



ACU Sustainability Report *2022*

Caring for our
common home





Message from the Vice-Chancellor and President

Australian Catholic University (ACU) acknowledges the importance of responsible and ethical management for the long-term success of the university, to facilitate improved outcomes for the communities it serves, and for the protection of the environment. We are committed to the highest standards of ethical behaviour and, for many years now, have made a concerted effort to educate, research and demonstrate sustainable practices across our eight campuses.

Our university is a community of staff, students and partners dedicated to making a real and positive difference, with care and concern for our common home. We are a university of and for people, with a deeply woven dedication to ethics, the dignity of the human person and the common good. Our commitment to the common good informs all our endeavours and inspires our relationships and networks both in Australia and internationally.

The 2022 ACU Sustainability Report describes the actions we have taken to reduce our environmental impact and increase our social impact. In this we are guided by the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato si'*, and by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This grounds our sustainability program in our Catholic mission and unites it with the global commitment to building a better world for all. This includes consolidating our transition away from fossil fuels, clearly demonstrating and enabling our duty to care for our common home.

Through our teaching, learning, research and community engagement, we continue to build upon our living tradition to fulfil our mission of faith and service to realise a flourishing and sustainable future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z. Skrbiš'.

Professor Zlatko Skrbiš
Vice-Chancellor and President
Australian Catholic University

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the First Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways. We recognise their spiritual and ongoing cultural connection to Country.

We respectfully acknowledge Elders past and present and thank them for their wisdom and guidance as we walk in their footsteps.

Artwork designed for ACU by Gilimbaa

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Caring for our common home

ACU has a strong commitment to sustainability. Our approach to sustainability is grounded in our Catholic mission and the university's values, acknowledging the indivisible link between social, economic and environmental sustainability and our university's future. We recognise our responsibility and have developed a university-wide framework to deliver a better and more sustainable future for our common home, built upon two transformative prescriptions for a better world: Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'* and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Addressed to 'every person living on this planet', Pope Francis's *Laudato si'*: On the care for our common home captures the interconnectedness of social, economic and environmental justice in building and protecting our common home. The encyclical on integral human development adds to the Catholic Church's body of teaching. Highlighting global inequality, it calls for a transformation of our societies and individual lifestyles. It is a profound call for change.

The United Nations' SDGs are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Both the *Laudato si'* and the SDGs call for a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable world.

Laudato si' and the Sustainable Development Goals

LAUDATO SI' THEMES	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS				
Shared humanity and our common home					
Tackling pollution and climate change					
Clean, safe water for all					
Biodiversity and protection of natural ecosystems					
Health, education and social cohesion					
Human dignity and the common good					
Inclusive economic and labour markets					
Sustainable urban environments					
Local, national and international dialogue					
Institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks					

Shared humanity and our common home



IMPACT THROUGH EMPATHY

The **ACU Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023: *Impact through empathy*** dedicates the university to 'the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good'. Its title, *Impact through empathy*, reflects our intent to make a positive, lasting and measurable difference to our students, staff, communities and societies.

Drawing on Catholic traditions and belief in the dignity of the human person and the common good, ACU commits in the plan to creating opportunity by increasing participation and outcomes for those from low socio-economic communities, to translating research into economic, social, environmental and cultural impacts to advance social progress, and to taking bold and decisive action on environmental, social and economic sustainability.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

ACU's **Core Curriculum** is part of all our students' education, providing each student with the opportunity to reflect on our shared humanity and the common challenges we face in modern society. Students engage with principles that include: the dignity of the human person, solidarity, the common good, rights and responsibilities as well as stewardship of the earth.

As part of the Core Curriculum, each student partakes in a discipline-specific community engagement unit of study, working with communities that experience disadvantage and marginalisation. This equates to approximately 3,500 students undertaking a community engagement placement each year. ACU staff are also encouraged to participate in community engagement, with a Community Engagement Time Release program available to support staff in accessing five days of community engagement (pro rata) per annum. Partnering with community organisations is key to these engagements and addressing disadvantage.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACU's community engagement is key to advancing its mission in serving the common good and enhancing the dignity and wellbeing of people and communities. It is integral to our teaching, learning and research. ACU defines community engagement as *activities that build capacity and affirm human dignity through sustainable and reciprocal collaborations with communities who experience disadvantage or marginalisation*. This means that community engagement isn't just about helping others in the short term. It's about working with and listening to communities to forge long-term relationships and develop meaningful solutions to complex problems. Community engagement at ACU builds collaboration between university and community to support the dignity and wellbeing of people in a manner that is sustainable and builds capacity on an individual and an organisational level.

MODERN SLAVERY IMPACTS

As a Catholic university, we have a particular role to play in upholding the inherent dignity of each human being. This not only includes those with whom we study, work and engage, but also extends beyond our campuses. We take actions to support fair treatment and decent working conditions for all people and acknowledge the indivisible link between environmental sustainability and the impact of modern slavery.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

Education is for everyone. ACU has a range of programs that support educational access and participation for students from disadvantaged and under-represented groups, including students from low socio-economic communities, refugees and Australia's veteran community. In 2022, **11.8 per cent** of ACU's domestic bachelor students were from low-socio-economic status (SES) backgrounds with a 2023 target of **14 per cent**.



BY THE NUMBERS

2% of our students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



8.5% of our students are from regional areas



11.8% of our students are from a low socio-economic background



ACU works with **more than 30** other Catholic entities as part of the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network



LAUDATO SI'

“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development [...] Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world’s poorest.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 12, My appeal [13]

Tackling pollution and climate change



ACU'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

ACU's direct carbon emissions peaked in 2019 and in 2022 fell to their lowest level in the university's history. In 2019, the university directly emitted 680 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per full-time student; in 2022, it directly emitted just 34 kilograms per full-time student. Direct carbon emissions are those that ACU emits from buildings, vehicles and equipment it owns or controls, such as gas for heating and fuel for vehicles, as well as the electricity it purchases.

ACU also measures and takes responsibility for its indirect emissions, which are those in its supply chain. There are as many individual sources of these emissions as there are goods and services that the university buys. They include air travel, waste disposal, paper and stationery, consultancy services, building maintenance and construction, hire cars, catering, information technology services, and many more. These indirect emissions amount to approximately 21,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year in 2022.

ACU'S CARBON MANAGEMENT

ACU has a comprehensive plan to measure, limit and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The plan includes actions already underway and foresees additional action to manage and cut emissions. The sections below detail some of these actions underway and planned.

GRID RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

In 2022 ACU's Australian campuses were powered by **100 per cent renewable electricity**. ACU sources this electricity using a Power Purchase Agreement with Engie and from retailers that supply ACU with accredited GreenPower. This arrangement is not in place for ACU's Rome Campus, because similar market offers are unavailable in Italy. ACU's Brisbane and Adelaide Leadership Centres are also outside of this arrangement, because ACU does not control the buildings in which they are located. Nonetheless, ACU does assume responsibility for the emissions from those sites and includes them in its inventory, as indirect emissions.

Prior to ACU's purchase of renewable electricity, this source contributed at least 15,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas to ACU's carbon footprint each year.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is a key principle of ACU's environmental management, leading to ACU becoming the most **energy efficient university** in Australia*. It is twice as energy efficient as the Australian university sector overall and around three times more efficient than the sector's heaviest energy users. This has helped ACU not only to constrain its greenhouse gas emissions, but also shrink its energy costs per student to among the lowest of any Australian university.

ACU's Properties and Facilities staff pursue the university's energy efficiency goals daily through their operation of heating, cooling and lighting systems and the construction and renovation of buildings to high standards of sustainability.

CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face in the 21st century. ACU's teaching unit *GEOG206: Climate change: past, present and future* introduces students to our planet's climate system and examines what is driving current and future climate changes. The unit considers a range of responses to climate change, focusing on international environmental treaties, international and Australian policy approaches to global warming, as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies. Other teaching units include *GEOG204: Environmental sustainability: the global challenge*, which introduces students to the principles, theory and actions of environmental sustainability.

RESEARCH – GLOBAL HEALTH AID: SAVING LIVES, HARMING THE PLANET?

ACU Bioethics researcher Dr Bridget Pratt has examined whether global health practice should be sustainable and what ethical grounds would support such a claim. Global health practice is the delivery of health services to underserved people in resource poor parts of the world – often the very same people most at risk from the impacts of climate change. Dr Pratt's research paper argued that global health practice should be sustainable as a matter of climate justice, and global health funders, manager and implementers have specific duties to limit their field's climate impacts.



Saint Teresea of Kolkata Building

SOLAR POWER AND SOLAR WATER HEATING

ACU sources a small amount of power from on-campus solar panels and has installed a small number of solar hot-water systems for the supply of hot water to campus kitchens and bathrooms.

This modest investment in on-site solar systems acknowledges the substantial cost advantage of ACU’s purchase of renewable electricity from the grid. ACU has conducted comprehensive technical and financial assessments of on-site solar installations and those assessments show that retro-fitting solar panels to existing buildings has a high capital cost and a return on investment period longer than seven years, imposing a substantial opportunity cost on the university.

ACU has included solar systems in the design of its new buildings when there is a compelling technical and financial case. The university’s solar water-heating and solar power installations are shown in Table X below:

SYSTEM TYPE	SYSTEM SIZE	LOCATION
Photovoltaic panels	30 kilowatts	St Brigids School of Health Science, Ballarat
Photovoltaic panels	58.25 kilowatts	St Teresa of Kolkata Building, Melbourne
Solar Hot Water Collectors	8 x 180 litres	Daniel Mannix Building, Melbourne
Solar Hot Water Collectors	2 x 180 litres	St Brigids School of Health Science, Ballarat

BY THE NUMBERS

100% renewable electricity by July 2021



100% carbon offset of all staff air travel



LAUDATO SI'

“When we speak of the ‘environment’, what we really mean is a relationship existing between nature and the society which lives in it. Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Recognizing the reasons why a given area is polluted requires a study of the workings of society, its economy, its behaviour patterns, and the ways it grasps reality.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 104, Environmental, economic and social ecology [139]

* Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association Annual Survey 2021

Clean, safe water for all



WATER MANAGEMENT

ACU's water management has enabled it to achieve very high levels of water-efficiency. Per student, ACU uses just one-third of the amount of water compared to the university sector. But efficiency is just one of ACU's water management objectives. ACU also aims to reduce the impact of stormwater run-off through improved campus design and develop campus grounds that maintain their amenity regardless of season or climate cycle. ACU's water management rests on these three pillars:

- **Rainwater harvesting**
We have installed more than 660,000 litres of water-tank capacity across all our campuses, capturing rainwater harvested from building roofs. Rainwater is used to flush toilets and irrigate campus gardens, helping reduce our consumption of mains water.
- **Water efficient appliances**
A range of water-efficient appliances, such as low-flow showerheads, waterless or low-flow urinals, dual flush toilets and drip irrigation systems, have been installed across all campuses.
- **Drought-tolerant landscaping**
Many of the plants in ACU's campus grounds are chosen to minimise their need for water. This helps to reduce campus gardens' need for water as well as make them more resilient during periods of low rainfall.

BY THE NUMBERS

ACU consumes
<3.3 kilolitres of water
per full-time student



ACU's water consumption
per full-time student is
one-third the sector average



LAUDATO SI'

“Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term. Large cities dependent on significant supplies of water have experienced periods of shortage, and at critical moments these have not always been administered with sufficient oversight and impartiality. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 23,
The issue of water [30]

Biodiversity and protection of natural ecosystems



ACU's contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem protection is indirect. This is because most of ACU's campuses and leadership centres are in suburban and inner urban locations alienated from their original ecology. For this reason, ACU's most effective means of ecosystem protection is its overall program of energy, water and materials efficiency, waste minimisation and carbon reduction.

REDUCED PLASTIC CONSUMPTION

Plastic is the most common and most environmentally destructive material in ACU's waste stream. Plastic waste found in ACU's bins includes food packaging, polystyrene packaging, bags, beverage containers, cutlery and crockery, disposable cups (which have a plastic liner) and bin liners. Plastic is not only the most ubiquitous waste item but it is also the most difficult to avoid.

ACU has had some success in reducing the amount of plastic items it distributes as marketing material, and its decision in 2019 to no longer distribute disposable water bottles during Orientation Week has so far kept an estimated 30,000 disposable bottles out of the waste stream.

State bans on single-use plastic now apply to every Australian ACU campus and this will further reduce ACU's contribution to the global plastic waste problem.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

In 2022 ACU added an organic waste collection service for staff, as part of a graduated roll-out of the service that will eventually include key student residences, campus cafes and other student-focused locations.

This initiative has already diverted from landfill approximately 1,800 kilograms of organic waste where it would have otherwise have contributed to global warming by adding almost 3,800 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent to the atmosphere.

ACU's food waste is processed at a range of industrial composting facilities in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Ballarat and Melbourne.

BY THE NUMBERS

Reduced total waste generation by **45%** since 2019



ACU's recycling rate is **41%**



REDUCED CONSUMPTION, LESS WASTE

Waste reduction is the key to a smaller environmental footprint because it arises from reduced consumption of goods – and that reduces the use of every type of natural resource, from energy to minerals to land area and more. This is the driving reason for the priority that ACU assigns to reduced waste generation: it measures efforts to reduce ACU's consumption of goods.

ACU reduced its waste generation per student from nearly 70 kilograms in 2016 to 25 kilograms in 2019 and to just 15.5 kilograms in 2022. This is partly because more staff work from home than in the years pre-Covid-19 and more students learn online rather than on campus, but process and behavioural changes have helped, too. For example, ACU has reduced its consumption of paper and disposable stationery items as a consequence of the digitisation of work; it buys office furniture with more longevity and it reuses furniture, and improved catering practices have reduced food waste.

ACU's sustainability bonds



A WORLD FIRST

ACU has issued a sustainability bond to raise funds for projects aligned with the university's commitment to securing a sustainable future. In 2017, ACU secured \$200 million through the sale of bonds to some of Australasia's biggest institutional investors. ACU was the first organisation in Australia and the first university globally to issue a sustainability bond under the sustainability guidelines issued that year.

GREEN AND SOCIAL BOND PRINCIPLES

The university adopted an innovative approach to combine green and social bond principles established by the International Capital Market Association. Our sustainability bonds support projects that reflect our mission in delivering positive social and environmental outcomes. This includes contributions to our research institutes to finance health and education research programs that aim to benefit vulnerable people.

Green bonds are used to support projects with an environmental objective, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, resource conservation, biodiversity, and pollution prevention and control.

Social bonds aim to address or mitigate a specific social issue and/or seek to achieve positive social outcomes. A social issue is one that threatens, hinders, or damages the wellbeing of society or a target population within it.

SUSTAINABLE USE OF FUNDS

We invest the funds raised through the sustainability bonds in the environmentally sustainable development of our campuses as well as in research that delivers a positive social impact. Campus development projects eligible for sustainability bond funds must have a minimum 5-Star Green Star rating or meet the Low Carbon Buildings criteria of the Climate Bonds Standard. Research projects eligible for sustainability bond funding must be in the areas of education, health care or gender equality.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CAMPUSES

The proceeds of ACU's sustainability bonds have been used to finance or refinance many of ACU's sustainable building and community projects, including buildings on Melbourne, Brisbane, Ballarat and Canberra campuses, as well as the Institute of Positive Psychology and Education and the Mary MacKillop Institute for Health Research (MMIHR).

SUPPORTING RESEARCH WITH SOCIAL IMPACT

ACU's sustainability bonds also fund key social research programs that focus on improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society, including research from two of ACU's leading research bodies: the Institute for Positive Psychology and Education (IPPE) and the MMIHR.

IPPE conducts research into physical and psychological wellbeing, resilience and self-concept, and measures of psychosocial outcomes. The institute's researchers have been awarded more than 70 ARC grants. Among its many current research projects are those that focus on youth at risk of dropping out of school, the impact of Indigenous education programs, and the psychological wellbeing of school principals.

MMIHR conducts research that discovers and promotes effective strategies to create a healthier Australia. The institute brings national and international health experts together with leading organisations to conduct research that transcends discipline-based boundaries. MMIHR's research spans the fields of exercise and nutrition, bone health and fractures, and the interaction between behaviour, urban environments and cognitive health.



Saint Teresa of Kolkata Building

BY THE NUMBERS

ACU Sustainability Bond
value **\$200 million** (2017)



\$113 million contribution
to construction of 5-star
Green Star Saint Teresa of
Kolkata Building



**First university
globally** to issue a
sustainability bond under the
new sustainability guidelines



\$26 million contribution
over three years to finance
health and education
research programs that aim
to benefit vulnerable people



Health, education and social cohesion



FIRST PEOPLES

ACU aims to be a leading public university in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education. Access to quality higher education underpinned by academic, spiritual, pastoral and cultural support is core to our university's engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. First Peoples students are eligible for access to tailored courses, scholarships, student services and facilities from ACU.

In 2022, nearly **two per cent** of ACU's domestic bachelor students were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with the university committed to increasing this proportion over the next several years.

UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA INDIGENOUS STRATEGY 2022-25

The tertiary sector's peak body, Universities Australia, launched its whole-of-sector Indigenous Strategy 2022-25 to support the advancement of Indigenous peoples in and through Australia's universities. The report aligns with ACU's aim to work collaboratively towards better outcomes for students, graduates and all staff. This means a deeper contribution to the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, more opportunities and pathways for staff, and an aspiration for graduates to have better knowledge of the history, the present, and the challenges, experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

STUDENT VETERAN SERVICE

ACU has a diverse set of programs to help ACU students who are current or former military personnel succeed at university. The Student Veteran Support Service provides academic resources and support services to ACU's student veterans; the Veteran Entry Program is a direct entry pathway into higher education at ACU; and the Veteran Transition Program focuses on the transition to university life. Student Veteran Services also work to help student veterans become part of the ACU campus community, with a dedicated exercise lifestyle program, first-year peer mentoring, and grants and awards that recognise the contributions veterans make to the university.

CLEMENTE PROGRAM

The Clemente program continued its partnership with community organisations to provide access to university education for those who have experienced disadvantage. Through this transformational humanities program, adults are empowered with the confidence, skills and knowledge to get back on track and succeed in their lives. Students participate in the course free of charge and are supported by volunteer learning partners to develop effective communication and study skills; make meaningful connections; and achieve their learning goals.

In 2022, 79 students across eight Clemente settings participated in the program, with a total enrolment of 104 units. Seventy per cent of students completed (passed) their units and in completing four units, 19 students graduated from the course in 2022. Further, 26 Clemente graduates were undertaking a bachelor's degree at ACU.

The importance and impact of the Clemente program to health, education and social inclusion is evident through student reflections. In 2022, the Clemente team published *Voices of Clemente* – a collection and collation of student stories. Of participation in the program, one student shared their personal growth:

"Before starting Clemente, I had lost faith in myself and my abilities. This course helped me gain self-confidence again. The critical skills I learnt...really helped me to deal with some of my anxiety issues in life".

HEALTH WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

ACU's **Faculty of Health Sciences** staff and students strive to improve the lives of others through the provision of world-leading health care, guided by the values of excellence, dignity and engagement. Many of our courses have a clinical placement component where students apply their skills in the real world through professional experience with our health partners or in our own health clinics.

ACU educates the largest number of nursing and midwifery students in Australia, contributing to the health workforce of the future. Trained to support people at their most vulnerable and promoting wellbeing for all, ACU's health graduates make a tangible difference to the lives of individuals and communities.

NAIDOC CELEBRATION

ACU hosted NAIDOC events on its campuses to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme of the events was Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! – a call for systemic change based on justice, equity and the proper recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights. Events included campfire cultural talks, Indigenous games, Play and Yarn sessions, cultural performances and seminars.

QUALITY EDUCATION

ACU is the leading provider of graduate teachers in Australia. ACU's focus on social justice, community engagement and lifelong learning provides graduates with the skills and knowledge to teach the next generation's students. ACU's courses, such as early childhood, primary and secondary education, inclusive education and disability studies and leadership development are designed in conjunction with industry partners and incorporate the latest in pedagogical innovation.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

ACU is committed to increasing the participation of students from groups under-represented in higher education. As part of this mission, ACU delivers several widening participation programs to schools in low-socioeconomic areas. These include on-campus and in-school programs that help students envision and understand higher education learning, workshops with Year 12 students to increase their exam confidence, and access to ACU undergraduate student ambassadors to show that university is attainable for everyone. A leading ACU Widening Participation program is ACU's *Uni Step-Up*. The Uni Step-Up program allows senior secondary students to study two first-year university units via face-to-face and online modes.

STORIES OF REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

ACU's Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit (SESU) completed two projects in 2022 exploring the settlement stories of refugees in Australia. Dr Mary Tomsic, from the Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, supported the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education on a first-of-its-kind study into refugee settlement through the lens of Australia's major settlement cities, where most refugees begin the process of building a new life in this country. Our report, *Settlement Cities* found that refugees' major aspirations were landing a secure job that matches their skills and securing stable housing, which for many meant owning a home. Making a home in the settlement city was made easier by the presence of vibrant and familiar ethnic and linguistic communities. Dr Haydn Aarons of the National School of Arts examined SydWest Multicultural Services' employability programs and services and found they were crucial to the successful settlement of many recently arrived humanitarian entrants and other eligible migrants within the outer Western Sydney region. Our report, *Migrating from Settlement to Prosperity* shows some challenges still exist for highly skilled/highly credentialled clients who have aspirations of resuming their former careers in Australia. Cross-sector collaboration and significant resources are required, so together with SydWest the SESU is working to establish an inter-agency network in Western Sydney focussed specifically on employment challenges for refugees.

HELPING THE HEALTH SECTOR THRIVE

Five ACU researchers were selected by the Council on the Aging Queensland to inform the council's next phase of an Age-Friendly Strategy for Queensland. The strategy has been commissioned by the Queensland Government and this work will be led by Professor Laurie Buys, Associate Professor Gert-Jan Pepping, Dr Heidi Olsen, and PhD students and School of Allied Health sessional staff Mizan Ahmad and Hannah Forbes. The researchers' appointment to the project followed ACU's appointment of Professor Buys as Professor of Health Ageing, a key role to advance ACU's aim to promote human dignity in all aspects of life and across the lifespan.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The unit EDSI660 – Science, Inquiry and Sustainability Education (B-12) enables ACU's pre-service teachers to develop their understanding and knowledge of science, and the interconnected ideas of sustainability and environmental diversity. The unit empowers pre-service teachers to support children to investigate their contribution to, and impact on, society and the environment.

BY THE NUMBERS

Ranked **14th** in the world for nursing*



Top **2%** of universities worldwide



Top **50** in the world for education and fourth in Australia*



>33,000 students and more than **130,000** alumni



LAUDATO SI'

"If we want to bring about deep change, we need to realize that certain mindsets really do influence our behaviour. Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature."

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 157, Educating for the covenant between humanity and the environment [215]

Human dignity and the common good



ACU is committed to social justice, human dignity and the common good. This commitment is expressed in the university's research, learning and care for its students and staff. The university's research and curriculum recognises the mutual obligation to improve the lives of all. This has a local and a global dimension, so that ACU works in its many ways to enable many different people to thrive within the common spaces of our environment, our cultures and our humanity.

PHILOSOPHY AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

ACU's education programs are infused with the ethos and principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which emphasise human dignity, commitment to the common good and the rights of all with a particular focus on the poor and vulnerable members of society, and stewardship of the planet's resources.

Philosophy and ethics are also central to ACU research; for example, in the work of ACU's [Plunkett Centre for Ethics](#), which is devoted to the study and teaching of ethics in clinical practice and biomedical research, the [Dianoia Institute of Philosophy](#) and the [Queensland Bioethics Centre](#). The latter is a collaboration between the Archdiocese of Brisbane, ACU and several Queensland healthcare organisations, with a focus on high-quality research, education and consultancy in the area of bioethics.

AUTISM RESEARCH PROGRAM

ACU's autism research program seeks to explore, understand and implement mechanisms within and beyond our university that build a more inclusive society where autistic people are supported to reduce barriers and recognise and celebrate strengths.

The research team led by ACU's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Impact), Professor Sandra Jones, has investigated autistic people's experiences and challenges and how they have changed over time, and the impact – if any – on autistic students of dedicated mentoring programs.

The program also engages in advocacy and on-campus programs to support autistic students adapt to and succeed at university, ranging from low-sensory spaces to autism inclusion awards, social events, scholarships and staff training.

ACU ALLY NETWORK

The ACU Ally Network aims to advance ACU's commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful place of work and learning for staff and students who identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex or queer, or as having any other sexuality or gender diverse identity (LGBTIQ+) and to promote understanding and awareness of LGBTIQ+ issues that affect staff and students. The network operates within the context of the identity and mission of ACU as a Catholic university to promote human dignity and serve the common good.

The Ally Network is currently made up of 282 ACU community members who have completed LGBTIQ+ Ally Training and who support promoting a safe and affirming place of work and learning for staff and students who identify as LGBTIQ+, free of harassment or discrimination. A large number are also registered to undertake training and formally join the network in 2023.

The Ally Network offers LGBTIQ+ Ally Training numerous times each year and in 2022 ran five training sessions, as well as sought to improve visibility of ACU as a safe and inclusive space by hosting Open Day stalls, helped to organise numerous events during key dates on the LGBTIQ+ calendar, worked with other units across the university to make their programs more inclusive, and acted as a confidential source of support and advice for staff and students.

RESEARCH FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Each year, the Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit (SESU) calls for community research proposals from organisations serving communities facing disadvantage and marginalisation. In its three years of operation, the SESU has increased the research capacity of 20 community organisations, through the activation of 18 scholarship and research projects. Thirty-three academics from across the university have been engaged to apply their skills and expertise to real world issues – including modern slavery, suicide prevention and mental health, family violence, intergenerational trauma, homelessness, refugee settlement and disability.



Sandra Jones, *Growing into Autism* Book Launch

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TIME RELEASE POLICY

Since the launch of the Community Engagement Time Release Policy in 2019, ACU staff members nationally have accessed over 1900 hours of time release to support community initiatives. This equates to roughly 300 days of ACU staff working with community organisations to address concerns such as food security, domestic violence and homelessness, amongst many others.

ACU staff are afforded up to five days per year to make a contribution through the policy. The university has made CETR easy to apply for and staff can access it as an individual, as a team or as a group.

ACU NEUROSCIENCE OF ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

ACU neuroscientist Valentina Lorenzetti was awarded the prestigious 2022 Al and Val Rosenstrauss Fellowship to the total value of \$850,000 over a period of five years. Associate Professor Lorenzetti, leads the Neuroscience of Addiction and Mental Health Program and is the deputy director of ACU's Healthy Brain and Mind Research Centre. The fellowship will enable her to continue working to investigate the origins, correlations and harm reduction of substance use, addiction and mental health problems.

GENDER EQUALITY

ACU's commitment to gender equality, diversity and inclusion is aligned with our mission and values, which embed consideration for the dignity of the human person and the common good in all we do. This approach supports our continued efforts to provide an inclusive and respectful working and learning environment that supports all individuals to reach their potential.

These principals underpinned the development of our new Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Framework and Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP).

ACU's leading-practice workplace benefits and family-friendly employment provisions supporting gender equality have been recognised, with the university receiving the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) Employer of Choice for Gender Equality citation on 12 consecutive occasions. Our Vice-Chancellor Professor Zlatko Skrbis is recognised as a WGEA Pay Equity Ambassador.

BY THE NUMBERS

109 students provided financial relief in 2022 through the Student Hardship Fund Grants



20 new Creating Opportunity Fund Scholarships awarded to enable higher education for the disadvantaged



LAUDATO SI'

"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 104, Environmental, economic and social ecology [139]

Inclusive economic and labour markets



ACU's mission leads to an understanding that the value of work is founded on the dignity of the person and its ability to advance the common good. ACU applies its commitment to inclusive economic and labour markets through programs to eradicate modern slavery from its supply chain, purchase goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and foster a culture of inclusion among staff and students.

ERADICATION OF MODERN SLAVERY

ACU continues to act on its commitment to eradicate modern slavery and in early 2022 released its first annual Modern Slavery Statement to report on the risks in ACU's operations and supply chains and the actions we have taken to address those risks.

The report details the specific initiatives ACU has taken, including:

- ACU's membership of and close working relationship with the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network (ACAN) and the Australian University Procurement Network (AUPN) Anti-Modern Slavery Working groups
- the establishment of the ACU Eradicating Modern Slavery Working Group
- the inclusion of modern slavery as an objective in ACU's 2020–23 Strategic Plan
- staff participation in ACAN, AUPN and supplier associations workshops and conferences
- ACU sourcing processes, tender and related documents now include requirements for sustainable and ethical sourcing and anti-slavery requirements
- ACU's membership of Sedex, an online platform for companies to manage and improve working conditions in global supply chains
- modern slavery training modules supplied to ACU staff and targeted supplier workshops.

Additionally, ACU's Vice-Chancellor and President is a member of the Domus 8.7 Committee, an Australia-wide network assisting victims of modern slavery and those trapped in forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage or human trafficking.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

At ACU, we are committed to supporting and encouraging an inclusive work environment that respects and values individual difference. This is aligned with the university's mission, which expresses a fundamental concern for social justice and the dignity of all human beings. ACU's **Equal Opportunity Policy** supports the principles of equity in employment and education for its staff and students. Employment practices are fair, equitable and merit based. The university promotes an environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and harassment.

CULTURAL INCLUSION

ACU is a culturally inclusive space for staff and students and is committed to being a leading practice employer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our key principle of ACU's **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Employment Strategy** is to retain and continue to expand our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and reach the national parity rate of **3 per cent** employment through a range of proactive recruitment initiatives and cultural supports.

SUPPLY NATION

ACU is a proud member of **Supply Nation** with the aim of increasing Indigenous engagement through procurement. As part of our **Reconciliation Action Plan**, we actively seek to increase engagement with Supply Nation vendors and monitor and measure the dollar value of procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.



Artwork designed for ACU by Gilimbaa

BY THE NUMBERS

16 new Supply Nation vendors engaged over 2021/2022



1.6% of staff identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



SCARRING EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ECONOMY

In partnership with Catholic Social Services Victoria and St Mary's House of Welcome, the Stakeholder Engaged Scholarship Unit (SESU) examined the economic and social impact of COVID-19 for Victorians who were already facing disadvantage prior to the pandemic. Dr Tom Barnes, from the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences and ACU Engagement's Dr Scott Doidge found that the COVID-19 crisis is not just a pandemic in public health terms – it has also been a pandemic of job loss and job market insecurity. The report Scarring Effects of the Pandemic Economy shows the government's reporting of economy recovery failed to recognise falls in employment and labour force participation, as well as untold suffering generated by the Federal Government's exclusion of temporary migrants from basic social protection. COVID-19 increased demand for emergency relief and family violence services. The report called for government to deliver a rise in the JobSeeker payment, new investment in public housing, and renewed support for social service providers who were struggling with the decline of volunteers due to COVID-19.

LAUDATO SI'

“The social dimensions of global change include the effects of technological innovations on employment, social exclusion, an inequitable distribution and consumption of energy and other services, social breakdown, increased violence and a rise in new forms of social aggression, drug trafficking, growing drug use by young people, and the loss of identity. These are signs that the growth of the past two centuries has not always led to an integral development and an improvement in the quality of life. Some of these signs are also symptomatic of real social decline, the silent rupture of the bonds of integration and social cohesion.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 32, **Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society** [46]

Sustainable urban environments



SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS BUILDINGS

ACU incorporates sustainable design into all of its capital and minor works projects because it recognises that the operation and use of its buildings creates most of its environmental impacts.

ACU's commitment to sustainable campus design is expressed in all of its major building projects of the past decade:

- The Daniel Mannix Building, Melbourne is a 7-storey learning and research building with a 6-Star Green Star rating. It is designed to maximise occupants' health and wellbeing with 100 per cent fresh air, abundant natural light, and flooring and finishes with zero or minimal emission of volatile organic compounds.
- The Raheen Library, Melbourne was rebuilt with high-levels of material-reuse, sustainable flooring and furniture, FSC-certified timber, LED lighting and high levels of ventilation.
- The Saint John Paul II Building, Brisbane is a 5,350m² building with CO₂ monitoring, external views from more than 90 per cent of the floorspace, high-efficiency airconditioning systems that each night purges daytime heat, motion detectors, zoned lighting, and stormwater capture for reuse for garden irrigation and toilet flushing.
- The Mercy Building, Brisbane is a 5-storey building designed to enhance the sustainability of the entire campus, with a 100-kilolitre water tank, end-of-trip showers, lockers and bike-storage for cyclists, and a highly efficient air-conditioning system that has reduced the campus's energy use by 1.5 million kilowatt hours since 2019.
- The Veritas Building, Canberra has a 5-Star Green Star rating and features a 140 kilolitre water tank to capture rain water, highly efficient lighting, air-conditioning and heating systems, floors and finishes with low emission of volatile organic compounds, minimal discharge of stormwater, and windows designed to limit the loss of heat from inside the building and the ingress of heat from outside the building.

- The St Brigid's School of Health Sciences, Ballarat is rated to the 5-Star Green Star standard and includes a 30 kilowatt array of 115 solar panels, an 18,000 litre water tank to capture water for toilet flushing, 16 undercover bike racks, xeriscaping of the gardens to avoid the need for irrigation, double-glazed windows, and LED lighting.
- The St Teresa of Kolkata Building, Melbourne: this 13-storey building, completed in early 2023, is designed to achieve 5-Star Green Star rating. It includes integrated solar power, a bike arrival station, green walls, storm water collection tanks, high-performance windows, an abundance of natural light and views, low-emission cement, and above 90 per cent recycling and reuse of its construction waste.

INTERNATIONAL MIND, ACTIVITIES AND URBAN PLACES STUDY

The International Mind, Activities and Urban Places (iMAP) study, in MMIHR's Behaviour, Environment and Cognition Research Program, investigates how our neighbourhoods and other places we regularly visit interact with lifestyle to impact brain health and psychological function in middle to late adulthood. The international cohort study based in Melbourne, Barcelona and Hong Kong will develop recommendations for planning authorities and individuals for delaying cognitive decline and optimising cognitive health as people age. International collaborators on this project include the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, the University of Hong Kong, the University of California – San Diego, and The Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health.



Veritas Building, Canberra

AUSTRALIAN CITIES' WALKABILITY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS

ACU's Professor Ester Cerin, who leads the Behaviour, Environment and Cognition Research Program at ACU's MMIHR, co-authored four papers in a Lancet Global Health series on urban design, transport and health. The researchers examined and ranked 25 cities in 19 countries based on how well the cities' urban design encouraged and supported walking. Professor Cerin's research showed that most Australians live in areas that fail to meet density and walkability thresholds aligned to World Health Organisation physical activity targets. The research has the potential to inform urban design policies that create more sustainable cities with healthier populations.

Impact of environment and pollution on cognitive health
Professor Ester Cerin is also co-leading a study of neighbourhood impacts on cognitive health in the UK and Australia. The project, 'Environment and Pollution on Cognitive Health (EPOCH): Building the knowledge base through international collaboration', is jointly funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and United Kingdom Research and Innovation. It will estimate optimal levels of environmental attributes for cognitive health in older adults to inform relevant urban planning, environmental protection, and transportation guidelines and policies for the creation of age-friendly, healthy and sustainable urban environments.

BY THE NUMBERS

Our Green Star-rated buildings have helped ACU cut over **12,000 gigajoules** of energy per year since 2017



Secure bike parking for **>300** bicycles, with another **160** installed by early 2023



LAUDATO SI'

"Many cities have become unhealthy to live in, not only because of pollution caused by toxic emissions but also as a result of urban chaos, poor transportation, and visual pollution and noise. [...] We were not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature."

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 31, *Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society* [44]

Local, national and international dialogue



LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

ACU is Australia's only national university, with **seven Australian campuses** across four states in Brisbane, North Sydney, Strathfield, Blacktown, Canberra, Melbourne and Ballarat. Alongside our local and national presence, we also have a **campus in Rome**, Italy, bringing together researchers and students from all over the world. International placements are available for students in all faculties, making the ACU student experience truly global.

ACU's research institutes bring together **world-class researchers** to foster a rich and thriving research environment that produces internationally recognised standards of research. With a research strategy focused on areas of specialisation related to our mission and identity, ACU has achieved research excellence in our priority areas of education, health, theology, philosophy and other liberal arts. Convened by ACU's leading research institutes, international seminars are regularly hosted at ACU's Rome Campus, providing a forum for international collaboration.

ACU SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

ACU has made a strong and visible commitment to sustainability in our policies and operations.

ACU hosted its third annual Sustainability Week from 21–27 August 2022 to promote dialogue within the university community about our understanding and practice of sustainability. The week's theme was 'renewability', a concept that invited ACU students and staff to respond in both practical and personal ways to caring for our environment: practically, by using our resources in renewable and sustainable ways; and personally, by renewing our individual and organisational commitment to sustainable practices.

CHILD PROTECTION DIALOGUE

ACU's **Institute of Child Protection Studies** has continued to shape the debate in Australia and globally on questions of child protection and preventing and responding to the abuse and neglect of children. In 2022 the Institute's researchers co-authored more than fifteen journal papers, contributed book chapters, engaged with broadcast, print, podcast and

online news media, presented at conferences, delivered research reports, and delivered a submission to Australia's eSafety Commissioner on Online Industry Codes under the Online Safety Act. A submission to Victoria's Inquiry into the educational experiences of children and young people living in out-of-home care was also made.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE OF CATHOLIC RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES (SACRU)

ACU is one of eight founding members of **SACRU**, along with Boston College in the US and six other Catholic universities from Europe, South America and Japan. In October, SACRU entered an agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations to address the world's food and health inequalities. ACU and its SACRU partners will apply their knowledge and expertise to assist the UN to achieve three Sustainable Development Goals: Zero Hunger, Health and Wellbeing, and Reducing Inequalities. In November, ACU participated in a SACRU seminar exploring the Climate Crisis and Security.

ACU AND A GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON CATHOLIC SERVICE-LEARNING WITH UNISERVITATE

ACU has been an official member of the Uniservitate Global Program for advancing service-learning in Catholic Higher Education Institutes (CHEIs). Uniservitate has sought to enhance the dialogue on impactful service-learning in Catholic universities globally. ACU has supported this dialogue through being an official partner in the Uniservitate III Global Symposia in Rome, 2022, utilising ACU's Rome Campus for Symposia events, delegation accommodation, and supporting and presenting key components of the academic program. Uniservitate has recently been awarded another four years of funding to further the international dialogue and enhancement of service-learning outcomes to respond to Pope Francis' call for universities to empower students to use their 'heads, hearts, and hands' to go out to peripheries and effect positive change in the community.



Rome Campus

BY THE NUMBERS

Research excellence
in our priority areas of
education, health, theology,
philosophy and other liberal
arts



Signatory to a research
agreement between the Food
and Agriculture Organisation
and the Strategic Alliance of
Catholic Research Universities
(SACRU)



LAUDATO SI'

“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 12, My appeal [14]

Institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks



PEACE AND JUSTICE

ACU's **Thomas More Law School** seeks to develop confident, responsible and ethical law graduates committed to upholding the rule of law and promoting personal dignity, thriving communities, and the common good. Our Bachelor of Laws is a global, ethical and practical qualification designed to give students the skills to build a satisfying legal career and at the same time consider community wellbeing.

