

join us Laudate Deum

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CALENDAR 2023-24



Made in co-operation with: Circolo Laudato Si' nelle Selve Rome Italy

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35 key phrases from the Laudate Deum will accompany us during this Advent and Christmas season. from December 3rd to January 6th. Pope Francis urges us to praise God, because only by praising Him, the Creator of the universe, can we reestablish a proper relationship with nature. We are called to do more, to take responsibility, to care for the planet and people, now, today! This calendar is therefore an opportunity to get to know the Laudate Deum day by day and have time to reflect and meditate on its urgent and priority message for all. Each day we are accompanied by a sentence from the Gospel, which will take us from Advent to the Nativity and then on to Epiphany. We wish you a nice journey!

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Salesiani di Don Bosco - Sede Centrale



Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc. (I D 2)

SUNDAY **3** DECEMBER

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!''' Mk 13:36-37





Our care for each other and our care for the earth are intimately bound together. Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community. (LD 3)



"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed." Mt 8:8





The effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world... Attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives. It is no longer a secondary or ideological issue, but a drama that harms us all: a tragic and striking example of structural sin.

(LD 3)



"I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike" Luke 10:21





Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident. (LD 5)



"My heart is moved with pity for the crowd" Mt 15, 32 In recent years, some have chosen to deride these facts. They bring up allegedly solid scientific data, like the fact that the planet has always had, and will have, periods of cooling and warming.

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They forget to mention another relevant datum: that what we are presently experiencing is an unusual acceleration of warming, at such a speed that it will take only one generation – not centuries or millennia – in order to verify it.

(LD 6)



"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock". Mt 7:24





I the last fifty years the temperature has risen at an unprecedented speed, greater than any time over the past two thousand years (LD12)



"Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." Lk 1:28



It is no longer possible to doubt the human – "anthropic" – origin of climate change. (LD11)



"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Mt 10:7

Regrettably, the climate crisis is not exactly a matter that interests the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time. (LD13)

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"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Mk 1:3 I feel obliged to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, even within the Catholic Church. Yet we can no longer doubt that the reason for the unusual rapidity of these dangerous changes is a fact that cannot be concealed: the enormous novelties that have to do with unchecked human intervention on nature in the past two centuries. (LD14)

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"The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Lk 5:24 Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, such as the increase in the global temperature of the oceans, their acidification and the decrease of oxygen. the other creatures of this world have stopped being our companions along the way and have become instead our victims.

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(LD 15)

•TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER

"In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost." Mt 18:14 We can no longer stop the enormous damage we have caused. We are just in time to avoid even more dramatic damage. (LD 16)

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wednesday 13 December

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for L am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves." Mt 11:29 We are approaching a critical point. Small changes can cause greater ones, unforeseen and perhaps already irreversible, due to factors of inertia. This would end up precipitating a cascade of events having a snowball effect. In such cases, it is always too late, since no intervention will be able to halt a process once begun. There is no turning back. (LD 17)

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"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force." Mt 11:12 A broader perspective is urgently needed, one that can enable us to esteem the marvels of progress, but also to pay serious attention to other effects that were probably unimaginable a century ago. What is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world. (LD18)

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"Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." Mt 11:19 This allows me to reiterate two convictions that I repeat over and over again: "Everything is connected" and "No one is saved alone". (LD19)

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"Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased." Mt 17:12

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Artificial intelligence and the latest technological innovations start with the notion of a human being with no limits, whose abilities and possibilities can be infinitely expanded thanks to technology. In this way, the technocratic paradigm monstrously feeds upon itself. (LD21)



"I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert. Make straight the way of the Lord". Jn 1:23

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The natural resources required by technology, such as lithium, silicon and so many others, are not unlimited, yet the greater problem is the ideology underlying an obsession: to increase human power beyond anything imaginable, before which nonhuman reality is a mere resource at its disposal. (LD 22)

MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, 10 because he will save his people from their sins". Mt 1:21

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It is chilling to realize that the capacities expanded by technology "have given those with the knowledge and especially the economic resources to use them, an impressive dominance over the whole of humanity and the entire world. Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely.

