

Laudato Si week 2025.

In May, at our regular Tuesday evening Mass at St. Vincent's, Sheffield, Father Paddy Walsh gave us the opportunity to compose a special liturgy to celebrate Laudato Si' week –a time dedicated annually by the Catholic Church to Pope Francis' prophetic encyclical on environmental and economic issues. The title Laudato Si', 'Praised Be to You', was taken from the opening of St. Francis of Assisi's hymn praising God for Creation. Its text was addressed not just to Bishops and theologians, but to all of us, urging us to recognize God in Creation and cease our casual abuse of the earth. It inspired the 'Laudato Si' Movement' – a global network of over 900 Catholic organizations, working together to care for the earth and its creatures. See <https://laudatosimovement.org/who-we-are/> for a better understanding of the international breadth of this movement.

We chose three symbols to display by the altar :

A globe: humanity's common home, a gift created by God for us to tend with respect and care.

Water: beautiful of itself, indispensable for survival, refreshment, for cleansing, and renewal.

A dish of bread and grapes: wheat and fruit nurtured by soil, by water and by our labour, transformed into nourishment for body and soul.

The first reading was taken from God's majestic answer to Job's lamentations (Job 38:4ff).

The gospel was John (21:1-19) from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter: Jesus, God incarnate and gentle, guides his bereft disciples to a good day's work, and welcomes them with breakfast on the shore. Our fellow parishioner, Gerry Burke, followed with a beautiful reflection weaving together the themes of the Mass.

All were thankful for a quietly inspiring time together.

It is impossible to do justice to Gerry's reflection here: read it in full on the website (link required).