



Parish of the Nativity of the Lord

Book+Circle – December 2023

Laudate Deum

About the Book

Laudate Deum is an Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis released ahead of COP28 in Dubai as a follow on from Laudato Si' (2015). It consists of just 73 paragraphs and is addressed to “all people of good will on the climate crisis”. He challenges the myth that technology has all the answers, the weakness in international politics and the need for greater action based on a change of culture (which is not possible without personal change).

How did the book make us feel?

Challenged. The style and language were at times complex, making it difficult to fully appreciate the message Pope Francis is seeking to convey.

Whilst acknowledging that it is Pope Francis' role to draw attention to the moral and spiritual aspects, there was uncertainty about how this can be implemented practically eg multilateralism.

A realisation that the need for personal sacrifice/s is needed to address the climate crisis “every little bit helps” (LD 70).

What did we think were the book's main strengths?

It is a short document. The emphasis on the “interconnectedness” of creation.

The Pope draws attention to COP28. He acknowledges the potential for change from the bottom-up.

Morally authoritative.

The short document stimulated reflection on how to reduce emissions, use/abuse of the earth's resources as well as referencing the Garden of Eden and the food system which is “broken”.

What did we think were the book's main weaknesses?

One reader accessed the document online which made reading it an added challenge.

The language and concepts were not always ‘accessible’. We felt it was better read after reading Laudato Si'

Would we read other books by the Pope and would we recommend this book to others?

Yes we would read other books by Pope Francis, mainly in loyalty to the Pope. First reaction about recommending to others was “no” but maybe as it is written by Pope Francis

Next Books & Diary Dates to end 2023. - Small Meeting Room at St Joseph's

- Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Waddell
- Next meeting Friday 2nd Feb after 10am Mass, Meeting Room at St Joseph's.