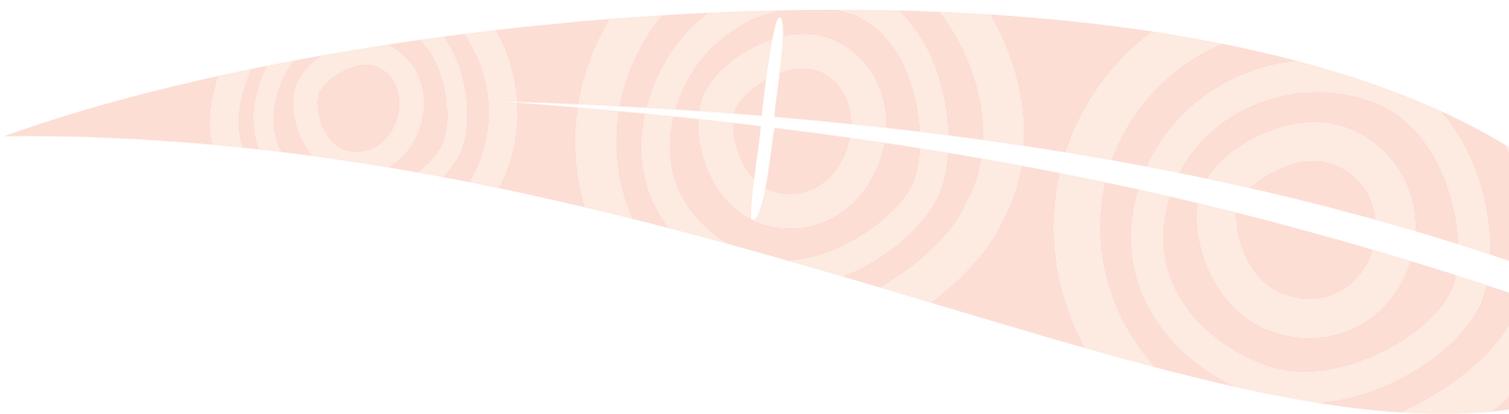




# ACTION PLAN

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

2024 – 2026



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Archdiocese of Brisbane acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, waterways and sea and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years and their descendants who maintain their spiritual connections and traditions. We thank them for their continual cultural and spiritual connection to Country as expressed through their history, music, language, songs, art and dancing.

## Artist

Jennifer Kent is a First Nations contemporary artist with a diverse multicultural heritage and a background in education. Jennifer acquired a love for painting and was encouraged to pursue a career in the arts when she attended boarding school at Shalom Christian College during the 1990s; however, she didn't start professionally until 2017. Jenny has First Nations sovereign heritage from South East and Central Queensland and shares kinship with sovereign peoples from the North West Queensland regions. Quandamooka – Jinibara – Darumbal

[www.manamanadreaming.com](http://www.manamanadreaming.com)



### The Common Home

The circles together represents a campsite which is a place where people live, eat and sleep. Each of the 7 rings represents the *Laudato Si's* 7 values and the crescent shapes represent people coming together in the home around these values.



### The Banner Strip

The Banner Strip resembles multiple Common Homes practicing *Laudato Si'*



### The 7 Leaf Logo

The 3 rings etched 3 times through each original leaf represent a spiritual blessing over the 7 Actions of *Laudato Si'*.

- Response to the cry of the earth
- Response to the cry of the poor
- Ecological economics
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles
- Ecological education
- Ecological spirituality
- Community resilience and empowerment

# Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	2
A message from the Archbishop of Brisbane	4
Executive Directors' endorsement	5
Archdiocese of Brisbane <i>Laudato Si'</i> Action Plan	7
Goal 1 – Response to the Cry of the Earth	8
Goal 2 – Response to the Cry of the Poor	12
Goal 3 – Ecological Economics	16
Goal 4 – Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	18
Goal 5 – Ecological Education	22
Goal 6 – Ecological Spirituality	26
Goal 7 – Community Resilience and Empowerment	30
Notes	33

# A message from the Archbishop of Brisbane

In 2015 Pope Francis gave us his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home; and last year he published the closely related Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, claiming that too little had been done since the Encyclical Letter appeared.

