



First Friday Reflection

Jan 2024

12 FIRST FRIDAY STEPS TO *Laudate Deum* Goals

AWARENESS:

Eight years have passed since the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* was published and now we have *Laudate Deum*. Pope Francis has realized that “our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.” (LD 2)

PRAYER:

Lord, inspire in all of us a holy reaction to the neglect of climate action, so that citizens' pressure on political leaders may push them to a radical commitment to our common home. Amen.

ACTION:

Read the entire *Laudate Deum* and the results of COP 28 documents and reflect on it.



Australian Reflection

[Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation is a 'call to arms' on *Laudato Si'*'s actions that calls for an urgent individual and community response as “everything is connected and nothing is saved alone” (LD19). As people living Spirituality of the Heart, our hearts echo the thought, “The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?” (LD65).

[COP28](#) was a 2023 UN Climate Change Conference that undertook a global stocktake of the climate crisis status and agreed on urgent climate actions (e.g., eliminating fossil fuels and increasing climate finance). It “recognises the science that indicates global greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43% by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to limit global warming to 1.5°C” and notes that “countries must deliver new nationally determined contributions. Every single commitment on finance, adaptation, and mitigation must bring us in line with a 1.5-degree world.” ([UN](#)) In the COP28 closing address, the pivotal role of individuals was celebrated and encouraged in a “message to ordinary people everywhere raising their voices for change. Every one of you is making a real difference. In the crucial coming years, your voices and determination will be more important than ever. I urge you never to relent. We are still in this race. We will be with you every single step of the way.” ([UN](#))

As we begin 2024, let's reflect on what we, as individuals and Australians, can do together in love.