

Session 3:

How can we act with love towards our common home?



Guardians of Creation



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London



Laudato Si' Centre

DIOCESE OF  SALFORD

Today's prayer



Dear God,

We give thanks and gratitude to you as we take this journey towards living more simply and sustainably.

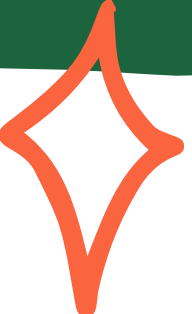
We ask for your blessing as we begin to take action in our school, inspired by the beauty of your creation and guided by ecological virtues.

Praise be to you!

Amen

So far,
we've learned

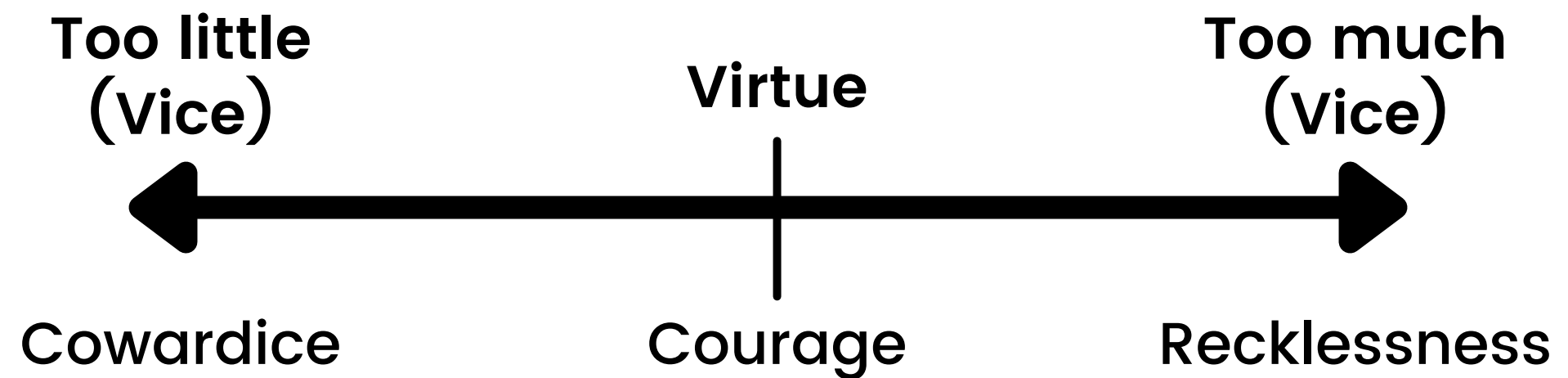


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- How Pope Francis calls all people to be stewards of God's creation in Laudato Si'
 - The importance of integral ecology as we answer the cries of the Earth and the Poor
 - What we can do to build a sustainable future in our mission statements.

What is a virtue?

"Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good" (CCC, 1833)

"Vices can be classified according to the virtues they oppose" (CCC, 1866)



Activity: Virtues and vices



- Read through the list of words on your worksheet

- Circle 3 words you think will help us live more sustainably

Which word is the most important to you?

Write a few sentences about why you think this word is the most important for you.

- Underline 3 words you think will make sustainable living more difficult

Which word do you find challenging?

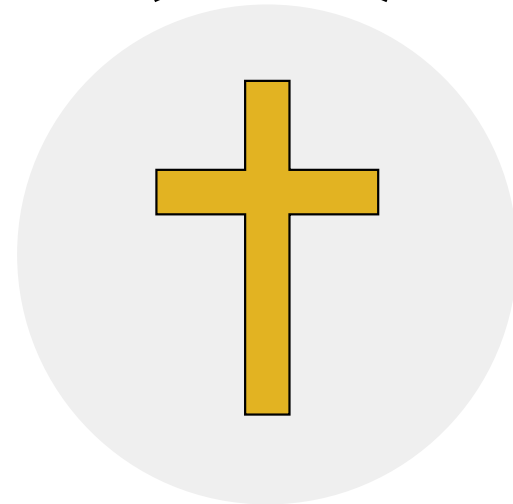
Write a few sentences about how this word impacts your daily life and hinders you from forming sustainable habits.

