

# THE LAUDATO SI' GOALS

## Appendix



**LAUDATO SI'**  
Action Platform



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Catholic Social Teaching principles (CST) cover all spheres of life – the economic, political, personal and spiritual. The principles are inspired by the writings of the Pope and other Catholic leaders about social issues.

**Caritas Australia's work is shaped by the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching.**

A red icon of a person, used to represent Human Dignity.

## Human Dignity

Every person is made in the image of God.  
We are all valuable and worthy of respect and fairness because we are all human.

A red icon of two hands shaking, used to represent Solidarity.

## Solidarity

We are all connected.  
We need to work together and support each other as one human family.

A red icon of a plant with two leaves, used to represent Care For Our Common Home.

## Care For Our Common Home

Earth is a gift from God that we should care for and protect; for current and future generations.

A red icon of a hand holding wheat, used to represent Preferential Option For The Poor.

## Preferential Option For The Poor

The Bible teaches us to take extra special care of the most vulnerable people in society.  
We should try to create a fairer world.

A red icon of hands holding a globe, used to represent The Common Good.

## The Common Good

We should always try to think about what is good for everyone, not just ourselves.  
It's about living together in a community.

A red icon of a group of people, used to represent Subsidiarity and Participation.

## Subsidiarity and Participation

All people should be able to participate in their community and have a say in decisions that affect them.



# GOAL 1: RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

## Case Study: Priscilla's Story

Priscilla lives with her husband Charles and two of their grandchildren, Obry (8) and Jayden (7), in the Hwange region, in northwest Zimbabwe.

In Hwange, the impacts of climate change such as unpredictable rainfall, drought, poor quality soils and high temperatures have made it much harder to grow enough food to eat. With almost half of the population living in extreme poverty, on less than \$2.15/day<sup>1</sup>, buying food is not an option, leaving many families at risk of extreme hunger.

During times of intense drought and food shortages, Priscilla had to commute to the town centre and wait in long queues to collect food.

"It was stressful because we didn't know what to give our children because there was nothing to give them," Priscilla said.

"Life was very difficult," explained Priscilla. "The challenges we faced included walking long distances to fetch water from the borehole so that we can water our gardens, bathe, wash our clothes and utensils. The manual pumping of the borehole was cumbersome for some of us who have grown old."

In 2019, Priscilla joined the Zimbabwe Integrated Community Development Program, run by Caritas Australia's partner organisation, Caritas Hwange. Through the program, Priscilla and her community learnt conservation farming. This involves not disturbing the soil too much, using lots of soil cover (mulch) to help retain water and learning about growing a variety of drought-resistant crops which require less water to grow.

Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. She has grown millet, sorghum, and maize. And, with her new-found knowledge, Priscilla has helped train and support other farmers in her community to learn conservation farming techniques to produce better yields too.

<sup>1</sup> [World Bank](#)





# GOAL 1: RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, where she can sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery.

"With the poultry project running, this will be an income-generating source that will help us survive even during droughts," Priscilla said.

Caritas Hwange repaired a cattle dip tank for Priscilla and her community. The tank is filled with water mixed with insecticide that kills ticks and insects. Back in 2017, a number of Priscilla's cattle died from tickborne diseases. The dip tanks are a vital resource for the community as they help keep livestock healthy.

"We get milk from the cows and the manure we use in conservation farming comes from the cattle. Protecting our cattle is very important to us as they are a source of emergency funds especially in difficult times such as during a drought," said Priscilla.

Caritas Hwange's other activities include repairing a borehole, so Priscilla and her community have access to clean water closer to home and establishing a community garden to grow nutritious vegetables to eat and sell. To help water the community garden and fill the dip tank, a solar-powered water pump was installed.

Priscilla now has the skills and resources she needs to build resilience for her family.

Caritas Hwange's Zimbabwe Integrated Community Development Program has supported over 10,000 people so far.

[Click here to watch Priscilla's story.](#)



Photos: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



# GOAL 1: RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

## Case Study: Bute and Burre's Story

Drought and conflict have left record numbers of people in the Horn of Africa in urgent need of help.

As the price of food and fuel rises because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine, vulnerable families are being left behind. Many are facing hunger and even starvation after another year of failed crops, forcing them to slaughter or sell any remaining livestock.

Ethiopia is going through severe drought after a long time without any rain, and it has destroyed crops and livestock across the country.

