

USING THE PRAYER RESOURCE FOR MEETINGS OR REFLECTION TIME

Prayer is an important part of any meeting for focus, to reinforce Catholic identity and to call God's blessing on the proceedings. Prayer time is also formative as it allows those present to examine aspects of life, faith and experience.

The prayers in this package focus on Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* and its challenge to the world about the treatment of the environment and all of creation. The encyclical is subtitled '*on care for our common home*'. An encyclical is a letter issued by the Pope to the Church on an issue of great significance. Pope Francis addresses *Laudato Si'* to 'every living person on the planet ...'.

Each prayer should take between 10 and 20 minutes. We recommend that the prayer structure be as follows:

Acknowledgement of Country: an acknowledgement is provided with this resource.

Light a candle: this is optional, but it does remind those gathered that we pray in Jesus' name.

Read the Introduction and extract from *Laudato Si'* (front of card): ask those gathered to comment on Pope Francis' words – you might use the question 'What words or ideas resonate with you from this extract?'

Reading: invite someone from the group to read the reflection passage – these have been chosen to support the key message of the *Laudato Si'* extract you have just discussed.

Consider the focus question (in the circle): allow time for those present to reflect on and discuss the question – some questions focus on the individual and others on the ministry more broadly.

Finish with the scripture quote and prayer: invite someone from the group to read the scripture passage. You might say 'We will now listen to God's word'. Then invite the group to read the prayer together – a short introduction to the prayer is provided.