si'*  
<https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/product/9781921963827/>

Page 2 UAP <https://www.educatemagis.org/living-tradition/the-universal-apostolic-preferences-of-the-society-of-jesus-2019/>

Page 2 Cover of SOJA *Laudato si'* Action Plan <https://jesuit.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Laudato-Si-Action-Plan-16-June-2021.pdf>

Page 3 SOJA *Laudato si'* Action Plan process from page 5 of <https://jesuit.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Laudato-Si-Action-Plan-16-June-2021.pdf>