In both documents, the Pope presents a sobering picture of the many ecological and social challenges we face. In recent years the truth of his words has been evident to all of us. Bushfires and floods have ravaged South-East Queensland and other parts of Australia. Torres Strait Islanders and the peoples across the Pacific are pleading for urgent action to save them from the impacts of climate change including the threat of their homes, gardens and cemeteries being inundated. Aboriginal people in different parts of this country are expressing concern and even outrage at the threat to their traditional lands and culture resulting from mining activity. Pacific island nations voice similar concerns about the effects of mining operations on their lands and in the sea itself. The situation is critical, and the Church has a unique role to play in turning things around. This *Laudato Si'* Action Plan, which is aligned to the Holy See's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, seeks to identify what that means.

I encourage every family, parish, community, school, agency and institution in the Archdiocese to embrace this *Laudato Si'* Action Plan. Much is being done already, but we all need to go further in responding to the Holy Father's invitation to take the path of ecological conversion. This plan will help us all change the way we see the world around us and the way we act.

Conservationists, scientists, economists and politicians have a crucial role to play in addressing the ecological crisis. But we Christians offer a unique perspective, which is profoundly biblical. We have a word to speak which is beyond science, politics and economics. It is a word born of the faith which listens to the voice of the Creator; and it is a word which goes to the heart of the spiritual sickness at the heart of much of the distress afflicting the world today. It is a word which gives us eyes to see the world as sacramental; and that makes us all the more committed to nurturing all that is God's and all that reveals God.

May the Holy Spirit blow mightily through our darkness, emptiness and chaos, so that we may together take brave steps in responding to the prophetic call of Pope Francis. This action plan sets out those steps into a future where the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor will become a great song of praise to the Creator.



Mark Coleridge  
Archbishop of Brisbane

# Executive Directors’ Endorsement

As the leadership of the agencies of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, we wholeheartedly endorse this *Laudato Si’* Action Plan and look forward to supporting its implementation in the coming years.

We are committed to hearing the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor and responding with the kind of action that makes a difference.

We recognise that this plan has implications for the way we work and the choices we make. Change has certainly been under way throughout the Archdiocese for some years. Agencies and schools across the Archdiocese have been increasing their use and investment in renewable energy sources. More parishes are installing solar panels to supply their energy needs. Education has been offered across schools, parishes and agencies to promote better understanding about the key themes and the spirituality of *Laudato Si’*, major ecological and social problems, and what we need to do to live and work more sustainably. Efforts are also being made to adopt more ethical and sustainable procurement policies.

Nevertheless, much more needs to be done to meet the challenges of our times. This *Laudato Si’* Action Plan commits us to a challenging seven-year journey of action and change. We embark on this journey with faith in God, care for our common home and all those who share it with us, and with a fervent hope that we can make a humble contribution to changing things for the better.

Andrew Musial  
Executive Director of Archdiocesan  
Services and General Manager of the  
Archdiocesan Development Fund

Dr Sally Towns  
Executive Director of  
Brisbane Catholic Education

Peter Selwood  
Executive Director of Centacare

Deacon Peter Pellicaan  
Executive Director  
of Evangelisation Brisbane

Bernard Baker  
Archdiocesan Financial Administrator



# Archdiocese of Brisbane *Laudato Si'* Action Plan Introduction

“Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs” (St Francis, 1). These words from St Francis’ canticle introduce the *Laudato Si'* Encyclical but also guide our focus to the Lord as we plan our future actions. May all our actions planned in this document speak of God’s love, mercy and wisdom.

Recently, the release of Pope Francis’ exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, passionately directed significant integral ecological action to grow in its connectivity, integrity and commitment. The Archdiocese of Brisbane has heard the call to action from St Francis, Pope Francis and our own consciences to care for and nurture our environment and disadvantaged communities, while respectfully listening and walking with First Nations People. It is essential in our praise of God to live with grateful and compassionate hearts for all God’s gifts but also with minds that research and question in our search for how we can do God’s work as disciples of Christ.

In November 2021, the Archdiocese of Brisbane enrolled in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. In June 2022, we launched our first *Laudato Si'* Action Plan. Now in 2024, we relaunch our new plan for a two-year period. Through a process of review, discussion, research, planning and drafting, all agencies have contributed to this plan so that our actions reflect our continued, growing commitment to integral ecology.

