

ECOLOGICAL *Spirituality*



Laudato Si



RESPOND

to the



CRY

of the EARTH

Laudato Si





Ecological **EDUCATION**

Laudato Si'



RESPOND

to the

CRY



of the

POOR

& Vulnerable

Laudato Si'



Adopt a
SIMPLE Lifestyle



Laudato Si'

Sustainability



ECOLOGICAL

Economics



Making our
Precious
PLANET
Top priority

Laudato Si'





Emphasis on

COMMUNITY Participatory + Involvement ACTION

Laudato Si'

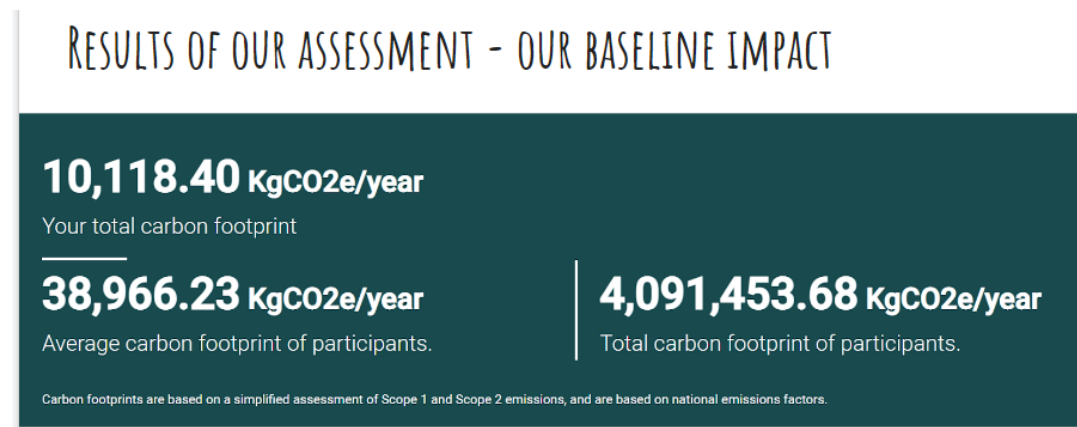


St Patrick's College is a Catholic Secondary School for Girls in the Good Samaritan Tradition, which operates under the trusteeship of Good Samaritan Education. The College's rich history dates back to when Bishop Polding, a Benedictine monk, blessed the original foundation stone of the first St Patrick's site on 17 March in 1840. This makes the College the oldest Catholic independent school in Australia built and funded by local enterprise without government assistance.

As a Christ-centred community, formed in the Good Samaritan tradition, St Patrick's College empowers young women through holistic education to be independent and resilient lifelong learners who are actively engaged in working for a just society. Through their participation in the community of St Patrick's College, students, parents and staff encounter the interconnectedness of life and, in a spirit of Benedictine stewardship, learn to reverence the whole of creation. As such we view the Pope's call to take action for Our Common Home seriously and as part of our mission.

Our Identity Statement, "Arrange all things so the strong have something to strive for and the weak have nothing to run from" (Rule of Benedict 64:19), clearly relates to current climate crisis and our need to be active in our response to this. We believe that we need to form minds that understand that the strong need to strive to make change to the way we live to save the planet. The poor should have nothing to run from in terms of the impact our unsustainable lifestyles cause and they should be protected as should the earth. We are committed to listen to the voice of creation.

