

## LAUTATO SI ACTION PLATFORM GOALS

1. **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. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.
2. **The Response to the Cry of the Poor** is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.
3. **Ecological Economics** acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.
4. **The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).
5. **Ecological Education** is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.
6. **Ecological Spirituality** springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. Actions could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc.
7. **Community resilience and empowerment** envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people’s campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

- a) Climate change is undoubtedly happening, and it is likely that our activity is exacerbating it.
- b) Covid 19 and Climate Change is helping to change our perspective on the world and its people.
- c) A critical mass of people is developing, who are more aware of the need to consider the health of the planet, which is our home, and the health of all the people on our planet as our fellow human beings, even our brothers and sisters.
- d) Laudato Si, despite being written some 7 years ago, now, was a key document for the world, let alone our Church. Certainly, through COP 26 and through the continued messages of Pope Francis, there is a call to take Laudato Si seriously.
- e) The Laudato Si movement has clearly worked on a response to the encyclical and set out goals for action. I am impressed with their concise message, and I believe it is worth looking at them to see if they can be integrated into our thinking, our feeling, our response to what we are doing ourselves in terms of renewal both as a Community and a Congregation. To me, they resonate with much of what we are doing already and may help us be more specific in our practical response to our own aspirations.

For example:

1. In our response to the cry of the Earth: Ensure that the care of our environment continues and is enhanced. Eg. There are various 'Garden' plots around our site, which either need maintaining or changing – who by? Those currently doing work on them are getting beyond the stage or age. Gilling Gardens?
2. Our response to the cry of the Poor: Local Food banks. Links with MAP (Methodist Asylum Project – Middlesbrough) More links with local parishes.
3. Ecological Economics: Ethical Investment and Divestment. Circular Economies (The Dive) Continuing care/Well-being of our workforce. Use of Resources – Gilling?
4. Sustainable lifestyles: Better use of resources and energy. (ironic COP26 - we were putting in a new gas boiler). Reducing waste and recycling – but more seriously. Sustainable dietary habits. Public transport, cars, electric bikes?
5. Ecological Education: Education of ourselves, Chaplains in the school, Retreats. Ecological restoration activities (Tree planting)
6. Ecological Spirituality: (personally very inspired by Carmody Grey – expanded my theological awareness.) Prayers for... Mass for....Harvest Festival is an example, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc..
7. Community Resilience and Empowerment: I read this as enhancing the processes we are already engaged in. The word 'Synodal' obviously struck a chord. How do we become more rooted in our ecosystem? (ie what real role and part do we play in enriching this neighbourhood? Spiritually, we hope, but are there other ways? By example? Learning from local people?