

Laudato Si Recommendations Follow-up

The following menu of actions to mainstream Laudato Si in parish and community life is based on recommendations made by the workshops at the Laudato Si follow-up conference held in St Paul's Parish Centre, Lisduggan, Waterford on Saturday May 5, 2018.

We invite all parish and community groups to consider selecting one or two actions from this menu for implementation by them within the next three years. Most of these actions can be implemented in the short term at minimal cost.

1. Form an eco-group in your parish possibly as a subcommittee of the Pastoral Council.
2. Develop a **Laudato Si Action Plan** for your parish or community. A template will be forwarded in due course. *See overleaf.*
3. Have an 'eco-news' and/or climate change section in your parish or community newsletter.
4. Seek accreditation for your parish from **Eco-Congregation Ireland**. *See overleaf or more on this.*
5. Support and promote Fair Trade products in your purchase of hospitality items.
6. Organise a number of talks or discussions on Laudato Si.
7. **Plant trees** where possible in parish and community. Label trees in church grounds. *Overleaf*
8. Organise a guided eco-walk for parish and community.
9. Use locally grown flowers for altar.
10. Put a bee-hive plan in place, where appropriate and safe.
11. Put bird-boxes in place.
12. Put in a community composting area. Relevant to community groups.
13. Place an eco-bulletin board in church foyer or community hall.
14. Audit weed and insect control measures used in parish or by community groups.
15. Implement a reduce, re-use and recycle principle in parish purchase decisions.
16. Establish a '**Lenten fast from plastics**.' *See overleaf.*
17. Establish an 'Environmental Sunday' in church calendar of sermons.
18. Implement one or two ideas from **National Pollinator Plan**. *See overleaf.*
19. Develop an eco friendly parish or community garden
20. Identify a 'special place' in your parish or community for eco-reflection
21. Organise parish outings to inspiring examples of 'caring for our common home' – e.g. Cabragh Wetlands near Thurles and locally we have the Dunhill Wetlands and Fenor Bog.
22. **Energy audit** for churches, meeting places, etc. *See overleaf*
23. Use LED light bulbs

Please let the Laudato Si steering group know by **October 1, 2018** if you are going to undertake some actions either from the above or from your own initiative and let us know what this action is and please note that members of the PPN Environmental Linkage Group and other expertise are available to help. Contact Ray at woodhouseduo@gmail.com or Denise at hughesdm2@gmail.com

Laudato Si Action Plan

Laudato Si Local Action Plan A Laudato Si Local Action Plan is a statement of how to bring about in your parish or community group a set of actions that reflect the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment – Laudato Si. These actions will be designed to encourage bio-diversity and reduce in small ways the effects of climate change. An example of an action would be 'setting up an eco-friendly group' in your parish or community. Another example would be 'do an energy audit for your church or community hall.' A further example, 'place bird boxes in the parish cemetery.' The action plan should be specific rather than general, it should have a cost of the actions along with a time frame for implementation. It could begin with a listing of the specific environmental assets of the area e.g. The linear river walk and woods in Ballynakill and Knockboy on the outskirts of Waterford city. A template will follow in the next few weeks.

The following are explanations of terms used in the recommendations.

Eco Congregation Ireland. Eco-Congregation Ireland is a project of the Inter-Church Meeting that encourages churches to adopt an eco-friendly approach to all aspects of church life including worship, lifestyle, property management, community outreach and contact with the developing world. Start the process of receiving accreditation by completing the *Environmental Check-up For Your Church* available at the Eco-Congregation Ireland website www.ecocongregationireland.com. Churches already involved are the Roman Catholic Church, Church of Ireland, Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Religious Society of Friends.

Planting Trees: The steering committee will help put you in touch with organisations or individuals who can assist with this. Even in small areas such as beside a church car-park trees can be planted. Native species for small spaces, such as mountain ash, or apple that encourage bio-diversity should be preferred.

Lenten Fast from Plastics. Substituting paper for plastic where feasible for the Lenten Period.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan: the All Ireland Pollinator Plan seeks to encourage pollination especially of our fruit trees and contains a menu of actions to achieve this end. One third of our bee species is under threat in Ireland. Pollinator actions need to be undertaken locally by planting native species of plants – trees, flowers etc that encourage pollination, an essential contributor to Ireland's bio-diversity while at the same time meeting the challenge of climate change.

Energy Audit: this is best done by somebody experienced in the field of energy costs and efficiency.