

# Live Simply Bulletin: Laudate Deum



**November 2023**



On October 4th, Pope Francis published a letter “*Laudate Deum*” (“*Praise God*”) in which he reflects on the progress that has been made regarding climate change. His conclusion, in 2 words, is that it’s not enough. So he calls on Catholics - and on all people of good will - to a radical conversion.

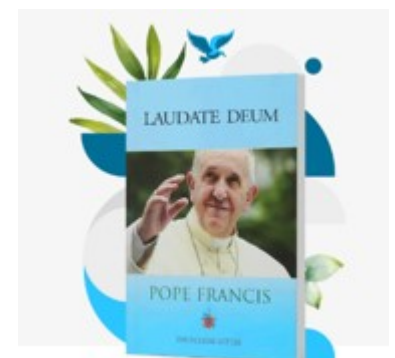
### **Key messages of Laudate Deum** (in its own words)

- Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community. It is a drama that harms us all and shows “a tragic and striking example of structural sin”.
- It is no longer possible to doubt the human origin of climate change. No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather: heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth. It is a silent disease that affects everyone. And there is a real possibility that we are approaching a critical point where a “snowball effect” occurs.
- At COP28 later this year, governments should commit to binding forms of energy transition that are efficient, obligatory and readily monitored.
- For Catholics, our faith gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole.
- The most effective solutions will come from major political decisions on the national and international level. Nonetheless, every little bit helps, and efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture and are helping to bring about large processes of transformation rising from deep within society.

The key message of Pope Francis is very clear: we must stop ducking the issue and embark on a programme of rapid and radical change (both collectively and individually) because to do otherwise

- will endanger our own future and that of our children
- will cause harm to our neighbour, especially those who are poor
- is sinful.

“ The effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world. (LD 3)



Praise God is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies. (LD 73)

## But what can I do?

Look at your everyday habits and think about what you can realistically change, e.g.

- Once a week, walk, cycle or take a bus instead of driving
- Did you know that 10% of all CO2 emissions come from the fashion industry? Only buy clothes if you need them, and buy them to last.
- Tropical forests are being destroyed to produce animal feed for the UK. Try eating a vegetarian main meal at least once a week.



And remember:

### What is COP28?

COP28 is the latest in a series of annual meetings about climate change attended by world leaders under the auspices of the United Nations.

It will be held in Dubai, 30 Nov. - 12 Dec. 2023.

**STOP PRESS - Pope Francis to attend and speak at COP28 in Dubai!!**

“Responsibility for God’s earth means that human beings must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world. (LD 62)

### LET US PRAY ...

Creator God,  
the earth and the poor cry out together,  
united in an urgent refrain of damage done.  
Moved by this call, we implore you, Lord,  
take pity and hear our prayer.

Embolden world leaders to take action,  
to protect your people and restore your earth,  
to reimagine the future  
so that all generations may flourish.  
Encourage them to walk in your truth,  
guide them in the path we must take.

Lead us all to be brave,  
take heart, find hope in you,  
so that together we may  
renew the face of the earth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Climate change could make these species extinct.  
Do you know which animal can be found in which place?

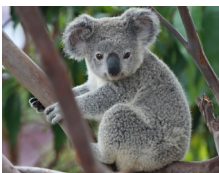
Adelie Penguin



Arctic fox



Koala



Polar bear



Sea turtles



Arctic

Mexico

Russia

Antarctica

Australia



The world sings of  
an infinite Love:  
how can we fail to  
care for it?

(LD 65)