Again, we have grouped our Action Points under each of the seven *Laudato Si'* Action Platform goals. Along with each action, we have named a position or a team of people in the Archdiocese responsible for this action and the timing of this action. These details support our accountability and progress as we act with faith, love and respect.

# Response to the Cry of the Earth



## Response to the Cry of the Earth

The response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and ecological sustainability.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>A) The Archdiocese will develop a Fleet Consumption Management Strategy that improves the acquisition, management and utilisation of the fossil fuel-based fleet. This will reduce fossil fuel dependence and transition the fleet to sustainable alternatives.</p>	<p>Strategy November 2024</p> <p>Commence action February 2025</p> <p>Four-year time frame</p>	<p>BCE Team Leader – Fleet Services</p>
<p>B) The Archdiocese will develop and promote a transport plan across all agencies that encourages transport options that minimise fuel consumption and carbon footprint, such as bicycles, public transport and minimising air travel.</p>	<p>September 2024</p> <p>October 2024</p>	<p>Justice, Ecology and Peace Project Officer EB</p> <p>ADS Communications General Manager</p>
<p>C) The planting of native trees and vegetation will be encouraged on all Archdiocesan property; and guidelines and advice will be developed and offered to parishes, faith communities and schools. BCE promotes sustainability in accordance with government legislation, to offset the impact of deforestation or tree removal.</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>BCE Head of Planning and Construction</p> <p>Director, Property and Building</p> <p>Executive Officer of the CJPC</p>

## GOAL ONE

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>D) As an Archdiocese, a panel of preferred providers that specialise in biodiversity and sustainable management is compiled and shared with the agencies, schools, faith communities and parishes so that they can prioritise these companies when contracts come up for renewal, in accordance with applicable procurement policies.</p>	<p>October 2024</p>	<p>Director, Property and Building</p> <p>BCE Procurement Manager</p> <p>Justice, Ecology and Peace Project Officer EB</p>
<p>E) The Archdiocese will research, select and promote an independent and approved service that promotes the selection of products and services that support sustainable and ethical purchasing choices. This service will be engaged to develop and deliver an education program across all agencies. Also, where possible, this education will enable that certified products and services will be selected when making procurement decisions.</p>	<p>Pilot commence June 2024</p> <p>Implementation commence June 2025</p>	<p>BCE Procurement Manager</p> <p>Directors of all Agencies</p>



# Response to the Cry of the Poor



## Response to the Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote the wellbeing of all humankind and all forms of life on an earth that is thriving, with a special focus on vulnerable groups.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>A) Appropriate First Nations people will continue to be enlisted to bring together First Nations Elders and people from within parishes, Archdiocese schools, agencies, communities and other organisations across South-East Queensland. These opportunities will enable Catholics throughout the Archdiocese to hear and understand more clearly the culture and spirituality of First Nations people, the impact of loss of country, and what actions First Nations people recommend to heal country and its people.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>RAP Project Manager  Murri Ministry Coordinator</p>

## GOAL TWO

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>B) Build a network of resources (books, videos, You Tube talks, podcasts) that present a range of First Nations peoples' voices for our Catholic agencies, schools, parishes, communities and other organisations. These resources will be shared through the Archdiocesan Reconciliation Action Plan site and the Archdiocesan Catholic Justice and Peace Commission blog.</p>	<p>Research and Plan to October 2024</p> <p>Share November 2024</p>	<p>RAP Project Manager</p> <p>Murri Ministry Coordinator</p> <p>Executive Officer of the CJPC</p>
<p>C) Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier diversity, by developing and implementing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement strategy.</p>	<p>September 2024</p>	<p>Executive Directors of all Agencies</p>
<p>D) The Archdiocese will continue to develop plans and actions to mitigate modern slavery risk in its procurement of resources and to eliminate modern slavery from its supply chains through a robust supplier engagement plan.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Governance, Risk &amp; Compliance Officer</p>