Seven Catholic Virtues

Theological Virtues

Gifts from God

Faith



Belief in God

Hope



Trust in God

Charity



Love God and each other

Cardinal Virtues

Human habits to do good

Prudence



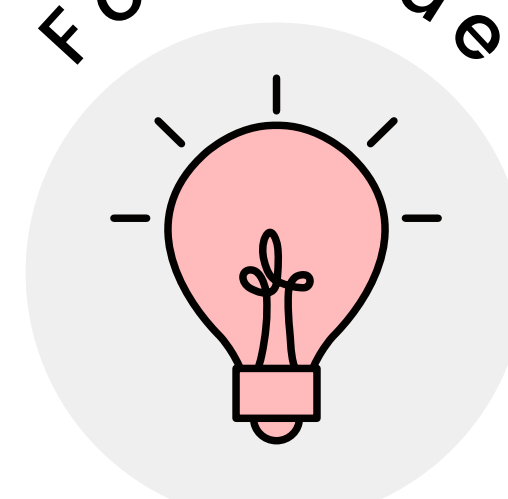
Wisdom to know what's good

Justice



Respect the rights of every person

Fortitude



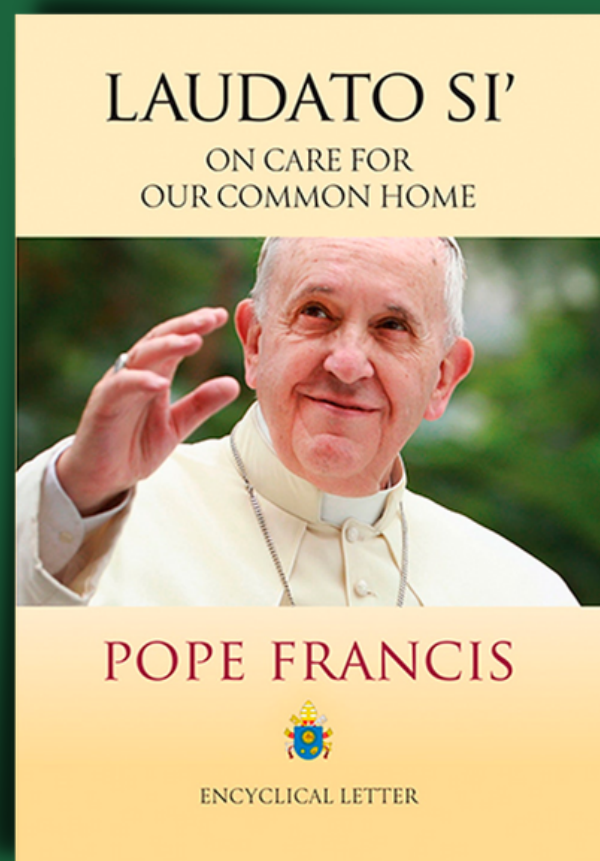
Courage to keep pursuing what's good

Temperance



Balance our desires and appetites

Pope Francis: *Cultivating ecological virtues*



"Nature as a whole not only manifests God but is also a locus of his presence. The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him. Discovering this presence leads us to **cultivate the 'ecological virtues'**. [...]

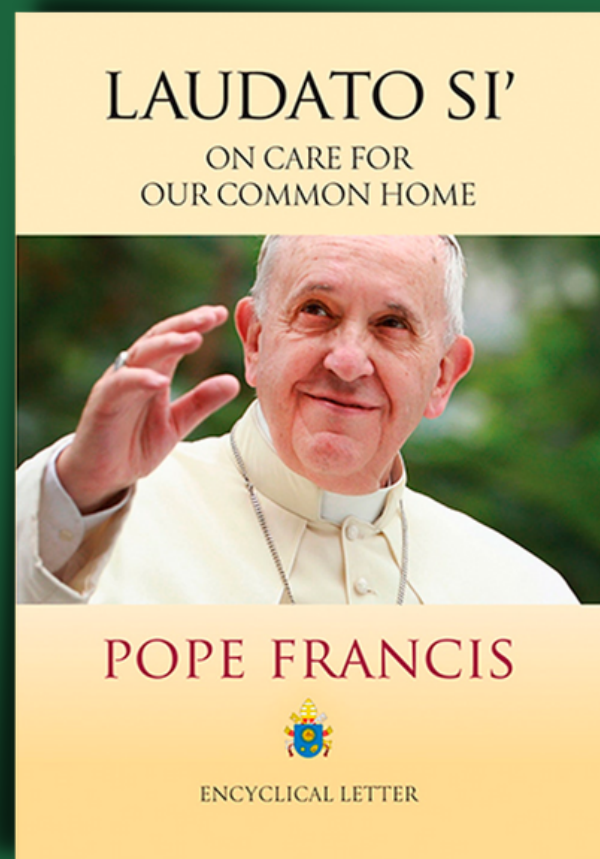
"Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment." [...]