Bute is a village elder living in southern Ethiopia with his wife, Burre. Bute was chosen by his community members to represent their voices. They have a story they want to share with the rest of the world: they need urgent help aid now.

Bute and Burre have experienced many droughts, but this one is by far the worst they have seen in their lifetime.

Before the current drought, the couple had 2,000 livestock in two stables, including donkeys, goats and cows. The grass was green and there were plenty of pasture for their livestock. They used to harvest sorghum and maize, with enough water from the nearby river to water their crops.

"We used to have lots of milk and meat to eat, and now we have almost nothing. We feel very sad and frustrated. The life we used to live and enjoy is completely gone," Bute said.

Bute and Burre's family used to live near Lake Turkana, which provided water for their crops. But when Lake Turkana flooded, Bute and Burre lost their house, their crops and all their possessions overnight. Along with many members of their community, Bute and Burre had to relocate to drier, desert land.

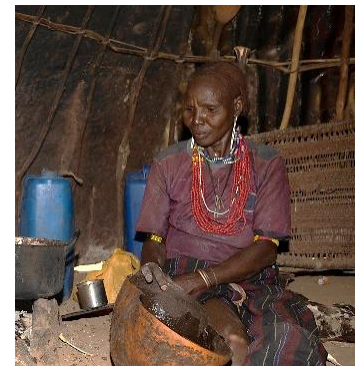


Photo (top and middle): Zacharias Abubeker/Caritas Australia. Photo: (bottom): CRS





## GOAL 1: RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

During the last three years, rainfall in this area of southern Ethiopia has been erratic, with long periods without any rain. This meant that farmers and pastoralists are unable to grow any crops or feed their livestock.

Bute and Burre's community heavily rely on humanitarian aid for survival.

Bute and Burre's seven adult children have left in search of food and it has been more than a year since they last saw them.

Communities across eastern Africa are facing hunger caused by conflict, rising food prices and one of the worst droughts in 40 years. Over 81.6 million people are facing high acute food insecurity across eastern Africa. Approximately 7 million children under 5 years are acutely malnourished in Ethiopia alone.

With your support, Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Ethiopia to provide urgent food and emergency water to drought-affected communities.

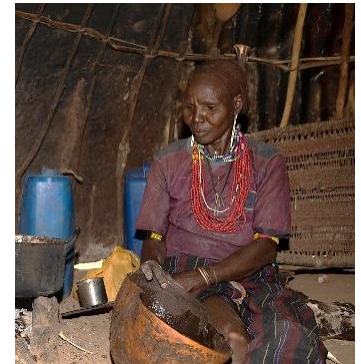


Photo (top and middle): Zacharias Abubeker/Caritas Australia. Photo: (bottom): CRS



## GOAL 3: ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

### Case Study: Thandolwayo's Story

Thandolwayo attends secondary school and now lives with her aunty.

When we first shared her story in Project Compassion 2019, she lived with her grandparents and other members of her family in a village in the Hwange district in north-western Zimbabwe. Her father left when she was young and her mother lived in a town 90 kilometres away where she worked as a casual labourer. Thandolwayo would attend the local school which just had 35 students and two teachers.

Thandolwayo's grandparents made a living by selling pearl millet bran to fishermen and farmers for animal feed. They also sold chickens – but the income it brought wasn't enough to support the family.

Thandolwayo's community continues to face ongoing droughts, food and water shortages and poor sanitation. Every morning before school, Thandolwayo used to walk 3.5 kilometres with the other women and girls to the Gwayi River and back again. Carrying a 5 litre container, she would travel across a rocky, mountainous path to collect water for her family and her teacher.

In 2017, Caritas Australia partnered with Caritas Hwange to help the community to install two solar-powered pumps to draw the water up from the river, as well as two 10,000 litre storage tanks. Community participation in the project was overwhelming.

Both men and women helped by digging and carrying stones and water tanks. Thandolwayo's grandmother also joined other villagers in participating in Caritas assisted training in health and hygiene skills.

Thanks to Caritas' support, water is now on tap in the village - benefitting the whole community.

"Life has really changed as a result of the tap because now I can bathe every day," says Thandolwayo. "We can wash our plates and clothes regularly. I now go to school feeling fresh. The distance to collect water for the family has been drastically reduced. We now drink clean, safe water and diseases are no longer affecting us."