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
E) The Archdiocese will research, select and promote the pre-qualification of cleaning services suppliers to an independent and approved framework, so the Archdiocese can manage and mitigate modern slavery risks.	Commence promotion October 2024	Executive Directors of all Agencies
F) The Archdiocese will commence to educate and run an awareness program around modern slavery risks for employees involved in procurement and the wider Catholic community. An Anti-Slavery Parish Toolkit to be incorporated into the awareness program.	Commence program January 2024	Governance, Risk & Compliance Officer
G) A heat-preparedness plan will be developed for extreme heat events. This plan would provide recommendations for Centacare, parishes, faith communities and agencies.	Plan – August 2024  Action from 1st October 2024 which is International Day for Older Persons	Director of Mission and Formation Centacare  Justice, Ecology and Peace Project Officer EB
H) Parishes, faith communities and agencies will be encouraged to participate in the Archdiocese of Brisbane’s Community Refugee Sponsorship and Mentor Initiative.	Continue from 2023	Associate Director: Inclusion

# Ecological Economics



## Ecological Economics

Ecological Economics is about acknowledging that the economy is a sub-system of our human society and embedded in our common home, which we are all called to protect.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>A) Reduce exposures to fossil fuels, following an assessment of Archdiocesan investments in ADF and Catholic Foundation. The assessment is to define and identify direct and indirect investments above a reasonable threshold.</p>	<p>November 2024</p>	<p>Director of Financial and Accounting Services  General Manager of ADF</p>
<p>B) Investment policies will be amended to include annual reporting to councils on exposure to fossil fuels and other activities in investments contrary to Church beliefs. This will lead and inspire our Catholic community in financial action that supports integral ecology.</p>	<p>Commence January 2025</p>	<p>Director of Financial and Accounting Services  General Manager of ADF</p>

# Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles



## Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

The adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in promoting the thoughtful use of resources and energy.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>A) Reduction of waste of all resources will be promoted across the Archdiocese. Reducing waste, recycling, re-use and repair wherever possible will be encouraged. Education and support will be offered to agencies, parishes, faith communities and schools.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Project Officer for Justice Ecology and Peace EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p> <p>BCE Procurement Manager</p> <p>Directors of all Agencies</p>
<p>B) Waste from building and renovations will be disposed of in the most sustainable way possible. Each demolition project will have a sustainable waste management plan.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Director, Property and Building</p>
<p>C) Resources will be developed and shared across the Archdiocese, to encourage the sustainable celebration of Christmas and Easter.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Project Officer for Justice, Ecology and Peace EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p>

## GOAL FOUR

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
D) The Archdiocese will develop an Energy Strategy that will set the direction towards a managed transition to Net Zero emissions.	December 2024	Director, Property and Building
E) Green and solar energy information, options and strategies for parishes and faith communities will be encouraged and shared.	July 2024	Project Officer for Justice, Ecology and Peace EB



# Ecological Education



## Ecological Education

Ecological Education is about rethinking curricular and institutional reform, in the spirit of integral ecology, in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>A) A range of educational resources and opportunities will be developed to help parishes, faith communities, schools and agencies to learn more about the key messages of <i>Laudato Si'</i> and <i>Laudate Deum</i>. This may include online resources, workshops and talks, and reading and study groups.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Project Officer for Justice, Ecology and Peace EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p> <p>Brisbane Catholic Education</p>
<p>B) At least 15 parishes/ faith communities will be recruited to develop a <i>Laudato Si'</i> commitment, including the enrolling as parishes in the <i>Laudato Si'</i> Action Platform by June 2025. Training will be provided to those who wish to act in the spirit of <i>Laudato Si'</i> across the Archdiocese.</p>	<p>15 Parishes by 2025 to 2026</p>	<p>Project Officer for Justice, Ecology and Peace EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p>

## GOAL FIVE

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>C) The Archdiocesan <i>Laudato Si'</i> webpage will be re-vamped to provide a commitment statement, information and resources on both the key themes and messages of <i>Laudato Si'</i> and <i>Laudate Deum</i> and opportunities for environmental action in the home, parish, faith community, school, office and general community.</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>Project Officer for Justice, Ecology and Peace EB</p>
<p>D) The Archdiocese will collaborate each year with appropriate environmental organisations to organise a presentation on an ecological issue of specific importance to South-East Queensland.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Executive Officer of the CJPC</p>



