

“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (#160)

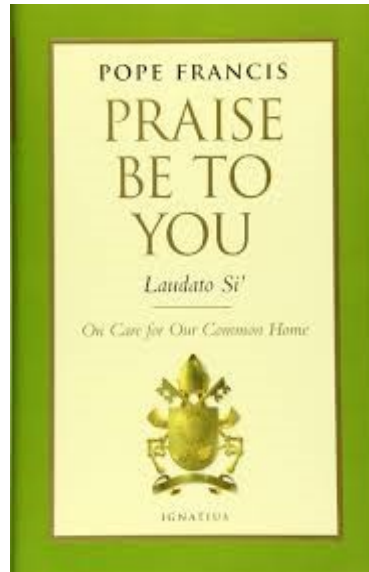
Over the last twenty years or more, people have become more and more aware of the untold damage being inflicted on this beautiful world that God has given us and of the implications this has for the future of all life on this planet. Pope Francis was so convinced of the urgency of the problem that in May 2015 he wrote an encyclical letter addressed not only to Catholics but to the people of the world. Its title ‘**Laudato Si**’ comes from the opening words of Canticum of St. Francis of Assisi ‘*Praise be to you my, Lord*’ and the encyclical is subtitled ‘**Care for Our Common Home**’.

In the six chapters of the letter Pope Francis lays out a blueprint for how we should act in response to this great challenge. Its aim is to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable future for the earth and the people of the earth.

One way of interacting with **Laudato Si** and answering the call of Pope Francis would be to gather together in small reading groups to study the document which would hopefully lead to active involvement in caring for Our Common Home. One person could facilitate the group or the facilitation could be shared.

You can set this up yourselves but if you would like help to run a **Laudato Si** book club in the New Year and see where it takes you, please contact jane.mellett@trocaire.org. **The encyclical can be downloaded in full from laudatosi.com.**

The study guide can be sourced here <http://columbancenter.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Laudato-Si-Study-and-Action-Guide-2017.pdf>



Online Advent Calendar

The Irish Bishops' Conference have an interactive, online Advent Calendar with new content for each day of Advent. <https://www.catholicbishops.ie>.

A New Pilot Project to start in our Diocese in the New Year

Training to Lead People in Prayer

There is a wonderful opportunity for lay people to learn skills to create a Calm, Sacred Space and lead groups in Prayer and Reflection based on Scripture and Music. (Resources supplied during training).

Where could this happen?

This could be used in Prayer Groups, Prayer in the home or school or in Parishes. It would be very suited to a period of Adoration.

Why do it?

There are three good reasons:

1. Spending time with Scripture can help people to pray together
2. It can help us to reflect on our lives and
3. It can help us to build relationship with God.

Who will provide the training?

Sr Stephanie O'Brien, a Loreto Sister, who has spent many years working in Adult Faith Formation.

How do I find out more? And what is the timeframe?

If you would like to be involved in this pastoral initiative or even just to know more about it, please email stephanieobr@gmail.com on or before the 15th December.

Would I be on my own?

It's your choice but you may like to bring a friend or co-worker as sharing a task makes everything easier.



Cathedral Priest Writes Two Books

'Love has a Source' is published by St Paul's and the book tries to redirect the hearts and minds of Christians back to the wellspring of love who is God. It seeks to connect our deepest hungers and desires to the only source where they can be satisfied and where we can be renewed and transformed. The second book 'Faith and Mental Health' is published by the Catholic Truth Society in London. The books, launched by Bishop Denis Brennan and Breda O'Brien, columnist with the Irish Times and the Irish Catholic are available in all good bookshops..