## GOAL 3: ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Village health workers say that water-borne diseases have halved and people in the village are living longer. There is also a new feeling of hope and positive change in the village.

The plentiful water supply has also meant that they are able to use it for other important things in the village. Water is being used to mould bricks for building houses and to pound maize to sell.

When we returned to visit Thandolwayo in 2023, we asked her how the solar-powered water pumps have helped her and her community. She shared, "It has helped us all because now we can use the water to drink and bath. There are more children going to school now because we have water."

[Click here to watch Thandolwayo's story](#)



Photo: (top and middle) Richard Wainwright/Caritas (bottom) Caritas Australia





## GOAL 4: ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

### Case Study: Catholic Earthcare Australia

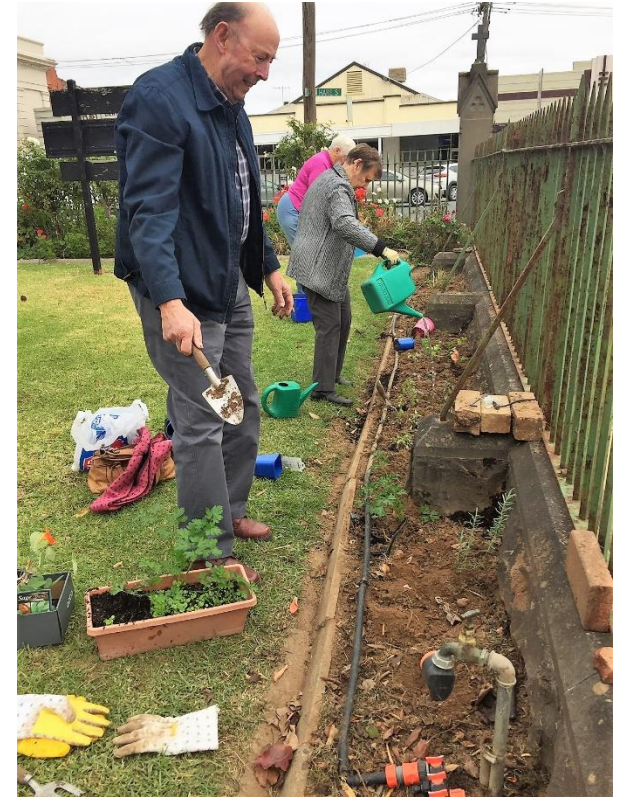
Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia. It engages with the Catholic community as it listens to the cry of the earth and cry of the poor.

Catholic Earthcare Australia has the Caritas Australia values of courage, compassion, partnership and stewardship at its heart as they build Laudato Si' communities across Australia. When we take care of each other and the Earth now, the future is hopeful for everyone: for us and for all future generations.

The Catholic Earthcare Australia School, Parish and Family programs were created in response to Pope Francis's call to care for creation and his invitation to take action to commit to the Laudato Si' Action Platform and the 7 Goals.

A Catholic Earthcare School, Parish and Family cares for our common home through prayer, conversation, education and action to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. It encourages everyone to consider ways in which they are currently, or plan to, care for creation.

First, communities think about what they are already doing to care for creation and celebrate where they are at. Then they continue the journey, planning actions using the 7 [Laudato Si' Goals](#) to guide and inspire them.



Echuca parishioners planting a herb garden after Mass. Photo: Kerry Stone



## GOAL 5: ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

### Case Study: Shaniella's Story

Shaniella is 23 years old. She grew up in a village in the Solomon Islands with her father, mother and three brothers.

Shaniella went to a local school until Grade 11 but was unable to complete her final year because she did not pass the exam.

Girls' and women's participation in secondary education, training and employment in the Solomon Islands is much lower than male students.<sup>1</sup> With the poverty rate in Makira province at around 32 percent,<sup>2</sup> Shaniella knew that without relevant job skills, she would struggle to earn a living.

In 2020, Shaniella decided to move away from home to study at a rural training centre outside the capital, Honiara. The school is supported by Caritas Australia Solomon Islands (CASI) through the Happy, Healthy, Holistic Community Development program. It caters mainly for young women from poorer communities but is now starting to enrol male students too. Learning focuses on job-related skills.

Shaniella chose to study hospitality and tourism, as well as compulsory subjects like life skills, cooking, sewing and agricultural production.

