

Laudato Si Parish Garden.

Some thoughts to help our 'Focus' prior to 'Plan' and 'Do' phases of developing a Parish Garden under Laudato Si principles.

From the Laudato Si Action Plan

Cry of the Earth

- Organic
- Include re-wilding areas
- Bee-friendly areas
- Composting

Cry of the Poor

- Consider produce donation to Food Bank
- Opportunities for Refugee family involvement (see therapeutic nature of working on the land as identified by the charity Freedom from Torture amongst others)

Ecological Economics

- Zero food miles
- No packaging
- Flowers for church
- Use of loaned or used equipment

Simple Lifestyle

- From seed to plate
- Manual labour rather than machinery investment

Ecological Education

- School garden
- School syllabus modules??
- Parish involvement
- Emphasis on the transfer of knowledge and experience
- Possibilities of inter-generational contacts/mentoring

Ecological Spirituality

- School Prayer Garden
- Celebration of Creation
- Quiet space

Community Involvement

- Wide ranging stakeholder involvement – School, Parish, Food Bank, Refugees
- Creation of friendships and companionship whilst working on the land (and tea breaks between)
- Visibility to the wider Clitheroe community

Considerations

1. Vision – can we, for example, say ‘the way we deliver and maintain this garden is more important than what this garden looks like and produces’? I.E. the seven principles above are our priority.
2. Permission and engagement - School, PP, Maintenance Team
3. What and where? Agree suitable site and possibilities (soil, sun, access, trees, security, water, etc)
4. Relationship between a School Garden and a Parish Garden.
5. Workforce – parents, children, parishioners. Agree Teams/group commitment.
6. Is there an initial ‘tidy up’ team required to see what we have? (Malcolm’s point)
7. Communications- method, inclusive, wider than ‘usual suspects’.