

# Laudato Si' and Green Entrepreneurship

CATHOLIC LENS

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian vocation.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, #218





“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth.”

Pope Francis,  
Laudato Si' #21



# Signs of the Times...

## THE CONTEXT:

The urgent crises of climate change, ecological destruction and COVID-19 have cast light on many failings of mainstream economic and social thinking and practice.

There is growing interest in more holistic understandings of economy, such as doughnut economics, which embed business and economic life within ecological limits and human needs.

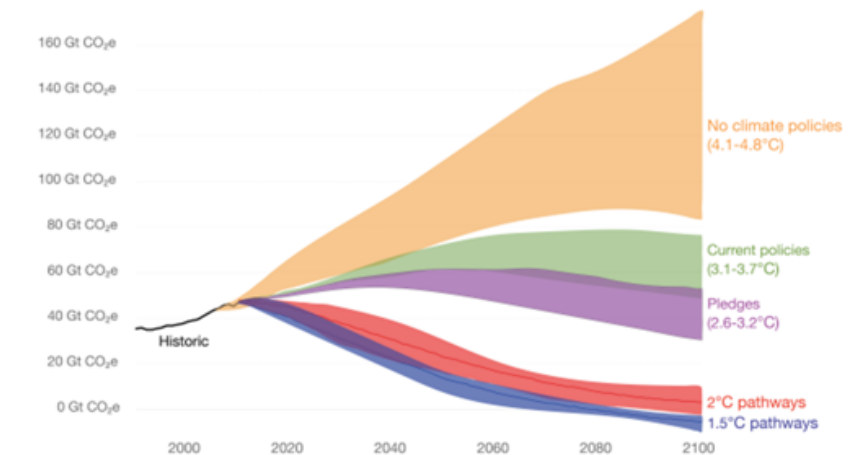
There is a need for an urgent transition to a *new paradigm* which embeds economic practice within a broader framework of shared values.

There are already significant praxis networks supporting sustainable finance, regenerative economics, social entrepreneurship, economy for the common good – to mention a few.

*How can these movements move mainstream?* As these globalised chains have been damaged due to COVID-19 – and people are actively asking what the 'new normal' looks like - there is a new opportunity to see something new emerge.

## Global greenhouse gas emissions scenarios

Potential future emissions pathways of global greenhouse gas emissions (measured in gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents) in the case of no climate policies, current implemented policies, national pledges within the Paris Agreement, and 2°C and 1.5°C consistent pathways. High, median and low pathways represent ranges for a given scenario. Temperature figures represent the estimated average global temperature increase from pre-industrial, by 2100.



Based on data from the Climate Action Tracker (CAT).  
The data visualization is available at [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org). There you find research and more visualizations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the authors Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser.

# An Economy within Ecological Limits

This new model of integrated economic, social and ecological sustainability offers a different perspective in line with Laudato Si'.

The many practical applications of this model in terms of business models offer exciting prospects for a new generation of socially and environmentally conscious entrepreneurs. **Green Entrepreneurship is central to this transition.**



Doughnut Economy, Kate Raworth, 2018



# Faith, Mission and Money

The Catholic Church has a long history of social teaching on the role of individuals and business to act responsibly in favour of the common good.

Many Catholic business networks already exist to help individuals live their faith values within the context of their business life.

The Church has engaged in recent years in promoting a new approach to finance rooted in a Catholic ethos and focused on social impact as well as financial return.

As faith-based investors, Catholic institutions and Catholic business leaders constitute a significant portion of investments in global markets. Active alignment of these investments to mission and values is becoming increasingly mainstream.

*In the face of the current crises, there is evidence of a growing momentum to see increased alignment of mission and money.*



# Putting Laudato Si' into Practice

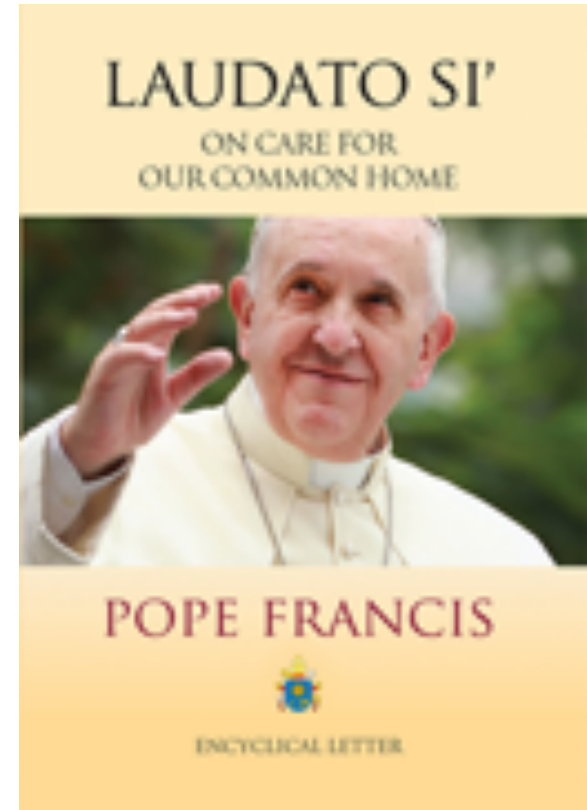
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Who will green the Church?

There is a growing need to generate new *green social enterprises* specifically geared at supporting the Church with its ambitious Seven-Year Plan to implement Laudato Si' and to grasp the opportunity of the post-COVID recovery.

Implementing Laudato Si' involves changes right across the 2,866 dioceses, 1,500+ Catholic third level institutions, 221,700 parishes – not to mention the 1.3 billion people who profess to be Catholics.

This requires a continuing ecological conversion and continued environmental formation that provides the basis for upskilling of Catholic communities to understand Laudato Si' and start to put it into practice, also within the business world.





We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels ... needs to be progressively replaced without delay. (Laudato Si', #160)



# Where to next?

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We would like to build a programme with Catholic entrepreneurs and communities worldwide to drive practical action to benefit people and planet, inspired by Laudato Sí.

This action-oriented programme brings together partners across finance, business and faith sectors. It will inspire a new generation of Catholic entrepreneurs via online training, practical mentoring and immersion experiences.

It will connect start-ups with financial opportunities to take the first steps to starting up their own business enterprises.

**“Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.”**

**(Laudato Si', #13)**

