



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Gungahlin

'Empowered by the Spirit to Serve'

CARING FOR CREATION CONFERENCE 17 SEPTEMBER 2022

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people. They are traditional custodians of the land and we pay respects to their elders both past and present

OUTCOMES OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

ISSUES

1. EDUCATION

- On relationship between faith and ecology
- The big picture – the cry of the earth is the cry of the poor
- What can we do?
- Living sustainably – what does it mean?
- Need details; for example, on use of plastics, carbon footprints, impact of cars and energy use.
- Promote and develop demonstration projects

2. LEADERSHIP

- Clerical; Laypeople (esp PPCs); Archdiocesan; and National Church leadership to:
 1. Lead from the front
 2. Ensure a just transition
 3. Develop models of sustainability and circular economy
 4. Demonstrate ethical investment practices
 5. Walking the talk (solar panels, EVs, energy use, light and power)

3. COMMUNICATION

- The way we explain things matter – use simple language
- Develop liturgy and music to reflect integral ecology (eg: Creator God)
- Use the wisdom of First Nations and older people to tell the story
- Build support for change through understanding
- People feel overwhelmed by the enormity of problem



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RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

AT PARISH COMMUNITY LEVEL

1. EDUCATION

- Deliver parish reflections on Laudato Si' and integral ecology
- Promote relationships; eg: how the community garden works with Vinnies or how second hand clothing protects the earth and decreases modern day slavery
- Teach community how to do the practical things, eg: composting and worm farms
- Explain how much our lifestyle costs in carbon; compare it to rest of world
- Talk of Laudato Si' as a fresh expression of the Gospel

2. COMMUNICATION

- Promote new ideas regularly through newsletters and video
- Report on progress, especially savings made through solar panels and EVs etc
- List companies which are producing products sustainably
- Run seminars on ethical investment and purchasing.

3. SET PRIORITIES AS A COMMUNITY

- Measure your carbon footprint and set a target to reduce it – and decide how to do it
- Choose a few actions and do them well, eg: community garden, learning how to compost, car-pooling, reducing food waste, using double sided printing; collecting batteries, glasses, lids etc
- Identify how your actions will help the powerless and the poor and vulnerable



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4. COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Appoint a "carbon footprint" officer
- Hold market days to buy/sell/exchange second hand goods
- Organize outdoor walks, especially in reserves, inviting our First Nations sisters and brothers
- Devise, resource and prioritise joint projects between parish and schools
- Build community gardens and make links with St Vincent de Paul
- Consider a day for blessing animals and plants
- Plant trees
- Develop new liturgies and language
- Engage your local First Nations sisters and brothers
- Lobby: your priest, your diocese and your local and federal government.

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AT ARCHDIOCESAN LEVEL

- Appoint an advisor/coordinator for sustainability, to coordinate and promote integral ecology action
- Examine potential for bulk purchase of solar panels for parishes
- Switch to a EV car fleet as soon as possible
- Consider a small "ecological levy" from parishes to implement sustainability across the archdiocese and to highlight its crucial importance to the nation and the Church
- Promote parish ecological action in Daily Voice and website
- Educate the clergy about integral ecology and action and provide support for homilies and reflections
- Examine and report on the investment strategies of the CDF and how they might be improved
- Develop module to educate our youth ministers on Laudato Si' and integral ecology
- Promote and grow the Season of Creation across parishes, schools and the ecumenical community
- Help arrange parish twinning, nationally and internationally, promoting the concept of a just transition
- Repair, renew and develop activities and listening opportunities with our First Nations
- Develop modules/templates for parishes to measure their carbon footprints and criteria to consider changes
- Invite ecumenical action to improve the lives of the vulnerable, especially with affordable, sustainable housing, and running pantries and shelters in communion