

## **Laudato Si Reflection**

In his encyclical *Laudato Si* Pope Francis calls upon us to care for our common home and to hear the cry of the earth and of the poor. The pandemic over the past months has made us increasingly aware of our connectedness with everyone across the globe and of how the actions of governments and citizens of rich nations can affect the poorest people in the world.

Pope Francis urges us to rediscover our sense of wonder and gratitude for creation. We will then be inspired to care for our planet in the same way that we care for those we love.

In his poem, the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."

I invite you to take some time today to stop and enjoy creation. You may be able to go for a walk or look out of your window at the ever changing sky. Listen to the blackbird that might be perched on your TV aerial, see the flowers so beautifully formed, watch the trees sway in the breeze.

You may feel moved to say a prayer of thanks to God for the riches you have been given or sit silently in wonder.

In the book of Job in the Old Testament we read:  
If you would learn more, ask the cattle, seek information from the birds of the air. The creeping things of earth will give you lessons, and the fishes of the sea will tell you all. There is not one such creature but will know this state of things is all of God's own making. He holds in his power the soul of every living thing, and the breath of each person's body.

What is God teaching you through creation?

I think of the old adage "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors but we have it on loan from our grandchildren."

What could I do today to show my love for creation?