

**WE change begins with ME change
Nelson parish Laudato Si' formation series, September 2020**



Understanding how environmental and social issues are connected was a key insight for participants in *Laudato Si'* formation which took place at Holy Family parish in Nelson/Stoke in the week of 21-25 September, during the Season of Creation. The series took the title "WE change begins with ME change", emphasising the importance of both individual and group responsibility for environmental sustainability.

Speakers from the Cawthron Institute provided insight into the state of lakes in Aotearoa New Zealand, while input from Catherine Gibbs of the Integral Ecology Committee of the Archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission assisted people to understand Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the care of our common home.

The final two sessions included a variety of local identities demonstrating principles of sustainability and the importance of connections with communities, including vulnerable people on the peripheries.

This was the third of a series offered in parishes this year to assist communities of the Archdiocese to work towards Synod recommendation 8B concerning formation based on *Laudato Si'* assisting to lead towards practical actions by individuals and groups. It is based on a programme developed for Plimmerton parish in 2019. Programmes were also offered in 2020 to Ōtari and Upper Hutt parishes during Lent.

While attendance in both Lent and the Season of Creation sessions was somewhat disrupted by Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions, programme developer Catherine Gibbs said there was great energy and commitment shown by working groups and participants in each parish.

Photo: Nelson organising group with parish priest Fr Bill Warwick and facilitator Catherine Gibbs.