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

(LS, 88; 211; 217)

Pope Francis:

Cultivating ecological virtues

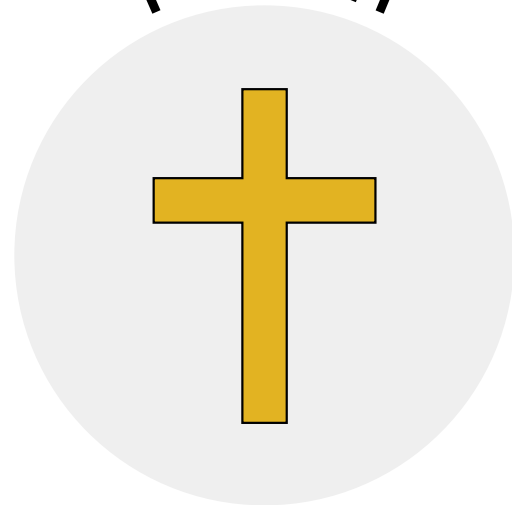


What is Pope Francis saying here?

- We see God in nature. God's spirit is part of every living thing. We must practice good habits to strengthen our relationship with God through nature.
- We call these good habits virtues. These virtues should help us act selflessly and lovingly towards nature.
- For Christians, practising these virtues is not optional. They are important in acting as stewards of God's creation.

* Ecological virtues?

Faith



Belief in God

Understand the beauty and holiness of God's creation and our responsibility as his stewards

Hope



Trust in God

Orientate our sustainable actions towards God in praise and gratitude

Charity



Love God and each other

Respect and love the Earth as God's creation

* Ecological virtues?

