Laudato Si’ animation: Exploring Pope Francis’ encyclical with children

This is a resource to explore the Laudato Si’ animation with your class. The aim of this animation is to help explain and communicate the message of Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si’ (Praise Be to You) to children, and to inspire them to take action.

Background information about Laudato Si’
This encyclical was published on the 18 June 2015. The encyclical discusses the damage being inflicted on the Earth by humans and calls on ‘every person living on this planet’ to make urgent changes to our lifestyles and how we consume energy in order to protect the planet. Laudato Si’ deals with many environmental issues including pollution; climate change; water; loss of biodiversity and decline in the quality of human life. Pope Francis implores us to work together to create a better world for future generations and asks us to make the necessary changes in our lives in order to take care of, respect and value our ‘common home.’

Use the animation:
- In an assembly
- To introduce a lesson on climate change
- To explore key principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- To support Universal Church/ RE lessons
Introduce the animation
- Play the animation in full for the children
- Key questions after viewing animation:
  - What is the Pope asking us to do in his letter?
  - What do you think Pope Francis means by ‘common home’?
  - How does the Pope say we have treated the Earth?
  - What has happened to the Earth because of this?
- Play the animation for a second time, stopping throughout to ask critical questions:
  - Why do you think Pope Francis wrote this letter?
  - Who is suffering as a result of our actions?
  - How can we play our part to look after our ‘common home’?

Follow-up activities:
- In small groups, ask the children to come up with ways they can change and make a ‘new start’.
- Ask the children to write their own pledge of how they will play their part to protect our ‘common home’.
- Create a classroom display using photographs to visually represent different aspects of the encyclical such as a scene of beauty from nature, a scene of pollution and so on. Invite the children to speak to each image, as they reflect on the words of Pope Francis in Laudato Si’.
- Get involved with CAFOD’s One Climate, One World campaign – cafod.org.uk/primary/climate
  - Use the resources (quiz, film, assembly) to explain and explore the impact of climate change
  - Give children the home activity sheet ‘I am going to play my part’, to encourage them to think of ways to play their part to take better care of creation and help tackle climate change
  - Take the campaign heart action – see page 6 of the One Climate, One World Campaign action guide for primary schools
- Order our free Go Green poster and activity pack at the CAFOD shop, to support your work on Laudato Si’.
  Available at: shop.cafod.org.uk

Curriculum links:
- **English**: Spoken language
- **Religious Studies**: Responses to creation; Care for and misuse of God’s creation
- **Geography**: Human and physical geography