As a mission team we have been working towards this reflection for some months now and Stewardship has been a focus with both staff and students at the College. We began working with staff during our Professional Development Week held at the start of Term 3. Beth Riolo delivered a presentation about Laudato Si' and the need for ecological conversion. She shared an interesting perspective on the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Commandment of Love. The command to love our neighbour was analysed with the view that our neighbour is the earth itself. This set the stage for our Staff Spirituality Day at the end of the week where we delved deeper into Laudato Si' and the Climate Crisis. We also shared the results of our assessment via the Laudato Si' Action Platform. These are shown below:



RESULTS OF OUR ASSESSMENT - 4 KEY AREAS



We have gathered the views and input of students and staff as part of our reflection process. We decided to create a new group within the College titled the Laudato Si' Social Justice Group and have a strong membership particularly with Yr 11 Students. This is a group we hope to grow over the coming years. Students were asked to share ideas and consider the suggested actions on the Laudato Si' Action Platform in relation to the key goals. The following table was created:

GOAL	EXPLANATION	IDEAS FOR ACTION AT ST PATRICKS SO FAR
RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH	greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding a Social & Ecological Action Day/Series of events during the Season of Creation (From Sep 1)
RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR	defence of human life and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding a Social & Ecological Action Day/Series of events during the Season of Creation (From Sep 1)
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS	sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.	

ADOPTION OF SIMPLE/MORE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES	<p>sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of our recycling practices and options moving forward. ● Encouraging mindful use of heating and air conditioning in the school. ● Approaching/investigating the following with Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Composting ○ Lights - are they energy efficient? ○ Tree planting with student help ○ Student help with stewarding the environment ● Approaching/investigating the following with the Canteen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep cups still happening? ○ Meat versus plant based food options? ● A sub committee could be created for students interested in raising awareness of issues and sharing hints/practical reminders with the student and staff body around living more sustainably.
ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION	<p>re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education etc.</p>	

ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY	recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding a Social & Ecological Action Day/Series of events during the Season of Creation (From Sep 1)
EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY ACTION TO CARE FOR CREATION AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS	promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystems, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding a Social & Ecological Action Day/Series of events during the Season of Creation (From Sep 1)

At the Staff Spirituality Day the following questions were considered by teaching and non-teaching staff and then responses were collated and considered by the Mission Team.

HOW CAN YOU TAKE ACTION AS PART OF OUR COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE?

AS A PART OF A PASTORAL TEAM

1. What is already being done with the current pastoral structures to address environmental and/or social justice issues?
 - a. Pastoral class?
 - b. Camps/Retreats?
 - c. Benedict Day action?
 - d. Year group initiatives?
2. What could be done to work towards one or more of the Laudato Si goals?
3. How could you support the goals in your role within this team?

AS PART OF A SUPPORT STAFF TEAM (OFFICE, LIBRARY/IT, MAINTENANCE, STUDENT SUPPORT, KLA SUPPORT)

1. What is already being done within your support staff team to address environmental and/or social justice issues?
2. What could be done to work towards one or more of the Laudato Si goals?
3. How could you support the goals in your role within this team?

AS A TEACHER IN YOUR KLA

1. What is already being done with the current curriculum structures to address environmental and/or social justice issues?
2. What could be done to work towards one or more of the Laudato Si goals?
3. How could you support the goals in your role?

AS AN INDIVIDUAL

1. What do you already do as an individual to address environmental and/or social justice issues?
2. What could you do as an individual to work towards one or more of the Laudato Si goals?

We will use all of this data plus a reflection on our work this year during the Season of Creation to create our Action Plan for the remaining 6 years. This year we have for the first time Celebrated the Season of Creation. While there were some actions that were planned that were unsuccessful, we have made a start and believe that from small things, big things grow. We chose to raise awareness of the issue of Fast Fashion which has a devastating impact on the earth and the poor and is driven by overconsumerism. This issue was suggested by the students and is a relatable one. We held a Winter Sleepout and a Fast Fashion Market that raised money for St Vincent de Paul. We also made the cry of the earth and poor our focus in ritual and prayer life during the Season of Creation. There were prayers shared and encouraged with pastoral classes as was the theme of the Burning Bush. Each pastoral class was encouraged to make a burning bush.

We have also decided that we want our commitment to listen to the cry of the earth to be visible within the College. The following posters have been created to draw attention to the 7 goals that we are working towards.