The Solomon Islands is a country particularly prone to natural disasters, including tsunamis, cyclones, drought, floods and landslides.<sup>3</sup> Not long after Shaniella started, her new school was hit by a landslide, flooding and a cyclone, all in quick succession! It was terrible.

"I was in school that time when the landslide occurred," Shaniella says. "I was devastated because I had no knowledge of what to do and where to get information."





## GOAL 5: ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The landslide destroyed the school's gravity-fed water system. It also damaged school buildings and devastated the garden which the school relies on for food. CASI was able to help the school install eight water tanks. Students had access to clean drinking water and toilets again!

The tanks also supply water to nearby schools, health centres and the wider community.

CASI helped boost the local food security by providing the school with planting materials, 200 chickens and training in agriculture and poultry management. They also ran some Disaster Risk Reduction workshops to help students, teachers and other community members learn about risks in the school's environment, evacuation procedures and how to respond during an emergency.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, CASI also helped improve the school's hygiene practices. Lots of people, including around 80 students, have benefitted from the program so far!

Now, Shaniella can complete her job skills training, with enough water and food to eat, as well as better hygiene and sanitation. She is improving her ability to earn an income, learning skills that will expand her job opportunities.

The school community has increased and diversified its crop supply and its number of poultry has quadrupled. Students are also better prepared to respond when disaster strikes, thanks to the ecological education they received.

[Click here to watch Shaniella's story](#)



<sup>1</sup> [UNESCO, World Bank](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Solomon Islands Government, 'Solomon Islands Poverty Maps' 2017](#)

<sup>3</sup> [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)





## GOAL 6: ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY

### Case Study: Walking with God Program

The Walking with God program, a program of Caritas Australia, aims to bring young adults together through prayer, reflection and dialogue within an inspiring natural setting. It provides a place where they can experience the presence of God within our environment and on Country.

It is a program that hopes to bring about new leaders in the Church as it focuses on their interest in social justice and caring for care for creation.

The program ties together nature-based activities and Australian First Nations stories of caring for Country, showing how we can live and share faith together.

[Read more about the Walking with God program here.](#)