(LD 23)

TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER

"You will be speechless and unable to talk 9 until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words." Lk 1:20

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We have certain superficial mechanisms, but we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint". (LD 24)

wednesday 20 December

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" Lk 1:30

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Human beings must be recognized as a part of nature. Human life, intelligence and freedom are elements of the nature that enriches our planet, part of its internal workings and its equilibrium. (LD26)

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Lk 1:45

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A healthy ecology is also the result of interaction between human beings and the environment. (LD27)

FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER

"He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly." Lk 1:52

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We need to rethink among other things the question of human power, its meaning and its limits. For our power has frenetically increased in a few decades. We have made impressive and awesome technological advances, and we have not realized that at the same time we have turned into highly dangerous beings, capable of threatening the lives of many beings and our own survival. (LD 28)



"John is his name." Lk 1:63

We need lucidity and honesty in order to recognize

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in time that our power and the progress we are producing are turning against us. (LD 28) The ethical decadence of real power is disguised thanks to marketing and false information, useful tools in the hands of those with greater resources to employ them to shape public opinion. (LD 29)



"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Lk 1:38 Merry Christmas

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'Praise God'. For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies. (LD 73)

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." Lk 2:11

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The logic of maximum profit at minimum cost, masked by rationality, progress and illusory promises, renders impossible any sincere concern for the common home and any attention to the promotion of society's discarded. (LD31)



"Whoever endures to the end will be saved." Mt 10:22

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Mistaken notions also develop about the concept of "meritocracy", which becomes seen as a "merited" human power to which everything must be submitted, under the rule of those born with greater possibilities and advantages. (LD 32)



"And he saw and believed." Jn 20:8 Our world has become so multipolar and at the same time so complex that a different framework for effective cooperation is required. It is not enough to think only of balances of power but also of the need to provide a response to new problems and to react with global mechanisms to the environmental, public health, cultural and social challenges, especially in order to consolidate respect for the most elementary human rights, social rights and the protection of our common home.

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(LD 42)

THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER

"Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled." Mt 2:18

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It is no longer helpful for us to support institutions in order to preserve the rights of the more powerful without caring for those of all. (LD 43)



"My eyes have seen your salvation." Lk 2:30

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We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes. LD56



"The children grew and became strong." Lk 2:40



I consider it essential to insist that "to seek only a technical remedy to each environmental problem which comes up is to separate what is in reality interconnected and to mask the true and deepest problems of the global system"... we risk remaining trapped in the mindset of pasting and papering over cracks, while

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beneath the surface there is a continuing deterioration to which we continue to contribute.

(LD 57)

MONDAY

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Lk 2:19

appy new year

JANUARY

Let us finally put an end to the irresponsible mockery that presents the issue as merely environmental, 'green', romantic, often ridiculed for economic interests. Let us finally admit that this is a human and social problem in the broadest sense and at various levels. This calls for everyone's involvement. (LD 58)

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"He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." Jn 1:20

TUESDAY 2 JANUARY

If there is sincere interest in making COP28 a historic event that honours and ennobles us as human beings, then one can only hope for binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored.

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(LD 59)

"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Jn 1:29 The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible richness of God. Hence, to be wise, "we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships. (LD63)

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"Come, and you will see" Jn 1:39

The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence". If "the universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely... there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face". The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it? (LD 65)

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"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; 34 you are the King of Israel!" [n 1:49

JANUARY

FRIDAY

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"God has united us to all his creatures. Nonetheless, the technocratic paradigm can isolate us from the world that surrounds us and deceive us by making us forget that the entire world is a "contact zone" (LD68)

> "We saw his star 3 at its rising and have come to do him homage." Mt 2:2

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JANUARY

SATURDAY

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I invite everyone to accompany this path of reconciliation with the world that hosts us and to enrich it with their own contribution. *Pope Francis*