



Our Lady Help of Christians Rosemeadow
A Catholic Parish Primary School Diocese of Wollongong

Faith, Love and Learning

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School, Rosemeadow

Laudato Si' REFLECTION

Our Lady Help of Christians is a majority two stream Primary School located in Rosemeadow and is closely connected with the Parish by the same name. We are a part of 30 Systemic Primary schools that belong to Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wollongong.

The school vision at Our Lady Help of Christians is 'Seek Wisdom, Love God' which encourages every student, every staff member, our parents and friends to work in partnership to contribute to the betterment of our world through our partnership with Christ.

OLHC has completed its first cycle of CEDoW's School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) which is a tool that enables us to document, implement, reflect and celebrate sustainability as we respond to the challenges from Laudato Si' to walk our own journey of ecological conversion. At OLHC we understand that we have a missionary and ecclesial mandate that impels us to participate and respond to the call to care for our common home with strategic planning, formation and concrete actions and it is within this context that this SEMP is formulated.

Since 2015 following the release of Laudato Si', Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong has taken seriously Pope Francis' prophetic call for an ecological conversion and has proactively responded in a strategic, planned approach whereby sustainable practices and ecological values are promoted and supported across the system of schools in the Wollongong diocese.

Engagement with eco-spirituality, environmental education and action is a key component of our mission, of being Catholic and is viewed as "core business", not an "optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (LS n217).

This strategic approach has involved Our Lady Help of Christians embedding ecological values into school programs and practices that promote an ecological and sustainable culture, encouraging everyone to live out his/her ecological vocation and engage in caring for our common home.

As a school, we are currently in the process of forming a student environmental committee which will include Stage 3 students. This group will be integral to school action plans and promoting change amongst

students. This group will promote and participate in ecological actions and connect the values of our own school, with the Laudato Si' Goals. This will have a specific focus on adoption of sustainable lifestyles and communication resilience and empowerment.

Our Lady Help of Christians is a proud member of Wollongong Environment Network (WEN) that aims to support school communities' response to Laudato Si' and implement environmental stewardship and sustainability. Miss Celeste Muvceska is the WEN Contact for the school 2023.

In 2022, our school ran an initiative to minimise single waste use by introducing reusable lunch bags for canteen orders. These sales will continue into 2023 and be promoted to the new cohort. With a similar goal in mind, 'Nude Food Fridays' was an initiative introduced in term 4 of 2021. This involved students being encouraged to only bring food in reusable wrappings/containers on Fridays to reduce the waste created as a school. In 2023 the school will introduce 'Waste Free Wednesdays' with an advocate around beating plastic pollution.

As a school we are in the process of maintaining our garden beds and replanting. Each grade will be allocated a garden bed to continue caring for. Students will be introduced to recycling bin systems allocated to each classroom.

As a school community, we look forward to more success in 2023 and beyond.