ACU CATALYST

ACU established a portal to facilitate the development of mutually beneficial relationships with industry. The portal, known as Catalyst, serves as a university-level entry point for external organisations keen to connect with ACU's researchers, educators, students and campuses.

Catalyst is designed for organisations seeking to engage with the next generation of graduates, promote career opportunities for their business, ask ACU about industry-academia grant schemes or seek evidence-based research for an innovation project.

Catalyst is a key part of ACU's commitment to conduct research that delivers real world outcomes that provide social, cultural and economic benefits.

SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATIONS RETAIN STAFF

Researchers from ACU's Peter Faber Business School in partnership with those from other institutions have found that environmentally sustainable businesses have a better chance of retaining staff. The research found that employees were more hopeful when their individual beliefs on green innovation aligned with their employer's values. The researchers say that employees' hopefulness increased perceived organisational performance, which in turn is linked to employee goal attainment and their intentions to stay. The research highlights the need for executives to consider the impact of green innovation on employees' emotional responses and ambitions.

REFUGEE LEGAL

Each year a number of ACU law students provide pro bono legal assistance to Refugee Legal, an independent non-profit community legal centre specialising in refugee and immigration law, policy and procedure.

PRO BONO SERVICE

ACU provides pro bono services for the public good to:

- individuals who can demonstrate a need for legal assistance but cannot obtain Legal Aid or otherwise access the legal system without incurring significant financial hardship
- individuals or organisations whose matter raises an issue of public interest which would not otherwise be pursued
- charities or other non-profit organisations which work on behalf of low income or disadvantaged members of the community or for the public good.

Through our pro bono program, Thomas More Law School students have delivered more than **20,000 hours** of pro bono service.

THOMAS MORE LAW SCHOOL RESEARCH CLUSTERS

ACU's **Faculty of Law and Business** has a thriving and highly regarded research community. Research within the faculty focuses on substantive themes closely aligned with the mission of ACU. Our commitment to social justice, public service, human dignity, and ethical practice is reflected in our research into some of the most challenging and important societal issues confronting today's scholars, practitioners and policymakers. The Thomas More Law School hosts three research clusters in human rights, access to justice, and commercial law and just societies.



Library, Brisbane Campus

BY THE NUMBERS

>20,000 hours of pro bono service delivered by Thomas More Law School students



CHILD PROTECTION, STATUTORY SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

ACU's **Institute of Child Protection Studies** aims to enhance outcomes for children, young people and families through quality research, program evaluation, training and community education, advocacy and policy development in child, youth and family welfare. The institute's work in 2022 encompassed matters including online safety codes to protect children, public health approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect, trends and needs in the Australian child welfare workforce, and safeguarding in religious and faith-based settings.

LAUDATO SI'

“There is a growing jurisprudence dealing with the reduction of pollution by business activities. But political and institutional frameworks do not exist simply to avoid bad practice, but also to promote best practice, to stimulate creativity in seeking new solutions and to encourage individual or group initiatives.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, page 130, Dialogue for new national and local policies [177]



Our governance

ACU is committed to environmental and social sustainability at the highest levels of the organisation. Our *ACU Strategic Plan 2020–2023* defines ‘service, stewardship and sustainability’ as one of six over-arching strategic priorities. Our approach is guided by Pope Francis’s *Laudato si’* encyclical as well as the targets set in the UN SDGs. We have given life to those commitments by establishing a whole-of-university sustainability program, which brings together and grows our impact across education, research, engagement and university operations. The program is governed by a Sustainability Program Control Group, drawn from members of the Senior Executive Group and jointly sponsored by our Provost and Chief Operating Officer. The Chair of Academic Board is also the chair of the Sustainability Program Control Group.



Our principles

At all times, ACU staff and affiliates will behave in a way that upholds our mission both as individuals and as representatives of the university. We are committed to the following principles.



Respect

We are guided by a fundamental concern for justice and equity and for the dignity of all human beings. We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive place of work, teaching and learning, where we treat all people with courtesy and sensitivity.



Courage

We are committed to the highest standards of ethical behaviour and the effective management of the organisation and its staff. Staff and affiliates are encouraged to be proactive, seek to continuously improve, and to suggest new and innovative approaches.



Honesty

We act on the fundamental principles of honesty and integrity. We are an institution devoted to the pursuit of excellence in student learning and teaching, research and service. We respect the value and dignity of each person.



Sustainability

We acknowledge the importance of responsible and ethical management for the long-term success of the university and the protection of the environment. It is the behaviour and actions of our staff and affiliates that make ACU an outstanding organisation.



Prayer for our earth

All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace. Amen

Pope Francis, Laudato sí'

Sustainable Development Goals

	SDG 1 – No poverty	End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
	SDG 2 – Zero hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
	SDG 3 – Good health and wellbeing	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
	SDG 4 – Quality education	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all.
	SDG 5 – Gender equality	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
	SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
	SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
	SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
	SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
	SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities	Reduce inequalities within and among countries.
	SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
	SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
	SDG 13 – Climate action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
	SDG 14 – Life below water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
	SDG 15 – Life on land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
	SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
	SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

A full list of targets for and details of the social, environmental and economic challenges covered by each goal can be found at www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

The *Laudato si'* encyclical can be found at www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html, with a summary provided in www.catholic.org.au/commission-documents/bishops-commission-for-justice-ecology-and-development/laudato-si/1711-encyclical-summary/file

