

Laudato Si' Reflection

Ministry Name: Laudato Si' Group (Green Team)

Location (City, State): Swords, Dublin, Ireland

Website: <https://www.swordsparish.ie/>

Date Action Plan Developed: 29.05.2024

Action Plan Time Frame: 2 Years (May 2024 – Apr 2026)

Template Source: The Franciscan Ministry Self-Assessment template adapted from:
https://laudatosispirit.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Assessment_ministires_save.pdf



	Objective	Reflection	Image
1	Goal 1 - Response to the cry of the earth	<p>Our carbon footprint was agreed to be assessed as part of the action plan.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months we started a green team to assess options for decreasing energy use, water use and fuel use for travel.</p> <p>Over the last 12 months we have begun a biodiversity plan to encourage 'Bee Friendly' green areas which promote natural grasses and encourage pollination in partnership with our neighbouring parish.</p> <p>Over the last 12 months we have investigated the potential for reclaiming rainwater for use in the graveyard from our church roof to reduce the demand for treated water.</p>	<p>Image 01</p> <p>Image 02</p>
2	Goal 2: Response to the cry of the poor	<p>Our primary challenge is to promote sustainable waste management as we have noticed the community is using the church graveyard bins for their <i>personal</i> waste: this is most likely in response to economic challenges to cover their own waste costs; by promoting sustainable waste strategies will help reduce 'waste-poverty' apparent in the community.</p>	<p>Image 02</p>
3	Goal 3: Ecological economics	<p>We have reviewed the true cost of ownership for the primary consumables used in the parish and agreed to use, where practical, only locally sourced items and prioritize items which come with environmental declaration labels: e.g. instead of imported weed solvents,</p>	<p>N/A</p>

		we use Irish made vinegar. A full inventory will be considered over the course of phase 2.	
4	Goal 4: Adoption of sustainable lifestyles	We currently have recyclable and organic waste management plans in place. We currently do not have renewable energy sources or credits. This will be considered in phase 2.	N/A
5	Goal 5: Ecological education	We promote ecological education through our newsletters from time-to-time. The frequency and content will be reviewed as part of phase 02 of the programme. Our graveyard weed control programme was informed by sustainable practices of weed management resulting in use of sustainable products over conventional toxic ones.	
6	Goal 6: Ecological spirituality	We have incorporated elements of ecological spirituality into our newsletter reflections along with promoting key themes as they align to the liturgical year. We have observed and promoted the Season of Creation, St Francis feast day, and Earth Day in our newsletters.	
7	Goal 7: Community resilience and empowerment	We have promoted sustainable waste management to help generate awareness to our parish of the benefits and reduced costs for same. We are currently networking with our neighbouring parish (partnership) to understand how best respond to this challenge and will feature in phase 02.	

Reflection

We have reviewed each of the goals for consideration within this action platform and conclude that the graveyard is the primary motivation to promote each goal as applicable.

In particular, the need for better waste management and promotion thereof was identified. Also, the implementation of a rainwater reclamation system would greatly enhance the promotion of sustainable water systems.

The social and economic elements are for the most part going to be conducted in partnership with our neighbouring parish.

Images:

Image 1 Survey of bins

Image 2: Survey of rainwater system and viability to connect a rain harvesting system

Image 3: Survey of existing bin waste system compromised (non-organic waste use)

Image 1 – Suvey of partnership parish biodiversity programme (samples shown)



Image 2 – Suvey of bins (organic planned – non organic actual)



Image 3 – Survey of Rainwater System Potential

