24 May is the Fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’.* Members of the Archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission’s Integral Ecology Committee offer reflections on how the encyclical inspires change and action in their lives.

**Renewing our efforts** – Mgsr Gerard Burns

The challenge of *Laudato Si’* is for us to begin or renew our efforts, actions and spirituality to care for our common home, the earth. Clearly from the title, taken from St Francis of Assisi’s prayer/hymn, points us to the way St Francis integrated love for God, discipleship of Jesus and care for creation.

And key to that spirituality and action to see the various beings of our world and universe as brothers and sisters – our kith and kin. We may have experienced this with a beloved pet in our household or beloved farm animals but to broaden this sense of being animals and plants being part of the family as part of our daily ‘Catholic’ spirituality may seem strange.

St Francis of Assisi shows us that this is not impossible even if not so familiar in much of contemporary Catholic prayer, Masses, devotions. We have work to do in this field but *Laudato Si’* gives many examples of practical actions of how to bring small and large actions into practice.

As part of this *Laudato Si’* points us in two places to learn from indigenous peoples who often still maintain a way of life and spirituality that have a care of the earth integrated into their daily lives (paragraphs 146, 179). In Aotearoa New Zealand we have a special opportunity for this dialogue because of the Treaty of Waitangi’s role and the strong presence of Māori.

I am proudly of *Pākeha* or *tauiw*i descent but have found that while many Māori are now urbanized and not living on their tribal land the recognition of ties to land, mountains, rivers as central parts of Māori ancestry and identity an excellent challenge to my more individualized, de-territorialized upbringing and spirituality.