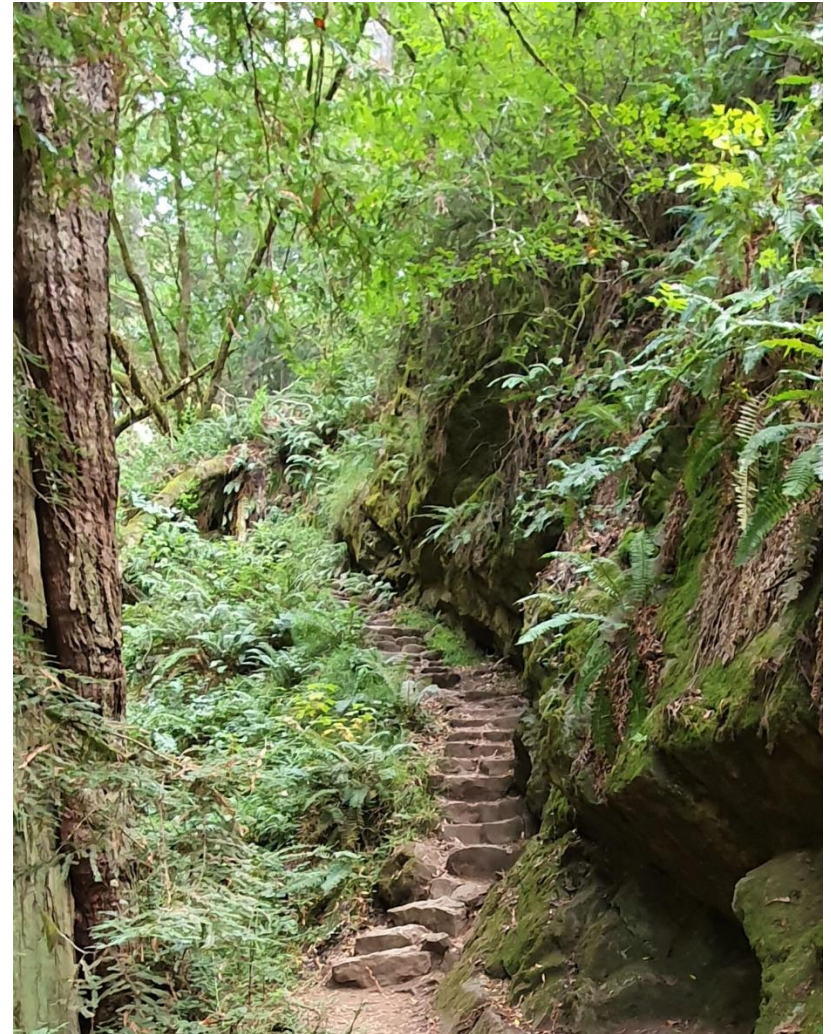


Photo: Caritas Australia



## GOAL 7: COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT

### Case Study: Kioa Climate Energy Declaration

Pacific Island countries made history with the first ever **community-led** climate declaration in the region. A declaration is a formal statement or announcement about an important topic.

Caritas Oceania, as well as local organisations, came together in October 2022 in Fiji to put together the Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration.

The Kioa Declaration is a big step towards communities participating and having a say on issues that affect them.

Although small island nations in the Pacific account for a very small amount of the world's dangerous greenhouse gas emissions, they are the ones facing rising sea levels, extreme weather events like cyclones and king tides, and other devastating effects of climate change.

Countries in the Pacific are also facing the loss of buildings and land on the coast lines, failure of important crops and fisheries, and the loss of crucial coral reefs and mangroves. They are also seeing a rise in dangerous diseases.

The impact of climate change is having devastating impacts on culture and identity, as communities have lost their burial grounds, ancestral land, and traditional fishing grounds, with some forced to move to different locations.

The Kioa Declaration calls on international governments, including the Australian Government, to work towards a number of goals. Some of these goals include:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- accessible and equal access to finance
- the creation of ocean policies.



Photo: Miriam Deprez

[Read the Kioa Declaration.](#)

<sup>1</sup> [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)



# STEM ACTIVITY – WHICH MULCH WORKS BEST

Through the Integrated Community Development Program, Priscilla and her community learnt conservation farming techniques, which included using mulch to hold moisture in the soil during periods of drought. Did you know that different types of mulch work better than others to keep the soil moist on very hot days?

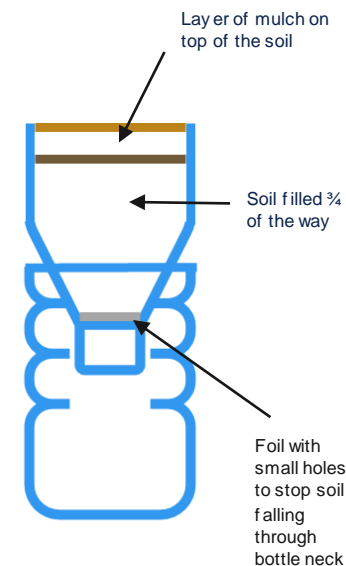
*Note: This activity works best when completed on three or more consecutively hot days, although can still be done at any time of the year.*

## What you will need:

- 3 or 4 plastic water bottles of the same size
- foil
- soil
- different types of mulch for each bottle (stones, bark chips, shredded bark, straw, compost etc).

## Procedure:

- Collect 3 or 4 plastic water bottles and cut them in half. Throw away the lid and place the top upside down in the bottom half.
- Poke a few small holes in a square piece of foil and place it on the top half of the bottle so that it covers the bottle neck (to prevent soil from falling out). Place soil on top of the foil, filling the bottle  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way.
- Place a layer of mulch on top of the soil in the bottle. Each bottle should have a different type of mulch.
- Place the bottles outdoors (keep undercover overnight or in rain) and water the soil on the first day. Use the same amount of water for each bottle.
- At this point, make a hypothesis (or a prediction) on which mulch you think would work the best at keeping the soil moist and why.
- At the end of 3 or 4 days, check to see how much water was collected at the bottom of each bottle - measure the amount if possible.
- Which mulch was more effective in holding the most water in the soil? Was your hypothesis correct?



# ACTION PLANNER

How is your school putting each of the Laudato Si' Goals into action? What else could your school do?

Fill in the table below with what your school is already doing to meet each of the goals, or any new ideas you may have.

Laudato Si' Goals	What is your school already doing?	What are some things your school could do?
Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth		
Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor		
Goal 3: Ecological Economics		

# ACTION PLANNER

Laudato Si' Goals	What is your school already doing?	What are some things your school could do?
Goal 4: Adoption of sustainable lifestyles		
Goal 5: Ecological Education		
Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality		
Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment		