

PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS FOR OUR COMMON HOME 2

Prayers based on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation
Laudate Deum (Praise God), 4 October 2023



BOOKLET SERIES:
QUOTES & PRAYERS BASED ON POPE FRANCIS' WRITINGS
BOOK 3, PART 2 EDITION 1

Our Common Home

PRAISE GOD

**GOD OF CREATION,
by his life, canticles and actions,
Saint Francis of Assisi sang
“Praise God for all his creatures”.**

**In this way,
he accepted the invitation of the biblical Psalms
and reflected the sensitivity of Jesus
before the creatures of his Father:**

**“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;
they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you,
even Solomon in all his glory
was not clothed like one of these” (Mt 6:28-29).**

**“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?
Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight” (Lk 12:6).**

**May we be people who remember and admire
this tenderness of Jesus
for all the beings that accompany us along the way! Amen.**

Based on words of Pope Francis, “Praise God” *Laudate Deum* 1

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CHALLENGES



Our Common Home

GOD OF OUR WORLD,

we are extremely concerned, because, with the passage of time, the world in which we live is collapsing. It may be nearing the breaking point, but responses have not been adequate. We can see that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many. May we respond with compassionate and practical action in the areas of healthcare, employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations and more. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 2*,

GOD WHO KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS OUR FEARS,

we know that the signs of climate change are here, and increasingly evident. In recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth, palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone. May there be full support for the experts who seek to understand and find effective responses to changes. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 5*

GOD OF LIGHT IN DARKNESS,

the decrease in the continental ice sheets is of enormous concern to us. The melting of poles and many other climate factors persist for long periods of time, independent of the events that may have triggered them. We are now unable to halt enormous damage already caused. We have limited time to prevent even more tragic damage. May we, with people across the world, do all that can be done, in small projects or great, to preserve the beautiful world that is still ours. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 16*

Challenges

EVER-LIVING GOD,

experts from around the world have alerted us to the fact that each global temperature rise of 0.5 °C increases the intensity and frequency of great rains. Floods increase in some areas; severe droughts, extreme heat waves and heavy snowfall in others. They tell us that a global temperature rise of 1.5 °C would increase the severity of changes and that the Greenland icecaps and a large part of Antarctica will melt completely if temperatures increase by 2 degrees. The consequences for everyone would be immensely grave. O God of Hope, hear our urgent pleas that we, and all people, may find ways to work together to find viable and lasting solutions to the problem of climate change. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 5

ALMIGHTY GOD,

we are worried because, in the last fifty years, temperatures have risen at unprecedented speed, greater than at any time during the past two thousand years. We know that from 1850 on, the global temperature has risen by 1.1 °C, with even greater impact on the polar regions. We are told that it is possible that in just ten years the critical global ceiling maximum of 1.5 °C may be reached, extending high into the atmosphere, and deep into the oceans. We know that acidification of the seas has increased, oxygen levels are reduced, glaciers are receding, snow cover is diminishing and sea levels are rising.

Hear our desperate cries, O God,
for the future of our planet! Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 12

Our Common Home

CONSOLING GOD,

we know that some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, including temperature increases, acidifications and decreased oxygen in the oceans.

It is clear to us that the temperature and salinity of ocean waters affect the survival of many species.

Give us the courage and determination to act,
before many other creatures of this world
are no longer our companions along the way.
Comfort and guide us as we try to find a way forward,
preserving all that is still precious in our world. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 15*

GOD WHO HEARS OUR CRIES,

there is the real possibility
that we are approaching a critical point.
Small changes can cause greater ones,
unforeseen and perhaps already irreversible,
precipitating a cascade of events and a domino effect.

In such a case it would be too late for us,
as no intervention would be able
to halt processes once begun.

O God, we cannot state with certainty
that all of this is going to happen,
but we need your help.

Spur us on to take the actions,
whether small or great, that we must take
for the future of our precious planet. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 16*

COMMUNITIES



Our Common Home

PROTECTOR OF THE POOR,

we have constant reminders that climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community. Increase our deep concern that attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives and the worst effects are borne by those who are the most vulnerable.

Help us to comprehend that this is a drama that harms us all, and climate change makes manifest a tragic and striking example of structural sin. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

GOD OF CONNECTIONS,

may we never forget that “Everything is connected” and “No one is saved alone”. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

GOD OF HARMONY AND BALANCE,

may all nations learn from the lived experience of indigenous cultures in regions across the earth, in their interactions with the environment. When human groupings reshape environments, may they do so without destroying or endangering it. Teach us to rediscover healthy and harmonious relationships. May all interactions of natural systems with social systems be healthy and harmonious. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

GOD WHO HEARS OUR CRIES,

may the global crises that do occur become occasions to bring about beneficial changes and the development of worldwide strategies to prevent future harm. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

GOD OF HOPE AND JUSTICE,

we see that climate change is a global social issue,
intimately related to the dignity of human life.

Help our leaders and all people understand that our concern
about climate change has a social meaning, which goes beyond a merely
ecological approach. Remind us that care for one another and our care for
the earth are intimately bound together. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

GOD OF TIME AND ETERNITY,

may world organisations, working together,
become more effective and better equipped
with real authority and power, regulated by law,
to provide for the global common good.

May they act in sure defence of fundamental human rights.
May such organisations possess a stable efficacy,
enabling them to work together in a multilateralism
that is not dependent on changing political conditions,
or the interests of a few. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

EMMANUEL, GOD-WITH-US,

may we recognise and support
the many civil groups and organisations
that help to compensate for the shortcomings
of the international community,
its lack of coordination in complex situations,
and its inattention to fundamental human rights.

May we promote and support expressions of the principle of subsidiarity
when applied to global-local relationships. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

Our Common Home

GOD OF OUR HUMAN FAMILY,

in our postmodern culture, there is a new sensitivity
towards the more vulnerable and less powerful,
the primacy of the human person and the defence of human dignity.
May multilateralism be developed
for the sake of resolving the real problems of humanity,
securing respect for the dignity of persons before all else. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

GOD WHO LISTENS,

we are hopeful, because increasingly relevant forces are emerging
that are capable of obtaining important results
in the resolution of many of the concrete problems that are before us.
May world leaders become attuned to look for real answers
to serious and far-reaching problems,
no matter how little they may be,
or from which country they may come. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

SPIRIT OF COMMUNION,

help our world to find the ways
to a many-sided diplomacy
between groups, nations and corporations,
that is capable of responding
to a new configuration of the world,
while taking into account the experience of centuries.
Inspire and enable our world community
to seek and find solutions to the problems that face us. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34–43

LEADERS, COLLABORATION AND RESPONSIBILITY



Our Common Home

LORD OF TRUE PROGRESS,

we are thankful that there have been steps forward in developing a system for financing “loss and damage” in countries most affected by climate disasters. May richer countries take concrete responsibility and contribute substantially to the new possibilities that will give a new voice and a greater role to developing countries. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 51

GOD OF THE JOURNEY,

we are disappointed that international accords have been poorly implemented, due to lack of suitable mechanisms for oversight, and an absence of reviews and penalties for noncompliance. It dismays us that principles proclaimed still await efficient and flexible means of practical implementation. Compel all countries to take positions that place global common good above national interests. May none fail in conscience and responsibility. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 52

GOD OF CREATIVITY,

we know that everything is connected. We recognise that technical remedies alone can mask, and fail to solve, true and deep problems in the environment. It is very concerning that, while some interventions and technological advances are promising, we risk remaining trapped in a mindset of pasting and papering over cracks, while continuing to contribute to deterioration. Protect us from the false hope that all problems will be solved by future technical interventions. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 57

— Leaders, Collaboration and Responsibility —

GOD OF WISDOM,

help us all to understand that on many levels
we are faced with human and social problems
that cry out for involvement on the part of all.
May society as a whole
act to exercise a healthy pressure
for real and lasting solutions,
and may every family realise
that the future of their children is at stake. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 58

GOD OF PEACE,

we watched as Paris (2015) COP21 agreements
took effect in 2016, offering new beginnings
after failures to meet the goals previously set.
Yet today, we know that there are still no provisions for sanctions
in the case of unfulfilled commitments,
and no effective instruments to ensure their fulfilment.
We are deeply concerned that
developing countries are allowed wide flexibility.
May the international community find ways to oblige nations to adhere
to measures that help the world achieve the Paris Agreement's ambitious
objective: to keep the increase of average global temperatures under 2 °C
with respect to preindustrial levels, with the aim of decreasing to 1.5 °C.
Help the leaders, decision makers and influencers
of our international community
to consolidate monitoring procedures,
and facilitate criteria for comparing
the objectives of the different countries,
so that real results may be possible. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 47-48

Our Common Home

RICH AND POOR NATIONS, GLOBALISATION AND CULTURES

LOVING GOD,

we know that the crises before us are not the fault of the poor.
May we accept our own responsibilities seriously,
for we live in a richer country;
part of a richer percentage of the planet
that contaminates the planet more than the poorest
50% of the total world population.
Our per capita emissions are much greater
than those of the poorer countries.
Lord, help us to review our lives and lifestyles
and take the actions that we must for the wellbeing of all. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 9

GOD OF COURAGEOUS ENDEAVOUR,

give us the courage needed to produce substantial changes.
We know that, at this pace, in just a few years
we will surpass the maximum recommended limit of 1.5 °C
and shortly thereafter, even reach 3 °C,
with a high risk of arriving at a critical point.
Even if we do not reach this point of no return,
it is certain that the consequences would be disastrous
and precipitous measures would have to be taken
at enormous cost, and with grave
and intolerable economic and social effects.
Make decision makers determined
to take the measures now that, although costly,
will avoid more burdensome consequences
the longer we wait. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 56

RICH AND POOR NATIONS, GLOBALISATION AND CULTURES

GOD OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY,

we find hope when globalisation
can favour spontaneous cultural interchanges, greater mutual knowledge
and processes that bring about the integration of peoples.
May we support those activists, processes and actions
voicing demands that are rising up from below
throughout the world, and opening new ways to help
our world's response to the climate crisis. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 38

GOD OF NATIONS,

we have watched with hopeful expectation
as representatives from more than 190 countries
have met frequently, to address issues of climate change.
We have been dismayed, however, when some conferences were failures;
greenhouse gas emissions goals not achieved.
It was encouraging when others
led to protocols and commitments,
and programmes of adaptation and aid
to cover costs of reducing the effects
of climate change in developing countries.
May richer countries recognise that
most of the responsibility lies with them
for compensation to vulnerable countries
experiencing the loss and damage
already caused by climate change. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 44-46

Our Common Home

NATURE AND HUMANITY

JESUS, TEACHER,

bring us back to the understanding of human life and activity that is revealed in your life and teaching.

Challenge perceptions that reality, goodness and truth automatically flow from technological and economic power.

Do not allow economists, financiers and experts in technology to accept false ideas of infinite or unlimited growth.

Protect us when new advances of this paradigm such as artificial intelligence and technological innovations start with a notion of a human being with no limits, whose abilities and possibilities are capable of infinite expansion, thanks to technology.

Jesus, open our eyes to the true nature, reality and wonder of every human being. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 20-21

GOD OF LOVE,

may we remember, every day,
that we are part of nature, included in it,
looking at the world from within.

May all in our human family recognise
this reality of our being.

May human life, intelligence and freedom
enrich our planet as part of its internal workings
and its equilibrium. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 25-26

DISCERNMENT AND DECISION MAKING

SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT,

help us to find new procedures for decision making
and legitimising those decisions,
since those from decades ago are no longer sufficient or effective.
Help us to find the spaces needed for conversation,
consultation, arbitration, conflict resolution and supervision.
Help us to find ways to increase
shared decision making in the global context,
so that we may care for all. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 43

GOD OF COURAGE AND TRUTH,

we are alarmed that millions are losing their jobs
due to rising sea levels or droughts —
the effects of climate change.
Many people are adrift
due to phenomena affecting the planet.
Yet, we know that transition to renewable forms of energy,
properly managed, and efforts to adapt
to the damage caused by climate change,
are capable of generating countless jobs.
Give us courage to demand
that politicians and business leaders
concern themselves with the realities and possibilities. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 43

Our Common Home

GOD OF NEW BEGINNINGS,

we have experienced disappointment and dashed hopes,
following several conferences with scarce results,
and no progress from an abundance of
recommendations and proposals
put forward to ensure rapid and effective transitions
to alternative and less polluting forms of energy.
Strengthen the convictions and determination of all leaders,
to make new beginnings and real commitments
to halt and reverse the impact of climate change. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 49

EVER-PRESENT GOD,

we acknowledge that,
despite many negotiations and agreements,
global emissions continue to increase.
Yet, without the agreements achieved so far,
they would have increased even more.
We remember that worldwide efforts to protect the ozone layer
were successful, demonstrating that when there is a will,
significant results are obtained.
Nevertheless, it is disappointing that the necessary transitions towards
clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy,
and the abandonment of fossil fuels,
are not progressing at the necessary speed.
In fact, some measures risk being seen as ploys to distract attention.
Transform the hearts and minds of all leaders.
Convince them that they must reach concrete decisions
that will truly benefit our world. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 55

THE COMMON GOOD AND WISE USE OF POWER



Our Common Home

GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,

we are alert to the fact that expanded technological capacities give those with the knowledge and the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance, over the whole of humanity and the entire world. It is clear to us that humanity has never had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely.

May leaders of our world consider in whose hands this power lies. May they consider, in good conscience, who will benefit the most with every decision they make and action they take. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 23

GOD OF THE HUMBLE OF HEART,

we see with clarity that increases in power do not always represent progress for humanity. We remember historical moments when our admiration at progress has blinded us to the horror of its consequences.

May our future technological development be accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience. May sound ethics be established in all our communities together with a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint. It is evident to us that great power is capable of destroying life. Enable us all to see these extremely grave problems facing present-day humanity. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 24

— The Common Good and Wise Use of Power —

GOD OF WISDOM AND GRACE,

we are dismayed that the ethical decadence of real power is disguised thanks to marketing and false information, tools that can shape public opinion.

We see that false hopes may be raised by these means, for example, when plans are made to undertake projects involving significant changes in the environment or high levels of contamination.

We are fearful when false hopes of people may be raised by claims that certain types of local progress may generate economic growth, employment and human promotion that may benefit children.

May developers have a true interest in the future of the people who will be impacted by their projects.

May local people be clearly told if projects will result in:

- the clearing of their lands
- a decline in the quality of their lives
- a desolate and less habitable landscape lacking in life
- the joy of community and hope for the future
- damage that eventually compromises many other people as well. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 29

Our Common Home

FATHER GOD,

we feel responsible, because our power has increased in a few decades.
Help us to properly understand human power,
its meaning and its limits.

We have made impressive and awesome technological advances,
but we have turned into highly dangerous beings,
capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival.

Do not let our actions result in a most advanced age which is our last.
Give us the lucidity and honesty needed
to recognise in time that our power
and the progress we are producing are turning against us. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 28

GOD OF LIFE,

we are sorrowful because human intervention on nature
has continued unchecked in the past two centuries.

May leaders and all members of our communities
find a new respect for the world in which we live. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 14

FUTURE GENERATIONS



Our Common Home

RISEN LORD,

you walk with us still.

Broaden our perspectives

so that while we esteem the marvels of progress,
we may also pay serious attention to other effects
that were probably unimaginable a century ago.

May each one of us take full responsibility
for the legacy we will leave behind,
once we pass from this world. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 18

SPIRIT OF GOD,

in conscience, and with an eye to the children
who will pay for the harm done by humanity's actions,
may the members of every community and all leaders ask:
“What is the meaning of my life?

What is the meaning of my time on this earth?

What is the ultimate meaning of all my work and effort?” Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 33

GOD OF ALL TIMES AND PEOPLE,

help each new generation as we take up
the struggles and attainments of past generations,
while setting its sights even higher.

May we, and all future generations,

follow the path of goodness,
together with love, justice and solidarity,
realising these are not achieved once and for all;
they have to be realised each day. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 34

Future Generations

GOD OF HISTORY,

we accept with sadness that it is no longer possible to doubt the human impact upon climate change.

Strengthen and guide our determination to act, as we recognise that, until the nineteenth century, the concentration of atmospheric greenhouse gases, which causes global warming, was stable.

Encourage us to do whatever is necessary to mitigate emissions which have increased with industrial development and accelerated significantly in the last fifty years.

O God, may we be the generations that reverse these destructive changes for the sake of our beautiful world and the generations who will follow us. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 11*

PERCEPTIVE GUIDE,

enable us to find the necessary frameworks for effective communication in this multipolar and complex world.

Convince leaders of the need to provide responses to new problems.

Urge them to commit to global mechanisms able to respond to environmental, public health, cultural and social challenges.

Attune their hearts towards respect for the most elementary human rights, social development and the protection of our common home.

Compel them to establish universal and effective rules that can provide for this global safeguarding. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 42*

Our Common Home

FAITH AND HOPE



Our Common Home

GOD OF FAITH AND HOPE,

our Catholic faith
motivates us to care for our common home.
May we share our concerns
with our brothers and sisters of other faiths,
for we know that authentic faith
gives strength to human hearts,
transforms life and transfigures our goals.
May our faith shed light on our relationship with others
and with creation as a whole. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 61

WORD OF GOD,

speaking of you, the Bible tells us:
“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good” (Gen 1:31),
and yours is “the earth with all that is in it” (Deut 10:14).
You tell us “the land is mine” and “we are but aliens and tenants” (Lev 25:23).

May our responsibility for your earth
and our gift of intelligence,
ensure that we respect the laws of nature
and the delicate equilibria
between the creatures of this world. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 62

GOD OF WISDOM,

may we have a better understanding that the universe is a whole,
in all its manifold relationships.
Along the path of wisdom, do not allow us to be indifferent
to the reality that many species are disappearing
and that the climate crisis endangers the life of many other beings. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 63

Faith and Hope

GENEROUS GOD,

make us thankful for everything that exists.

May we esteem and cherish all your gifts. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 22

JESUS, FRIEND, COMPANION,

you invited others to be attentive

to the beauty in the world,

because you yourself were in constant touch
with the wonder of nature.

May we follow your example for,

as you made your way throughout the land,

you often stopped to contemplate

the beauty sown by your Father,

and invited your disciples to perceive a divine message in things. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 64

RISEN ONE,

you hold the creatures of this world to yourself,

directing them towards fullness as their end.

The flowers of the field and the birds

which your human eyes contemplated and admired

are imbued with your radiant presence.

The universe unfolds in God, Father, Creator,

who fills it completely, and

there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf,

in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop,

and in a poor person's face.

May we love the world that sings of your infinite Love.

Do not allow us to fail to care for it. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 65

Our Common Home

GOD OF OUR ANCESTORS,

you have connected us with all your creatures.

The Judaeo-Christian vision of the cosmos
defends the unique and central value
of the human being amid the marvellous concert
of all your creatures.

May we recognise that human life is incomprehensible
and unsustainable without other creatures.

Remind us every day, that we are part of the universe,
linked by unseen bonds and, together,
we form a universal family.

Do not allow technocratic paradigms
to isolate us from the world and deceive us.

Fill us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 67

GOD OF UNITY AND COMMUNION,

our communion with all creation
is not a product of our own will.

Since you have joined us so closely
to the world around us,
its origin lies in the depths of our being.

Therefore, we can feel the desertification of the soil
almost as a physical ailment,
and the extinction of a species
as painful disfigurement.

Let us stop thinking of ourselves, human beings,
as autonomous, omnipotent and limitless.

May all of us, the human family on this earth
begin to think of ourselves differently,
in humbler, more fruitful ways. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 68

Faith and Hope

RECONCILING GOD,

may we be part of a pilgrimage of reconciliation
with the world that is our home.

May we help to make it more beautiful,
because this commitment has to do
with our personal dignity and highest values.