# Ecological Spirituality



*Season of Creation Mass, 2019 with Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Suva, Fiji.  
Photo credit: Alan Edgecomb*

## Ecological Spirituality

Ecological Spirituality shares a religious vision of God’s creation recognising that “*ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made*” (Romans 1:20). This in turn encourages greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude that sees the handprints of God in all that is created.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
A) The Archdiocese will continue to assist in the preparation of an ecumenical Season of Creation service and promote it widely in parishes, faith communities, schools and agencies.	Continue from 2023	Executive Officer of the CJPC
B) The Archbishop will continue to offer reflections on <i>Laudato Si'</i> and <i>Laudate Deum</i> in either a message or a homily during the Season of Creation.	Continue from 2023	Archbishop of Brisbane
C) Parishes, faith communities and schools will continue to be provided with appropriate resources to help them to organise their own Season of Creation liturgies and actions.	Continue from 2023	Project Officer of Justice, Ecology and Peace EB  Catholic Earthcare Caritas  Brisbane Catholic Education

## GOAL SIX

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>D) A number of resources and opportunities will be developed to assist people in parishes, schools and agencies to take walks in nature and to contemplate their relationship with God and creation. This will include a number of contemplative walks organised in different parts of the Archdiocese, walking on country experiences led by First Nations people, and online experiences and guides.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Project Officer of Justice, Ecology and Peace EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p> <p>Brisbane Catholic Education</p> <p>RAP Project Officer</p> <p>Murri Ministry</p>
<p>E) Liturgical resources will be collected and developed to help foster the spirituality advanced by Pope Francis in <i>Laudato Si'</i> and <i>Laudato Deum</i>.</p>	<p>September 2024</p>	<p>Project Officer of Justice, Ecology and Peace EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p> <p>Liturgy Brisbane</p> <p>Archdiocesan Commission on the Liturgy</p>



# Community Resilience and Empowerment



## Community Resilience and Empowerment

Community Resilience and Empowerment encourages the development of cultures and policies which protect our common home and all who share it.

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>A) The Archdiocese will encourage Catholics to participate in action to advocate for greater Queensland Government funding for: community centres that provide support to the most vulnerable members of our communities; initiatives to better prevent domestic and family violence; an increased Government commitment to renewable energy in Queensland.</p>	<p>Continue from 2023</p>	<p>Executive Officer for the CJPC</p> <p>Government Relations Director</p> <p>Grants and Subsidies Co-Ordinator</p>

## GOAL SEVEN

ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>B) In line with Pope Francis' 2022 statement "that the use of nuclear weapons, as well as their mere possession, is immoral", the CJPC will develop an education strategy for the Archdiocese of Brisbane regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).</p>	<p>September 2024</p>	<p>Executive Officer for the CJPC</p>
<p>C) The CJPC will develop an education strategy for the Archdiocese of Brisbane on key issues relating to peace and the climate crisis in Australia and the Pacific. This will involve the sharing of opportunities in the community for education and advocacy.</p>	<p>October 2024</p>	<p>Executive Officer for the CJPC</p>
<p>D) Parishes, faith communities, schools and agencies will be encouraged to participate in Clean Up Australia Day events.</p>	<p>January 2024</p>	<p>Justice, Ecology and Peace Project Officer EB</p> <p>Catholic Earthcare Caritas</p> <p>Directors of all Agencies</p>



# Notes

This plan is authorised by the Archbishop, the Auxiliary Bishop and the Executive Directors of all Archdiocesan agencies sitting as the Executive Forum of the Archdiocese.

The positions stated as responsible for implementing each action have negotiated and agreed to the Goal Actions and timings. An evaluation of the progress of these actions will be completed by these responsible agencies and given to the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan Reflection Group (LRG) in November of each year. This will enable support during the plan and evaluation of its Goal Actions to help guide the development of the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan for the Archdiocese in 2026.

Overall, the management and coordination of the plan's implementation rests with Evangelisation Brisbane and the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of Brisbane, which will regularly report progress to and seek direction from the Executive Forum of the Archdiocese.







# Laudato Si'

Caring for our common home



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF BRISBANE

