



CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI' IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025



"The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation."

I HAVE SURELY SEEN THE AFFLICTION OF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN EGYPT... I KNOW THEIR SUFFERINGS.

Exodus 3: 7

If Jesus is the great Jubilee, then jubilee is not restricted to a particular year, but is the daily mission of His followers to bring 'Good News', through removing the yoke of oppression.

In renewal of our commissioning to "work" the earth "and keep it" **Genesis 2:15** we are given the mission "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all Creation." **Mark 16:15**

Our Jubilee mission re-establishes a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of Creation. This is what Saint Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis refer to as "Ecological Conversion"². This is a conversion of relationships.

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of first Nicaean council. The persons of God are relational. Creation follows this pattern.

Pope Francis, following Pope Benedict XVI identifies the great modern yoke of oppression as the "Technocratic Paradigm"³. This is the cause of our blindness to the cries of the earth and poor. This is our dominant way of seeing the world, and is dictated by what is technically possible, not what is right and just.

This way of seeing the world is the enemy of Christian mission as it shapes our minds to see the world, and its people as means to our own desires. These addictions also allow us to become slaves to the Pharaohs of the modern world, enslaved by the technological frameworks they build and the dreams they sell.

Jubilee, like Sabbath is a time to free ourselves from service to false idols. This day helps us to recover our sight and so "set at liberty those who are oppressed".

Thanks to our God-given mission, we are called to a different, more wonderful vision. Integral Ecology describes a Christian vision of Creation and life, centred on the person of Christ. It embraces both tradition and the future, and integrates natural ecology, social ecology, the ecology of daily life and economy. It embraces the diversity of God's creatures, and celebrates our gratitude for the loving gift of life.

"Laudato Si', mi Signore!"

"Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility"⁴

This year we also celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi' "Canticle of the Creatures".

References: [1] Website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, [2] St Pope John Paul II, 17 January 2001, "God made man the steward of creation", [3] Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter "Laudato Si', On care for our common home", [4] St Francis of Assisi, "Canticle of the Creatures/Sun".
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