May we, each one of us, and all international leaders,
be honest and recognise that the most effective solutions
will not come from individual efforts alone,
but above all from major political decisions
on the national and international level. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 69

GOD OF THE FUTURE,

may nations work together
to reduce global temperatures.

If there was a lessening of even one tenth of a degree,
it would already suffice
to alleviate some suffering for many people.

May nations and citizens realise
there are no lasting changes without cultural changes.
May societies of the future be marked
by maturing lifestyles and a conviction that
there are no cultural changes without personal change. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 70

Our Common Home

GOD OF HOMES AND HOUSEHOLDS,

increase our courage, determination
and efforts to reduce pollution and waste.
Motivate us to consume with prudence.
Enable us to create a new culture.

May we stay committed to changing
our personal, family and community habits.
Spark our indignation
at the lack of interest shown by the powerful.

Let us realise in our small actions that,
even if we do not see
immediate and measurable effects,
we are helping to bring about large processes
of transformation rising from deep within society. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 71*

GOD OF JUSTICE,

may we be impelled to just action for the sake of others,
as we recognise that the emissions per individual in Australia,
are many times greater
than the average of poorer countries.
May all nations of the earth work together
to achieve the broad changes needed,
for significant long-term impacts.

May we move beyond the irresponsible lifestyles
connected with our Western model.
May all levels of government everywhere,
commit to making the indispensable political decisions
necessary to make progress along the way
towards genuine care for one another. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 72*

NEW MINDSETS



Our Common Home

GOD OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING,

we know that, in recent years, some have chosen to deride facts about the impacts of our changing climate.

They do not understand
that what we are presently experiencing
is an unusual acceleration of warming,
at such a speed that it will take only one generation
– not centuries or millennia – to verify it.

They do not realise
that the rise in the sea level and the melting of glaciers
can be easily perceived by an individual in his or her lifetime.
In a few years many populations
may have to move their homes.

Change hearts, Lord.
Help all to grasp fully that we all must work together,
to care for our common home and our people. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 6

LORD OF WISDOM,

help those who lack information and are confused
about the reality of large-scale climate projections
that involve long periods of time –
compared to weather forecasts that may cover only a few weeks.

Help the people of all nations to respond
to the global reality of climate change,
which goes far beyond constant local variations. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 8

New Mindsets

GOD WHO INSPIRES THOSE ENGAGED IN RESEARCH,

support the overwhelming majority of scientists who specialise in the study of our climate and who understand the correlation between global climate phenomena and accelerated increases in greenhouse gas emissions.

May the climate crisis engage the interest of the great economic powers and change their mindsets, so that, instead of seeking the greatest profit possible at minimal cost in the shortest amount of time, they may make it their priority to learn from committed experts and serve the common good. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 13*

GOD OF EARTH, SKY AND SEA,

alert leaders and people to the reality that the natural resources required by technology, such as lithium, silicon and many others, are not unlimited.

Challenge and change the mindsets of people who see non-human realities as mere resources at our disposal, and as means to increase human power. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum 22*

Our Common Home

EVER-PRESENT LIGHT,

free all leaders and all people
from the mentality of maximum gain at minimal cost,
disguised in terms of reasonableness, progress and illusory promises.

Increase our sincere concern for our common home
and our commitment to assist the poor and needy,
so often discarded by society.

Protect the vulnerable from:

- the passing excitement of money received in exchange for nuclear waste deposited in local areas, and diseases unleashed.
- notions of “lesser” damages, when the amassing of such damages has brought about the situations in which we now find ourselves.
- the promises of false prophets and illusions of a world that is not being built for the poor and needy.
- mistaken concepts of “merited” human power for those born with greater possibilities and advantages.
- the perverse logic, that damage done to our common home is acceptable for those securely shielded by the financial resources they have earned by their abilities and effort.

Give us instead

- genuine equality of opportunity, aligned with a healthy approach to the value of hard work, the development of one’s native abilities and a praiseworthy spirit of initiative. Amen.

Based on words of Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* 30-32

Booklet of Prayers

Based on paragraphs from Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, “Praise God,” *Laudate Deum*, 4 October 2023.

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Acknowledgements: Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, 2024 © Libreria Editrice Vaticana

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html



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