Prudence



Wisdom to know what's good

Learn which actions are good for the Earth and its people

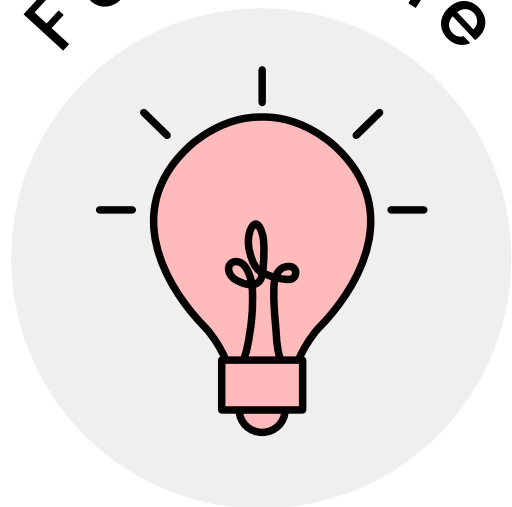
Justice



Respect the rights of every person

Answer the cries of the poor as we build an equal, sustainable future

Fortitude



Courage to keep pursuing what's good

Keep taking environmental action, even when things get tough

Temperance



Balance our desires and appetites

Encourage us to live simply and produce less waste

Reflection: Your mission, your virtues

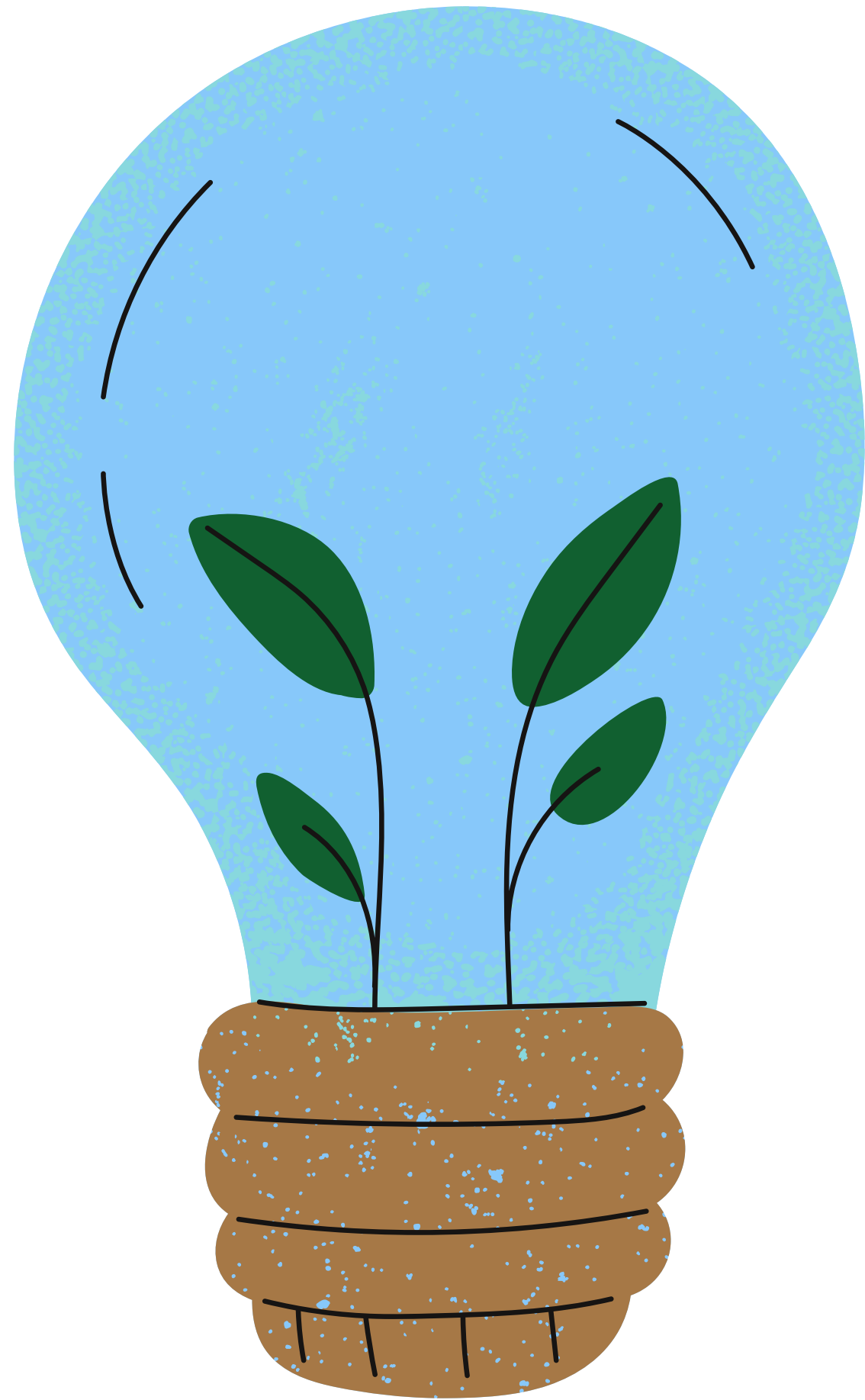


- Read your mission statement from last session

- Consider how your mission statement reflects the virtues

- Does your mission statement reflect any of the cardinal or theological virtues?
- Which virtues are at the core of your mission?
- How do you feel about this reflection?

- Reflect on whether you need to change your habits to achieve your mission statement. Why is this?



Planning your project

Your task is to design a project that cares for our common home, inspired by what we've learnt from Laudato Si'. It must positively impact the environment in your school community. It needs a clear goal that's achievable within the time available.

You will work in a group of no more than 5. In our final session, you will show your project's outcomes to the class in a 5-minute presentation.

The C.A.R.E approach



Consider

- What will you do to care for our common home?
- Be as specific as possible and try phrasing your project as a question to offer it a clear focus.

