

## Parish Fact Sheet

**EARTH HOUR 2019 30<sup>th</sup> March 8.30 – 9.30 pm**

### ***What is Earth Hour?***

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 between 8.30-9.30pm people around the world are invited to “Switch off and Connect2 Earth.” We are more aware than ever that our climate is changing at an unprecedented rate affecting all of life. Earth Hour helps to raise our awareness about the need for action. You can learn more here <https://www.earthhour.org.au>



### ***Pope Francis Laudato Si***

Pope Francis appeals to the world community to seek a sustainable and integral future (par # 13). He says “We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots, concern and affect us all.” (par # 14)

As Catholics we are called to act in ways that are just and this involves understanding the interconnections between pressing issues of our time such as poverty, food security problems, inequities in healthcare, homelessness, human trafficking and climate change. Pope Francis reminds us “Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.” (par # 91)

### ***How can I be inspired to act?***

Tomas Insua, Executive Director of Global Catholic Climate Movement talks about a pivotal time in his life when he realized the monumental links that exist between faith, social justice and climate change and why he now leads a global movement for action. You can view his inspiring story in a 2 minute interview here: <https://livingthechange.net/> Living the Change has great ideas from small to larger commitments that reduce our ecological footprints in daily life. See here: <https://livingthechange.net/my-commitment> Catholic Earthcare Australia also has a range of resources to help individuals and groups bring Laudato Si to life <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/>

### ***Handy Hint***

IT: Did you know that turning off your workstation when not in use at home or work has the advantage of saving power long term and also allows for updates which enable it to run more safely and efficiently.

### ***Let us pray***

Pope Francis invites us to pray “All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.”

Link to Laudato Si here: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

**What is the next action you/your parish can step up too?**