Aim

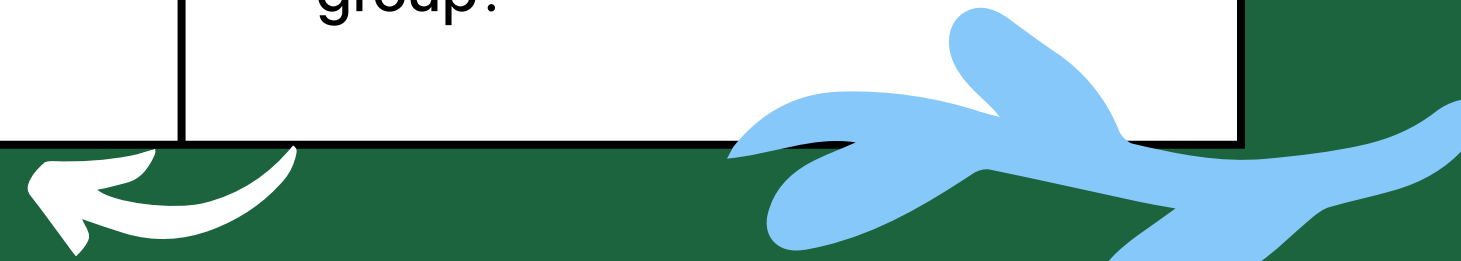
- Why do you want to help our common home in this way?
- Why is it important to you, your group, and your school?
- Use your mission statements to help create your shared goal

Evaluate

- After the presentation, where will you take the project next?
- What are the long-term impacts of your project for you, your school, and your community?

Respond

- What will you need to achieve this project? How will you obtain this information/resources?
- How will you achieve it within the timeframe?
- How will you divide responsibilities between your group?



How can we bring nature into our school?

How can we answer the cry of the poor?

Can we reduce the school's waste and rubbish?

How can we engage our peers in sustainability?

Where does the school get its food?

Do our school grounds support wildlife?

How do students travel to school?

How can we reduce our carbon footprints?

How could we repurpose our school's recycling?

Where do we get our school's energy?

Are our school uniforms eco-friendly?

How much water do we waste?

Project

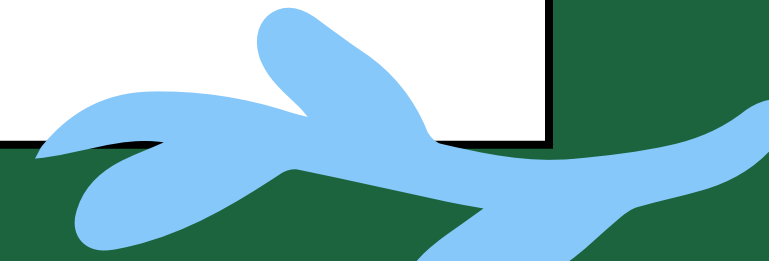
ideas

Here are some questions to get you started. Feel free to think of your own!

Example plan



<p><i>Consider</i></p> <p>We will care for our common home by organising a wildlife survey on our school grounds, answering the questions "what wildlife do we support?" and "how can our school grounds support local wildlife?".</p>	<p><i>Aim</i></p> <p>Our group's mission statements all focus on wildlife because we care about animals and protecting their habitats. Encouraging more wildlife could benefit the whole school, increasing everyone's respect and appreciation for nature.</p>
<p><i>Evaluate</i></p> <p>We can repeat our survey in summer to see if we've increased the amount of wildlife on school grounds. We can encourage staff to make the survey a yearly activity to keep a record of our progress.</p>	<p><i>Respond</i></p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete surveys in the morning to see what wildlife we can see on school grounds• Research and implement ways we can support our wildlife, like bird feeders and hedgehog tunnels.



Activity: Planning your project



- Spend a few minutes with your group talking about your mission statements
 - Which areas of sustainability do you share a common interest in helping?
- Brainstorm some ideas for your project.
 - How can you help care for our common home?
- Use the C.A.R.E grid to help your project take shape.
- Plan a project timeline.
 - Which tasks need to happen first? Are any of them time sensitive?
- Set a clear goal for what you will achieve by the next session. Divide the tasks equally between you.